

It is my great pleasure to present to you all the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB)'s 2020 Annual Report which outlines NIBB's research, educational, and international activities and its effective function as a center for collaborative research in Japan from April 2020 to March 2021.

NIBB's activities in 2020 were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. All planned international conferences were postponed and all international collaborative activities were switched to an online-based format. The first joint meeting between NIBB and The Centre for Organismal Studies (COS) Heidelberg was also held online in March 2021. Although researcher interactions within the country were also limited, we could maintain research activities within the institute at almost normal levels.

Concerning changes on the staffing front, Associate Professor Ryuji Kodama retired in March 2021 and Assistant Professor Ikuo Uchiyama was promoted to Associate Professor in April 2020. Additionally, one specially appointed associate professor, four assistant professors and fourteen specially appointed assistant professors were newly posted to NIBB during this year.

I would like to finish this introduction by congratulating Professor Masayoshi Kawaguchi, who was awarded the 2020 Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists Award, and Professor Teruyuki Niimi, who was awarded the 2020 Japanese Society of Sericulture Science Award.

To establish NIBB as an internationally 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.

Kiyokazu Agata  
Director General of NIBB  
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