

Preface

Although production of the Manila (asari) clam fishery accounts for only 0.4% of the total fisheries production in Japan on a weight basis and 0.5% on a monetary basis, asari is one of the most favored bivalves in the Japanese seafood market. It is also popular in other East Asian countries, as well as North America and Europe. However, the national production of asari has been drastically decreasing in Japan since the mid 1980's. There is a need to gather our knowledge to advance scientific researches and develop countermeasures for the production decline.

The First International Symposium on Manila (asari) Clam was organized by the Fisheries Research Agency and held in Yokohama, Japan in 2008, and the second symposium in Busan, Korea in 2012, co-organized by LTMER-Korea, POSTECH and Jeju National University. The third symposium was held in Tsu, Mie, Japan from June 1 to 2, 2015, followed by a workshop in Minamiise, Mie on June 3, co-organized by the Fisheries Research Agency, the Graduate School and Faculty of Bioresources, Mie University and the Mie Prefectural Government. The third symposium was the first time to invite participants from Europe, North America, Asia and Africa altogether; scientists, students and experts from eleven countries gathered for this symposium.

The present special issue of Bulletin of Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency is the proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Manila (asari) Clam. The symposium was a venue to be inspired by new ideas and information from different parts of the world, which could help us consider future directions to promote asari researches, how and what support we should provide, and what we could suggest to the administrative sectors and fisheries associations.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mie University, the Mie Prefectural Government and other organizations for their cooperation to organize the symposium. I am also grateful to the editorial board and the contributors for publishing the proceedings.

Fuminari Ito
Executive Director
National Research and Development Agency,
Fisheries Research Agency