

Welcoming Speech from Mayor of Kesennuma City

Noboru Suzuki*



Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am Noboru Suzuki, the Mayor of Kesennuma City. I am delighted to be here today. I would like to express my congratulations on the UNESCO APEID Seminar being held in Kesennuma City. I would also like to extend my warm welcome to all the guests and visitors to our city that is known as the Sanriku international fishery city in Japan.

I believe that the environmental issues you are going to discuss at this seminar are very important not only in the area of school education, but also for the people in general.

Speaking of our city, marine products are in the center of our key industry. It is based and relies greatly on the plentiful nature we are blessed with. In addition, we enforce various environmental regulations here, and the city has declared itself a "Slow Food" city earlier than any other cities in Japan. Through these activities, we are trying our best to promote our city with the basic key word as "food."

Tomorrow, you will visit Orose Elementary School to observe how international environmental education is carried out in classes. Teaching environment is also a part of our promotion activities.

I hope this seminar will be a new driving force to carry out our promotion activities. I also think this is a good opportunity to let more people know about Kesennuma as a city of food and environment.

I hope you can have very productive research and discussions in the following four days. Please don't forget to enjoy the delicious sea food and traditional Japanese dishes as well while you are here. I wish you good health and I hope you will enjoy your stay here during this seminar.

* City of Kesennuma, Japan