

International Symposium on Koi Herpesvirus Disease
- Strategy for Koi Herpesvirus Disease Control -
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On behalf of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), I would like to say a few words for “International Symposium on Koi Herpesvirus Disease.”

In 2000, it was reported that a new viral disease so call as koi herpesvirus disease (KHVD) caused mass mortality of carp and koi in Israel and the United States. Since then, outbreaks of KHVD in Europe and Indonesia have resulted in serious damages to both common carp and fancy koi carp (nishikigo).

As for Japan koi herpesvirus was designated as a specific disease under the Law to Ensure Sustainable Aquaculture Production in June 2003 because it could cause mass mortality of carp and koi. While no outbreak of KHVD had been reported in Japan at that time, with the massive death of carp at Lake Kasumigaura and Kitaura in Ibaraki Prefecture in early October 2003, the occurrence of KHVD was confirmed for the first time in Japan.

MAFF requested every prefecture in Japan to detect KHVD and to take appropriate preventive measures against its spread according to the Law to Ensure Sustainable Aquaculture Production. In addition, MAFF holds a series of expert council meetings for reviewing and improving the current situation of quarantine systems for aquatic products.

Under this situation, it is my great pleasure to hold this International Symposium with all the participants including representatives from fisheries industries, in collaboration with Fisheries Research Agency (FRA), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

In this symposium, the keynote lecture by Prof. Ronald P. Hedrick from the University of California, Davis, the U.S.A., a foremost expert on the disease will provide us with information on the current research

status, and measures for prevention and removal. In addition, experts in research and other related sectors from various countries in Europe and Asia, will have opportunities to disseminate and exchange the latest information on the disease and to discuss measures for control of KHVD.

Finally, I would like to give my sincere welcome to invited speakers from various countries around the world. I hope that this symposium will be fruitful not only for scientists but also all other participants.