

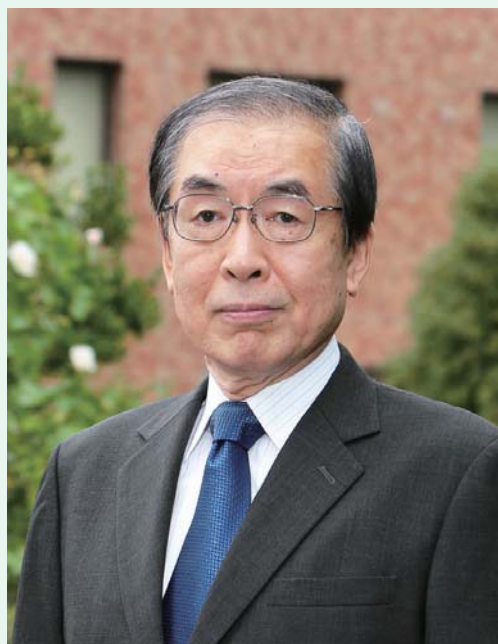
This is my first address in the Annual Report of the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB) as a Director General of the Institute, which I undertook last October. Since my appointment, I have been enjoying the high level research activities of the Institute and its effective function as a center for collaborative research in Japan. At the same time I feel my strong responsibility to maintain the liberal atmosphere for research and discussion that NIBB has kept for many years, which I believe is a basis for these remarkable activities.

Because of the relative decline of Japan's status in the worldwide economy, the government is now keen to pull out actual profits from science. In addition, it has become apparent recently that certain researchers did not have sufficient ethics as a scientist and committed excessive misconduct in a number of institutions in Japan. These circumstances have set a strong headwind against basic sciences, through which NIBB must stride properly. In my view, two directions will be very important. One is for all NIBB members. Every person in NIBB should do his/her best in accomplishing good research in basic biology. Good science, even in a basic research field, will eventually benefit human beings. The history of science tells us this is true. The other is for the administrative board of NIBB. The methods of science are changing significantly in the era of computer technology and data sharing through the internet. Inspection of recent scientific misconduct cases indicates that research institutions must have high ethical standards to prevent them. NIBB should work hard to enhance the realization of each individual's ethical obligations as a leading institution in this respect.

Please find in this booklet a summary of the research, collaborative, educational, and international activities of NIBB in 2013. I would like to note that we welcomed several new colleagues in 2013, including one adjunct professor, two assistant professors, six specially appointed assistant professors, and five NIBB research fellows, while two colleagues transferred to other institutes.

Finally I would like to congratulate Prof. Mitsuyasu Hasebe for winning the Janette Siron Pelton Award from the Botanical Society of America. I would also like to congratulate Prof. Mikio Nishimura, Prof. Taisen Iguchi, Assoc. Prof. Takashi Murata, and Assoc. Prof. Shuji Shigenobu for winning awards from academic societies and governments, as detailed on page 7.

To establish NIBB as an international leading institute in the field of basic biology, we always welcome your suggestions, comments and queries concerning our activities, in addition to your warm support.



Masayuki Yamamoto

Masayuki Yamamoto
Director General of NIBB
July 22, 2014