

Preface



It is my great pleasure to publish this Annual Report, which summarizes our major activities performed during the fiscal year 2007. The National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS) was founded in 1957, and the year 2007 marked its 50th anniversary. During the past half century, we have continuously pursued our mission of conducting comprehensive research in science and technology related to radiation and human health, yet the final goal is still further ahead of us. In addition to the socio-economical activities, the increasing demand of energy consumption along with global warming of the earth requires new strategy for energy production and the natural environment of our planet. It is likely that our future society will heavily depend on nuclear power, and the appropriate handling of the risk and the benefit of radiation is urgently needed in our modern society. Dramatic increased use of radiological procedures in medical practice will be another important issue to be discussed. Based on our past experience and rich expertise, now is the time for us to work together in addressing these serious issues.

NIRS has a 50-years history of serving the community in promoting the safe and reliable use of radiation. We continue our work in collaboration with other institutions and with many scientific and technical experts who come to Chiba from all over the world. As facilities and human resources become limited through rising costs, collaboration and networking for cooperative projects present the only solution to realize our dream to be one of the international centers of excellence in radiological science. We sincerely ask for your strong support and advice as we work towards this goal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Y. Yonekura'.

Yoshiharu Yonekura, M.D., Ph.D.
President