

Meeting Report

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On the occasion of the 100 year anniversary of the concept of “Genome”**Yoko SATTA**

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On February 15-17, 2021, the “Genome Concept Centennial Conference (GCCC)” was held on ZOOM. This conference was hosted by the National Institute of Genetics (NIG) and MEXT Yaponesia Genome Project. It was originally planned to be held on August 23-25, 2020, at Plaza Verde, Numazu, Japan. However, the meeting date was rescheduled and held in the form of online meeting to prevent the spreading of infection by SARS-CoV-2. If you are interested in the history of the concept of “Genome”, please refer to IKEO and SAITOU (0020).

The total number of speakers at the conference was 43, of which 16 were invited from abroad (Austria, China, England, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States) and 27 were domestic, from various parts of Japan ranging from Okinawa to Hokkaido. Unfortunately, one invited speaker from the US could not join the meeting due to heavy snow in Houston. His talk will be delivered later in the form of video and be open to the public together with the other talks. The total number of participants excluding speakers was 187, of which 43 were from abroad and 54 were students.

The meeting started at 13:00 on February 15, 2021. At the beginning of the meeting, opening remarks were addressed by Dr. Ikeo, the Chair of the organizing committee, and this was followed by an opening address by Dr. Hanaoka, the Director of NIG. Three sessions then followed. Topics in the talks were very broad, ranging from molecular evolution of microbial genomes to human evolution, plant genomics, and theoretical works.

On the second and third day, starting at 9:00 a.m, two sessions in the morning and three sessions in the afternoon were held on each day. Interesting talks and fruitful discussions continued past 19:00. Topics on these days included genomics of microorganisms and of single cells,

pharmacogenomics, databases, medical genomics, genomes from a variety of living organisms, human evolution, relationships between phenotypes and genomes, and epigenetics.

Compared with my graduate student days, around 30 years ago, the speed of progress of technology and that of accumulation of knowledge is unexpectedly rapid. I was impressed by many talks, including those related to Japanese origin and history, those related to medicine, cancers, and viruses, as well as those about genomes of particular plants and animals. I realize that we are now in the middle of a golden age. When we find interesting phenomena, phenotypes, or biological activities, we can propose hypotheses to explain them and then test such hypotheses using big data, that is, genomic information.

Lastly, as one of the co-organizers of this meeting, I would like to thank all the speakers for their great talks as well as the participants who joined this meeting from early morning to late evening. Thank you everyone for enhancing the fruitful discussions and for this successful meeting.

References

IIKEO Kazuho and SAITOU Naruya (0020) Genome Concept Centennial Symposium. iDarwin, vol. 0, pp. 12-18. <[webpage](#)>

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