



PREFACE

Welcome to Kyoto, Worldsleep2011/JSSR

Masako OKAWA¹ and Tetsuo SHIMIZU²

¹Vice President of World Sleep Federation (WSF), President of Asian Sleep Research Society (ASRS) and Chair of Local Organizing Committee, Worldsleee2011, and ²President of Japanese Society of Sleep Research (JSSR), President of 36th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Sleep Research and Vice Chair of Local Organizing Committee, Worldsleee2011

Welcome to Kyoto, a city full of World Heritage Sites in the heart of Japan, and to Worldsleee2011. This congress aims to explore new horizons of sleep research for our planet, by building bridges between Asia and the world in the field of somnology. Kyoto was selected as the venue for Worldsleee2011 at Worldsleee07 in Cairns, Australia. Ever since, we have devoted ourselves to preparation for this meeting.

As you may know, an unimaginable disaster hit eastern Japan on 11 March and Fukushima is still struggling with the accident response. We would like to express our deepest condolences to those who have lost their lives and those who are still suffering from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

While affected areas are recovering, we believe that science should continue to advance. The Local Organizing Committee, the Executive Council of the World Sleep Federation (WSF) and the Japanese Society of Sleep Research (JSSR) jointly decided that Worldsleee2011 should be held as planned in October of this year.

In response to the current situation in Japan, a number of special programs focusing on “disaster and

sleep” and “problems related to daylight savings/energy consumption” have been added to the original program. A wide variety of joint symposia are scheduled with the relevant societies. We also have opportunities to hear from senior researchers who have contributed to the advancement of somnology in Japan and overseas. They are expected to provide valuable developmental insights to the young scientists attending.

Furthermore, we are pleased to offer an exciting plenary symposium, entitled “The Future Direction of Global Sleep Medicine,” in collaboration with WSF, JSSR and the World Health Organization (WHO). The symposium will provide participants with up-to-date talks on sleep and health, public health policy, and a global picture of policy development and resources for mental health. The impact of sleep health will be revisited from the viewpoint of WHO, which we expect will open up new horizons for our sleep research.

Sleep researchers must keep moving forward and working at any time and any place, even in the face of disaster. We look forward to welcoming our colleagues from around the globe.