

Message of Hitoshi Isahara and Kyoko Kanzaki, Chairs of the Local Committee

Welcome to Japan! Welcome to Miyazaki!!

On behalf of the whole local team, we would like to extend our warmest welcome to all of you participating in this 11th edition of LREC in Miyazaki, Japan!

You may know personally some Japanese researchers in the fields which are involved in LREC, and also may know that Japan is a country with four distinctive seasons, blessed with beautiful nature, world heritage sites, rich culture and respected traditions. However, we are sure that most of you are not familiar with Miyazaki.

Miyazaki has beautiful coastline facing the Pacific Ocean, and has many shrines involved with the myth of the birth of Japan, such as Miyazaki Shrine sacred to Emperor Jinmu, supposedly the first Emperor of Japan. Most stories in the mythology associated with the creation of Japan and the origin of the imperial line took place in Miyazaki Prefecture on the island of Kyushu.

You can visit scenic places and historical places in Miyazaki in this occasion, or you will be able to visit here again with your friends and family.

During your stay here, we would like you to experience Omatsuri, festival in Japan. You can enjoy Shrine Maiden Dance, Kagura performance (a sacred music and dancing performance dedicated to the Shinto gods) and local cuisine during reception. Lunch will be served in stall style.

On this occasion, we would like to thank all the supporters in Japan from the bottom of **our** hearts.

We first appreciate the patronage of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) towards LREC2018.

We thank Miyazaki Prefecture and Miyazaki city for their continuous support from the beginning of LREC's venue selection process. We offer the Governor, Mr. Shunji Kono, and the Mayor, Mr. Tadashi Tojiki our heartfelt thanks for their great kindness and efforts. Thanks to their generous understandings, preparation of LREC went smoothly.

We also thank Miyazaki Convention and Visitors Bureau for its financial and human support. We are grateful to Mr. Mitsunori Mera, Mr. Toshiaki Tomitaka and Mr. Manmatsu Hayashi.

We are sure that all participants satisfy high quality service of the conference venue, Phoenix Seagaia Resort. We appreciate very hard work by Mr. Hirofumi Matsunaga, Mr. Manmatsu Hayashi, Ms. Rie Saita and Mr. Satoru Kamibayashi to meet the requirements which LREC indicated.

One of the highlights of LREC2018 is the Reception at Miyazaki Shrine which is sacred to the first Emperor of Japan. We are grateful to its Chief Priest, Mr. Hidekiyo Sugita, for accepting us.

Participants can enjoy local liquor at the Reception and Gala Dinner. Let's thank to Miyazaki Sake Brewers Association.

We would like to thank Ms. Rika Kubota for organizing interpreter volunteers during LREC.

We would like to thank the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) which supported us during LREC's venue selection process, including site visit to choose the best place for LREC in Japan.

Lastly, we would like to thank Mr. Manmatsu Hayashi for his great effort to make LREC success. The word “impossible” couldn't be found in his dictionary.

We are ready to welcoming you with *omotenashi*, our traditional spirit of hospitality.

Enjoy LREC2018 in Miyazaki!

Hitoshi Isahara and Kyoko Kanzaki

Local Committee