

Preface

On behalf of the Organising Committee, Scientific Committee and Conference Secretariat, allow me to extend a warm welcome to all participants of the **MMM3: International Meeting on Mangrove ecology, functioning and Management**.

As a background, MMM is an international conference on mangrove ecosystems that is held every six years. Intended to be the International Meeting on Mangrove Macrobenthos, the first meeting (MMM1) was organised by Università degli Studi di Firenze (Italy) in Mombasa, Kenya from 7-11 September 2000. Six years later, a consortium including Griffith University and University of Queensland organised MMM2 in Coolangatta, Australia, from 25-30 June 2006. During MMM2, it was agreed that the scope of MMM be expanded. This led to **MMM3** which represented the first global recurrent conference on mangrove ecosystems to be held in Galle, Sri Lanka, from 2-6 July 2012.

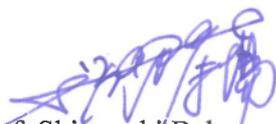
MMM3 will have thematic sessions on Macrobenthos Studies and Plant-Animal Interactions; Plant and Vegetation Science; Nutrient Cycling, Biogeochemistry and other Environmental Drivers; People-Ecosystem Interactions; Conservation and Management; and Global Climate Change. Maintaining some identity with the objectives of MMM, Macrobenthos Studies continue to be an important theme.

Due to the hardwork and efficient planning of Prof. Dr. Farid Dahdouh-Guebas (Conference Chair), Organising Committee, Scientific Committee and Conference Secretariat, **MMM3** has some wonderful programs for all participants. Each conference day will begin with keynote addresses by prominent mangrove scientists. The conference is grateful to have Prof. Dr. Stefano Cannicci (Italy), Dr. Karen L. McKee (USA), Dr. Daniel M. Alongi (Australia) and Prof. Dr. Jurgenne Primavera (Philippines) as keynote speakers. There will be oral presentation, pitching research highlights and poster presentations.

Unique to most conferences, **MMM3** will have a Young Mangrove Scientist Brainstorm Session and a Mangrove Forest Management and Policy Brainstorm Session during the lunch break of Day 2, a Mid-Conference Excursion on Day 3, and a Scientific Debate on Day 4. There will even be a Best Student Presentation Award. Organisers of the conference are currently negotiating the publication of the **MMM3** papers as a special issue of a peer-reviewed rated scientific journal. For registered participants, a Post-Conference Workshop has been organised jointly with the Small Fishers Federation of Lanka in the Pambala-Chilaw Lagoon Complex of Pambala-Kakkapalliya. Organisers of the conference have gone to the extent of arranging Pre-Conference and Post-Conference Tours for interested participants.

Organisers and participants of **MMM3** are grateful to Inter Research Science Center (Germany), GREEN DYKE Project (Belgium/Sri Lanka), National Institute for Business Management (Sri Lanka), Small Fishers Federation of Lanka (Sri Lanka), Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), University of Ruhuna (Sri Lanka), Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee (Belgium) and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium) for providing financial or material support to the conference.

On behalf of the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME), I would like to convey my best wishes to organisers, participants and sponsors of the conference. Hope that MMM3 will be a great success so that we can look forward to MMM4.



Prof. Shigeyuki Baba
Executive Director,
International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems
(ISME), Okinawa, Japan