

## PREFACE

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Sustainable development, as a concept, recognizes that environmental protection and long term integrity of our biosphere is inextricably linked to factors far beyond industrial production and process, namely the growth, health and education of the population; scientific and technological-based innovations, risk-assessment and risk-management, decision making and governance, and a more profound understanding of social mores, norms and human behaviour in general. To move from concept to action plans is daunting, because the issues are as emotional as technical in their complexity, and the solutions are as political as they are technical in their implementation.

Following the successful completion in 1989 of the Canada-Japan complementarity Study, which had been commissioned by the two Prime Ministers, environment in a sustainable development context was one of the six research and development areas identified for immediate co-operation and enhanced collaboration. However, it was also clear that there was a timely need for exchange of up-to-date information on the progress, innovations and remaining difficulties dealing with certain environmental issues as a prelude to further work. When approached by the Japanese Embassy to arrange this Workshop, it became clear to me that we needed to know both the Japanese

state of play and the Canadian situation. However, we faced a rapidly changing world environmental scenario as countries and organizations moved to prepare for the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) in Brazil in 1992. The Workshop on the Japan situation was planned first for June 1991 and a Canadian follow-through in Japan will occur post-Brazil.

It is appropriate to focus on opportunities created by the complementarity of Canada and Japan, as we identify issues of common cause for UNCED and bilateral projects, and recognize areas where more research needs to be done because international competitiveness and development issues increasingly link technology to aid, trade, and the environment. This was a continuing theme for many of the speakers at the 1991 Workshop, whose proceedings follow here. For the first time, we can see the major differences that have indeed occurred over the past decade or so in, for example, pollution controls or energy usages, and compare strategic options for the 1990's.

In May 1991, the formation of the Canada-Japan Forum 2000 group was announced with a broad economic, cultural and internationally-focused mandate, and a December 1992 reporting date back to the two Prime