

Towards the 2nd Trilateral Symposium on SDGs

Professor Naoyuki Hara

Greetings from Kagawa University.

I am Professor Naoyuki HARA and was appointed Vice President International Affairs and Director of International Office from the October 1st, 2021, after my predecessor, Professor Masaaki TOKUDA completed his term at the end of September. Before I proceed, I would like to pay tribute to him for his remarkable contribution and effort in developing the collaboration we now enjoy with Chiang Mai University and National Chiayi University.



The 1st Trilateral Symposium on SDGs was held with much grandeur, more than what we had anticipated. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for all your cooperation. I had the honor of participating in the Sustainability and Society Session, making a presentation titled “Introduction of Faculty of Economics and Tourism in Kagawa Prefecture”. I was very inspired by the many presentations and stimulating discussions among the researchers of Chiang Mai University, National Chiayi University and Kagawa University. Since then, some new joint research collaborations that transcend nationalities and disciplines have taken shape. It can be said that SDGs, especially Goal #17 “Partnership” is practiced. Base on this outcome, I feel that it is extremely important that this symposium continues in the future.

I will be responsible for the 2nd Trilateral Symposium on SDGs as it will be held at Kagawa University. We planned to hold the Second Symposium in 2022. However, the ongoing upward spike of COVID-19 infection cases all over the world as well as in Japan, drove us to re-consider the plan for the symposium. We all feel that a face-to-face event is not advisable and is difficult to be securely held and would like to postpone the symposium to the summer of 2023.

In 2023, barring COVID-19 complications, we plan to hold the symposium face-to-face. We also hope that we can make a significant contribution globally by channeling our efforts onto SDGs issues more actively from the research perspective, taking into consideration the results of 1st Trilateral Symposium. Furthermore, in order to study and work together in the future, we would like to provide opportunities for not only researchers but also to students to foster meaningful friendships and develop useful networks. To do so, we need your kind and strong cooperation.

My research theme is tourism. By all means, I would like all delegates to know and experience the attractions of sightseeing in Kagawa prefecture, such as art, nature, islands, and people.

I am looking forward to welcoming CMU and NCYU delegates in Kagawa prefecture in 2023.