



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8390

**Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory
Hollings Marine Laboratory
331 Fort Johnson Road
Charleston, South Carolina 29412**

2 February 2010

Dr. Shinsuke Tanabe
Professor, Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology
Center for Marine Environmental Studies (CMES)
Ehime University
Bunkyo-cho 2-5, Matsuyama 790-8577, JAPAN

Dear Dr. Tanabe:

I would like to congratulate you on the success of the *International Symposium on Environmental Specimen Bank: Exploring Possibility of Setting-up ESBs in Developing Countries*, held at Ehime University on 3-5 December 2009. I found it to be a very well organized symposium with an informative mix of oral presentations and posters that described existing and developing ESB programs and that showcased very well the role of ESBs in evaluating environmental problems. The value of ESB's in addressing international issues was very apparent based on the Symposium presentations of analytical results from the banks and how these results are being used in basic research, development of toxicological tools, environmental monitoring, and use of ESBs for evaluating regulations on environmental releases of toxicants

I was particularly impressed by the attendance of researchers from developing countries who are interested in ESBs and I appreciate this symposium providing me the opportunity to interact with these investigators. I do have one suggestion for future planning of similar conferences. Instead of attempting a General Discussion at the end of the meeting with all participants in an auditorium setting, a smaller group of established ESB representatives and representatives from the developing countries be located in a round-table setting for more in-depth discussions, with others present to the side as observers. This might be more conducive to more one-on-one interactions. Also, I hope that what was said during the General Discussion Session is summarized and distributed so that all participants of the Symposium have access to it. Maybe such a summarization could be posted on the International ESB Group website, if it is not included in the Symposium Proceedings.

Based on what I saw at the Symposium and my visit to the Center for Marine Environmental Studies, it is apparent that the close link between the analytical components of your institution and the ESB has been highly successful and results in a good "model" for linking an ESB to research. I am sure that all of the participants also saw this. Also, I was very impressed by the Global COE Program. You have made great strides in developing your interdisciplinary studies in environmental chemistry through this program and I hope to see it continue in the future.

Again, I and my colleagues would like to thank you for allowing us to participate in the Symposium. I think that it has been a major milestone in the development of international cooperation among the world's ESBs. It also was of great benefit to the NIST specimen banking programs in that we were able to identify new players in the field of environmental specimen banking and also were able to identify some procedures that we might want to incorporate in our banking protocols.

We look forward to our continued interactions with you and your colleagues

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Becker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul R. Becker, Ph.D.
Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory HML Site Director
ESB-NMR Team Leader

2 February 2010

NIST

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

To Dr. Shinsuke Tanabe
Professor, Environmental Chemistry
and Ecotoxicology, Center for Marine
Environ. Studies (CMES), Ehime University
Bunkyo-cho 2-5
Matsuyama 790-8577
Japan

Berlin, 28 January 2010

International Symposium on Environmental Specimen Banks at Ehime University

Dear Dr. Tanabe

This letter is to thank you for having the pleasure to participate and giving me the opportunity to hold a keynote lecture at the International Symposium on Environmental Specimen Banks at Ehime University, Matsuyama. Archives of environmental specimen become more and more important for planning environmental politics and for monitoring whether and to which extent these politics have been successful. Thus they provide an important tool for protecting global environment and human health. For the past years international cooperation of environmental specimen banks has been very close. The specimen bank at the Center for Marine Environmental studies at Ehime University (es-bank) turned out to be one of the four leading specimen banks worldwide and without doubt the most important and most advanced in Asia. The es-Bank at Ehime University made worldwide valuable contributions to the picture we have today of global environmental pollution by Persistent Organic Pollutants and other chemicals that reach the environment. Most important is to mention the excellent work, you, Professor Tanabe, and your team have done in the fields of pollution of marine species, time trends of this pollution and the work on bioaccumulation through the food web. Almost 450 of your papers are listed in the Scopus data base. The papers have been published in the most prestigious journals in this field like "Environmental Science and Technology", "Environmental Pollution" and "Chemosphere". All this illustrates that you and your working group have an extremely high scientific impact in this field and is of outstanding productivity both in terms of quality and quantity. From my work in the field of environmental specimen banks and as an editor of the journal "Chemosphere" I learned that the Center for Marine Environmental Studies at Ehime University is one of the focal points of scientific excellence worldwide.

During my visit at Matsuyama I learned that three main factors have contributed to the outstanding scientific success of this group of scientists.

- The Center for Marine Environmental Studies has long experience in the field of marine environmental science and thus provides the basis of sound and internationally leading science.
- The es-Bank is a unique archive providing insight into the history and time trends of pollution. This is of utmost importance for decision making and risk management on the one hand and a valuable scientific tool on the other hand.
- The Global Center of Excellence Program adds a truly worldwide component. Leading scientists from all around the world have been educated and have been working within this program thus providing timely international and worldwide perspective to the scientific work done at Ehime University.

It was really a pleasure for me seeing young scientists from America, Asia and Africa working within the Ehime University Global Center of Excellence presenting their high-quality scientific data at the symposium.

At Ehime University I had the chance to visit a center led by Professor Tanabe that has a leading role in Environmental Science world wide. This center is a valuable partner in the international cooperation of environmental specimen banks. Its role as a Center of Excellence makes it a distinct scientific ambassador of Japan worldwide and contributes a large part to the excellent scientific reputation Japan enjoys.

Dear Prof. Tanabe, the International Symposium I had the pleasure to attend did not only contribute significantly to the international cooperation of environmental specimen banks but also added for the first time a truly international perspective to this approach by putting specimen banks in developing countries in the focus of attention. This approach was extremely successful showing that environmental pollution is an international problem that has tremendous impact on developing countries. The Symposium succeeded in compiling valuable contributions and presentations from all five continents.

I would like to congratulate you and your entire team to the tremendous success of this Conference.



Dr. rer. nat. Andreas Gies
Director and Professor at the
German Federal Environment Agency
Head of the Department of
Environmental Hygiene