



Human Proteome Organization 12th Annual Congress (HUPO2013)

Event name: **Human Proteome Organization 12th Annual Congress (HUPO2013)**
 Organization: **Human Proteome Organization (HUPO)**
 Hosted by: **Japan Human Proteome Organization (JHUPRO), Japan Science Council of Japan**
 Date: **14-18 September, 2013**
 Location: **PACIFICO Yokohama**

HUPO selects Yokohama as its First Port of Call in Japan

The Human Proteome Organization (HUPO) is an international scientific organization established in 2001, in order to represent and promote proteomics through international cooperation and collaborations by fostering the development of new technologies, techniques and training to better understand human disease.

The HUPO World Congress is held annually in autumn and rotates among continents. In the Asia Pacific region, it has been held in China and Korea, but never been to Japan. It was a long time hope of the researchers in and out of the country to hold the Annual Congress in Japan, and **Yokohama was the first Japanese city to have the privilege** when In 2010, the HUPO Executive Committee and the General Assembly decided on Yokohama to host HUPO 2013.

Until 2009, Japan Human Proteome Organization (JHUPRO) only had about 100 members and was a study group. Winning the bid for HUPO2013 became a good opportunity to increase membership, and the number of members grew to become over 700 in 2013, befitting as a host country.

From 14 to 18 Sept, three years after the site selection, HUPO was held in PACIFICO Yokohama, the flagship facility of the City. JHUPRO and the Science Council of Japan co-hosted the Congress, and the Past/current presidents of JHUPRO became the co-chairs. HUPO2013 was also supported by four governmental organizations as well as 15 related associations.

Yokohama CVB is invaluable as Local Committee's First Port of Call

Organizing a successful Congress became a memorable and proud achievement for Prof. Hisashi Hirano, the Co-chair of HUPO2013, and the Director of the Advanced Medical Research Center of the Yokohama City University.

Looking back at the Congress, Prof. Hirano commented, **“If we had not received the advice and support from YCVB, I don’t think the Congress could have been so successful.** As well as helping to decide on the date to hold the Congress, giving advice about how to manage the Congress and providing financial support, YCVB also set up a City information desk for the duration of the Congress. We were able to raise more financial sponsorship for the congress from sponsors than we initially anticipated but during the stages prior to and during preparations, we were rather worried as we weren’t sure how much we could raise. However, having the option of receiving financial support from YCVB was very reassuring. Also, being able to participate in an educational tour of the venues for social events one year before the congress was very helpful. We would like to offer our sincere thanks.”



Prof. Hisashi Hirano



Banquet Opening

Total success at HUPO2013 Yokohama

The Congress notably attracted 1,580 participants from 43 countries. Participants from overseas numbered 649 while there were 931 participants from Japan. Lectures were given by 195 researchers, of whom 158 were international speakers. Special invited guest speakers gave 11 lectures, including a lecture by Koichi Tanaka, the Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, while poster presentations numbered more than 900.

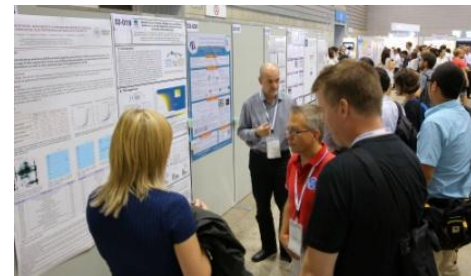
Japan is a world leader in the field of proteome research that comprehensively analyzes expression of proteins, functions and relationships between proteins and diseases. Many Japanese researchers gave presentations at the congress thus drawing attention to the results of Japanese study in this particular field.

At the congress, researchers from throughout the world networked freely and exchanged ideas. Prof. Hirano commented "I believe this congress provided an opportunity for the further development of proteomics both in Japan and in the international arena."

Industry partners with a track record in proteomics-related fields contributed to the success of the Congress, counting up to 98 sponsors and 66 exhibitors. The congress provided opportunities for attendees to gather technical information and the sponsors to provide information about their equipment and reagents.



Plenary Session



Poster Sessions



Training Courses



Public Forum



Congress Concert

Fostering Young Researchers from Yokohama

As a pre-congress event, a training course on Proteomics for young researchers was held from 11 to 14 Sept at the Advanced Medical Research Center of Yokohama City University and PACIFICO Yokohama. The course included educational seminars as well as hands-on seminars on proteomics 28 young researchers participated in the course, and 44 prestigious researchers gave lectures to them. Travel grants were provided to the international participants and accommodation fee for the Japanese participants.

On 14 Sept, a public forum titled "Relationship between protein and diseases" was held for the Yokohama citizens. The Forum attracted 135 local attendees, and provided the opportunity to study how protein is important in maintaining bodily health and growth, and how controlling the effect of protein leads to medical cure and prevention of diseases.

An Unforgettable Japanese Experience

The highlight of HUPO was the Congress Concert performed by Yokohama Sinfonietta, conducted by the world renowned Japanese conductor, Kazuki Yamada. The two hour concert was enjoyed by over 700 guests.

On the third day of the Congress, the powerful typhoon Man-yi hit the Japanese archipelago. It was one of the largest typhoon in our recent history. It was an impressive site that despite inclement conditions, a large number of participants still attended the Congress and listened intently to the lectures.

HUPO 2013 provided a total of 4500 room nights during the 5-day event, and it brought an economic impact of 1.7 billion JPY (17 million USD) to Yokohama City and Kanagawa Prefecture.

The Congress elevated Japanese expertise on proteome study onto the world platform and opened the way further for international networks between Japan and the rest of the world. In 2012, Yokohama hosted the Annual Meeting of the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) – the first in Asia. More meetings in this field will follow, including the 14th Annual Meeting of the Protein Science Society of Japan and the 37th Annual Meeting of the Molecular Biology Society of Japan, both in 2014. Yokohama is growing as the City of Life Sciences, attracting many researchers and doctors not only in Japan but from around the world.