

Preface

International Symposia on Water Supply Technology have been held every three years since the inaugural meeting in 1988. One year has passed since the 8th Symposium was held. Now, I am delighted to be able to present the findings of that symposium in this special issue of *Journal of Water Supply: Research and Technology—AQUA*, as one of the guest editors.

Water is one of the principle concerns of the 21st century. Guaranteeing a safe, secure supply of drinking water is essential to the survival of the human race. The 8th International Symposium on Water Supply Technology was held in June 2009 in Kobe, Japan, and took as its main theme “New Challenges for Sustainable Water Services”. It was organized jointly by the Japan Water Research Center (JWRC) and Kobe City Waterworks Bureau, with strong support from the International Water Association (IWA), Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and others.

Fifteen years have passed since the Great Kobe Earthquake, which struck in January 1995. It was deeply apt, therefore, to have been able to hold a symposium addressing risk management and earthquake proofing in Kobe, a city which has rebuilt itself with such fortitude after that tragedy.

The 2009 symposium began with a special lecture by Dr. David Garman, IWA President, and a keynote speech from Dr. Yoshimasa Watanabe, a professor at Hokkaido University. This was followed by presentations from invited speakers, and the presentation of submitted research papers. Having been given this opportunity to edit *Journal of Water Supply: Research and Technology—AQUA*, we decided to showcase some of the outstanding reports that were presented at the symposium, on topics such as water purification technology, pipeline technology, governance and management. I hope that readers relish the opportunity to hear about some of the most cutting-edge research into water supply and technology that there is today. As one of the organizers of the symposium, I am grateful for the opportunity to broadcast our significant success thus far through this special edition.

Masahiro Fujiwara

Chairman, The 8th International Symposium on
Water Supply Technology Steering Committee,
President, Japan Water Research Center