Greeting from President of the Biophysical Society **of Japan**

I am pleased to welcome all of you to join the EABS & BSJ 2006 congress.

The Biophysical Society of Japan (BSJ) was founded about a half century ago, and this congress is our 44th Annual Meeting. The East Asian Biophysics Symposium (EABS) is held every three years under the auspices of the EABS Committee, providing an international forum on a broad field of pure and applied biophysics to members of national biophysics societies in East Asia. This year, the Biophysical Society of Japan (BSJ) is very pleased to host the 5th EABS and decided to have a joint congress. In this congress, besides member societies, people from several societies of Asia and Oceania are joining for the first time, and this will make EABS a truly inter-Asia-Oceania biophysics forum, which will stand as a core regional center of the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB).

The Program Committee has received 1190 abstracts and the number of the total presentations will be as large as 1360, including 170 invited lectures. More than 30 symposia will cover all research fields of biophysics, and we have 8 plenary lectures. Excellent papers will be selected for Poster Award for Young Researchers by BSJ.

Okinawa has been chosen as a venue because it is the most southern prefecture of Japan, relatively close to many participating countries and regions. So, Okinawa is the bridge between Japan and other Asian and Oceanian countries and regions. It is also a beautiful place with its own unique culture, and I therefore hope that besides the exciting scientific program, you would have time to discover many beautiful islands of Okinawa, its beach resorts, subtropical weather, as well as its culture.

On the behalf of the Biophysical Society of Japan, I heartily welcome you to the EABS & BSJ 2006 meeting. I wish you a wonderful time, great discussion and new ideas for research.

Thank you very much for your active participation.

Prof. Shigeki Mitaku

The Biophysical Society of Japan, President

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