

## NARO-MARCO International Symposium

### “Nitrogen Cycling and Its Environmental Impacts in East Asia”

— 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Nitrogen Cycling and Its Environmental Impacts in East Asia —

**Date:** November 19–22, 2018

**Venue:** Tsukuba International Congress Center (Epochal Tsukuba), Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan

The National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO), Japan, and the Monsoon Asia Agro-Environmental Research Consortium (MARCO) carried out the NARO-MARCO International Symposium “Nitrogen Cycling and Its Environmental Impacts in East Asia”, with a great support from the Japanese Society of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition (JSSSPN), the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Science (CAS), China, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan, the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), and the global-scale international project “Towards INMS (International Nitrogen Management System)” which aims at maximizing the benefit and minimizing the threat from the use of reactive nitrogen and has been launched for the 4 year period from October 2017, led by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and implemented by the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI).

This Symposium is also positioned as the “2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Nitrogen Cycling and Its Environmental Impacts in East Asia” to continue the series of International Nitrogen Conference in East Asia, mainly supported by Towards INMS. The first one have been held in Nanjing, China, on October 19–22, 2017; moreover, the preliminary one had also been held in Tsukuba, Japan, on August 23–24, 2016. This Symposium included the Special Session (Poster Session) organized by JSSSPN and tried to contribute to the “International Decade of Soils 2015–2024” of the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS). This Symposium also tried to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We had 143 participants from 7 countries (Japan, China, Korea, Philippines, Iran, Austria, and UK); moreover, the participants from Japan also included several foreign researchers or students from China, Vietnam, USA, etc. We had 23 oral presentations which included 3 keynotes by Prof. Wilfried Winiwarter, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria, Prof. Xiaoyuan Yan, Institute of Soil Science, CAS, China, and Prof. Timothy Jickells, University of East Anglia, UK. In the Poster Session, we had 44 poster presentations, of which 2 posters were selected for the Best Poster Awards based on the votes from all the participants. In the evening after the daytime Oral & Poster Sessions, the Towards INMS Workshop was held twice on 19 and 20 November, with more than 30 participants, about a half of which are already involved in the Towards INMS project members. On the last day of the Symposium, the Scientific Field Excursion entitled “Understanding nitrogen cycling and its environmental impacts in Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan” was held with about 40 participants, who really enjoyed the taste of local food (new brands of strawberry, Japanese pair, and pork in Ibaraki Prefecture) and realized the nitrogen footprint of the agricultural and livestock products by our dietary life and its impacts on the water quality of the Lake Kasumigaura.

Thanks to the very hard work of all the participants and valuable free discussion with presenters and audience, we have successfully completed the aims of the Symposium; i.e., to share the current information and knowledge and exchange opinions between participants on the nitrogen cycling and its environmental impacts in East Asia and the world; discuss on the research results and future directions for solving the regional and global scale nitrogen-related problems; contribute to Towards INMS project for realizing sustainable nitrogen use through optimization of nitrogen cycling at various scales; and provide a forum for planning future cooperation reinforcement between participants, organizations, regions, and countries.

To keep in mind this unforgettable Symposium, we would like to share our group photo taken at the stairs in Epochal Tsukuba on the first day.



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