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Title	Preface
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Description	JSTさきがけ研究集会　環境問題における数理の可能性. 平成20年6月11日～平成20年6月13日. 札幌市
Relation	JST Presto Symposium on Mathematical Sciences towards Environmental Problems (Hokkaido University technical report series in mathematics ; 136). p.iii.
Issue Date	2008-09
Doc URL	https://hdl.handle.net/2115/34727
Type	other
File Information	tech136_preface.pdf

Hokkaido University Collection of Scholarly and Academic Papers : HUSCAP

Preface

Environmental problems are among the most important scientific challenges in the 21st century. They are the key themes that were discussed in the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit held at Hokkaido, Japan in July 2008. A number of researchers from various fields of sciences are now dealing with the problems intensively in recent years.

While mathematicians tend to pay less attention to such real-world problems, mathematical tools can be potentially applied towards environmental problems due to the intrinsic universality. The aim of this symposium was to overview how mathematics can contribute to these problems by inviting distinguished researchers from a wide range of disciplines related to environmental problems.

The topics were selected from various research fields such as global climate change, civil engineering, environmental hydraulics, environmental assessments, dermatology and ultraviolet, statistical treatment of infectious diseases and so on.

We had five invited speakers who provided the participants with wonderful research results and inspiring ideas. We also organized a poster session, where excellent 15 contributed posters were presented. The summary of these talks and the posters are collected in this proceedings.

This symposium was organized by “PRESTO” researchers which consist of young mathematicians seeking an innovative breakthrough from mathematics towards many other research fields. It is also supported as one of the events in "Sustainability Marathon" organized by Hokkaido University.

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“PRESTO” is a proposal-oriented research promotion of JST, a Japan's national agency.
http://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/presto/index_e.html

Sustainability Marathon, Hokkaido University 2008.
http://sw2008.jp/english/index.html