

# PREFACE

The first issue of the *Cetacean Population Studies (CPOPS)*, created with the aim of promoting cetacean research not only in Japan, but also internationally, was published in December 2018, carrying on the spirit of the *Scientific Reports of the Whales Research Institute*, which had ceased publication in 1988. The centerpiece of this effort was the late Dr. Seiji Ohsumi, who unfortunately passed away on November 2, 2019, as we previously announced in this journal. He was very keen to see this journal flourish, but as it was still in the early days since publication of our first issue, I felt truly overwhelmed when I realized that we could not show him the day.

At the “Memorial Service in Honor of the late Dr. Seiji Ohsumi” held on December 23, 2019, people from home and abroad gathered to commemorate him, and many scientists from around the world also sent heartwarming messages. There was a spontaneous outpouring of voices from various people present there who wanted to leave these messages as a remembrance of Dr. Ohsumi.

This CPOPS Vol. 3, in addition to the usual collection of research papers, includes such messages and several chapters looking back at Dr. Ohsumi’s accomplishments as a memorial issue dedicated to him. After finishing the editing, I reaffirmed my conviction that, while Dr. Seiji Ohsumi left many research achievements in various fields, the starting point was that of a cetacean biologist deeply rooted in field research. I can only hope that the foundation of this journal will remain the same. And I sincerely hope that this volume will reach Dr. Ohsumi in heaven.

In addition to the members of the publishing and editorial boards, many national and international scientists have helped edit this volume. I am deeply grateful for their scientific contributions. I would also particularly express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Gabriel Gomez Diaz, Ms. Tomoko Kuba and Ms. Kuniko Takata of the CPOPS secretariat.

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Chairman

Publication Committee for the Cetacean Population Studies