Letter from the editor

From its initial stage, *Synthesiology* took the stance, “Because synthesiological thinking is universal, the submission of papers shall not be limited to AIST and shall be open to external researchers.” However, due to the process up to its launch and the limited recognition of the journal, there have not been as many external submissions as we expected. With the sense of crisis that there will be no future for the journal unless this situation is surmounted, we embarked on the effort to get people outside of AIST to join the Editorial Board. As a result, we were able to obtain the cooperation of the people of Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd., New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), and Keio University. I express my gratitude to the new members who have agreed to give their valuable time to *Synthesiology*.

In recruiting the external Board members, of course, I had to explain what *Synthesiology* is to the people who were new to the concept, and I was reminded how hard it was to correctly communicate the characteristics of this journal, as well as I wondered how well I understood this concept. I explained, “In an ordinary academic journal, the value of what was invented or discovered is stated, but in *Synthesiology*, the process of how something was invented or discovered is stated, along with the social value that was created (or is being created) through such invention or discovery.” Some people may wonder whether this is a standard explanation. The formal answer can be found in the purpose of the launch and in Dr. Yoshikawa’s paper in the first edition. However, it is rather difficult to explain clearly using brief and concise expressions, and my tendency is to use extra adjectives.

From this perspective, the content of the roundtable talk is extremely interesting. Why did the SDM of Keio University, an organization with which AIST had hardly any research interchange, resonate with the thinking of *Synthesiology* and actively submit articles? I think the answer is concentrated in the words of the roundtable talk participants. Looking at the profiles of the participants, there is no one who was purely bred within the Keio University, and many people have joined SDM after spending time at companies, research institutes, and other universities. I caught a glimpse of the background where synthesiological viewpoints are nurtured. In reflection, there are very few AIST researchers who have experienced other organizations, although their alma maters may vary, and I feel we must actively introduce external human resources and participate in exchanges.

Executive Editor
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