Kazuhiko Moji

There is increasing evidence that without in depth understanding of transmission of forest malaria and monkey-human malaria, the elimination of malaria from Southeast Asia cannot be done. As deforestation is not the answer to eliminating malaria, we need to find ways to cut the malaria transmission cycle while wisely and sustainably utilizing and conserving the forests and its inhabitants.

Current malaria control efforts cannot be achieved by any one discipline alone. An "eco-health collaboration" is needed, bringing together various disciplines including, but not limited to malariologists, entomologists, epidemiologists, clinical scientists, public health specialists, geographers, forest and monkey ecologists and primatologists, social scientists, human ecologists and cultural anthropologists. The Vietnam based, Khanh Phu Malaria Research Center is developing technology to carry out molecular-based malariology in the field, along with researchers from Japan and other countries. Dr. Shusuke Nakazawa’s dream with his long established efforts with the Khanh Phu Malaria Research Center is now on track to integrate data collected over decades to better understand the malaria transmission and lead future studies and efforts to control malaria in this region.

Thanks to the JSPS Asia Africa Science Platform Program, we gather here for the 2nd international symposium on human and monkey malaria in Vietnam. I thank all the Vietnamese authorities and friends for making this symposium possible. I strongly believe this symposium will help promote future studies and our understanding of forest malaria and monkey-human malaria for its elimination from Southeast Asia.