

Dear Colleagues,

The Asian Congress 2016 on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences was held jointly with the 29th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Alternatives to Animal Experiments at the Karatsu Civic Hall in Karatsu, Saga, and at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Fukuoka, from November 15 to 18, 2016. As the first conference of its kind for researchers from Asia, the Asian Congress 2016 was an excellent opportunity to promote the Three Rs and the use of alternative test methods to researchers in this region. Attended by almost 530 professionals, including 80 non-Japanese from 17 countries and regions overseas, the tremendous success of this Congress was due in large part thanks to support received from the Alternatives Congress Trust (ACT), which itself has hosted the World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Science no fewer than nine times in the past. Additionally, the Plenary Keynote Lecture, entitled “Phasing Out the Use of Experimental Animals for Regulatory Risk Assessment Purposes Before 2025” delivered by Dr. Herman B.W. M. Koëter, chair of ACT, Italy, was a further indication of how Asia’s standing as a leader in this field has solidified. Other plenary lectures were given by Dr. Joanne Zurlo of the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT) at Johns Hopkins University in the United States of America as well as by Dr. Troy Seidle of the Research & Toxicology Humane Society International, Canada. There were six sessions held at the Karatsu venue: 1. Trends in the 3Rs of Animal Experiments in Asia, 2. The 3Rs in Testing Pesticides and Chemicals, 3. Cosmetic Regulation and Alternatives to Animal Testing, 4. The 3Rs in Biologicals and Others, 5. Future Approaches to Alternative Tests and the 3Rs, and 6, The Young Scientist Award. The 34 invited speakers and 82 poster presentations created a splendid atmosphere in at Kyusyu University, where each Asian country and region was represented. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the presenters, participants, and sponsors who helped make the Asian Congress 2016 such a tremendous success.

Looking forward, China will host the upcoming Asian Congress in 2018, and Korea will host the next Congress after that. The JSAAE welcomes this collaboration from other countries throughout Asia in maintaining Asia’s standing in the field of the Three Rs and alternatives to animal testing.

Co-Chair: Hajime Kojima (National Institute of Health Sciences)

Co-Chair: Shigehiro Ohdo (Kyushu University)