

Message from the Guest Editors

Ewha Womans University, Japan Women's University and Ochanomizu University have dedicated their efforts for the women's education in science and technology for a long time. Ochanomizu University signed academic exchange agreement with Ewha Womans University on 28th, February 2000 and has deepened its connection ever since. At the same time, Ewha Womans University and Japan Women's University held the 1st joint forum in the field of natural science at Japan Women's University to promote the education and research in both universities. Ochanomizu University started attending the joint forum in March 2001 held at Ewha Womans University based on the academic exchange agreement. This is the beginning of the Ewha-JWU-Ochanomizu Joint Symposium held every year since 2010. The 3rd Joint Forum was held at Ochanomizu University in November 2001. The success of the forum was summarized in the special issue of Natural Science Report of the Ochanomizu University (Vol. 53, No. 1), published in June, 2002. The forum continued up to 2005 and the activity called a halt for a while for an unknown reason.

After a break between 2006 and 2009, the symposium was renewed in 2010, and we witnessed a great progress in each university, keeping abreast of the pace of globalization in each country. In the renewed symposia between 2010 and 2019, we watched students giving excellent talks and poster presentations about their research as an output of their hard work and dedication. Every year, we enjoyed about 70 presentations in the field of Life Science, Pharmaceutical Science, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Statistics, and Applied Sciences.

In December 2019, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the symposium after the renewal. And we held the symposium in Japan for the first time after the renewal. Quite naturally, the idea came out that this long-lasting series of symposia should be

commemorated at this anniversary and we started to edit this special issue for the 10th Ewha-JWU-Ochanomizu Joint Symposium. In this special issue, there are 9 selected contributions from the oral and poster presentations in the 10th symposium. Comparing the presentations in the symposium at Hisao & Hiroko TAKI PLAZA and the submitted manuscripts, we are quite happy to find great improvements, some of which should reflect the discussion held at the meeting place.

We thank all the authors who made very attractive presentations and submitted the manuscripts to this special issue. We thank all the reviewers who dedicated their precious time for the improvement of the submitted manuscripts. We also hope that this special issue will make a new momentum to promote science and the friendship among the three universities.

Guest Editors:

Kazue Kudo

(Chair of the 10th Symposium)

Kyoko Kojima-Aikawa

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(Board members of the 10th Symposium)