

## “The Kick-Off Symposium” has been held.

The kick-off symposium of IMT\* project has been held on Thursday, March 10, 2011. There were approximately 150 participants from inside and outside of Kochi, such as the faculties and students of Kochi University or the others, the educational institution, a local government and industries.

The program included; an opening remark from Mr. Sagara, the President of Kochi University, a guest greeting from Mr. Itakura, the Director of Knowledge Infrastructure Policy Division, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), a brief description of IMT project from Dr. Kotsuki, the Director of Kochi University (in charge of research), a special lecture from Mr. Tadashi Matsunaga, the Director of Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, entitled “Promotion Program for Young Researchers in Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology”, and a special lecture from Mr. Nobuhiro Fusetani, the Director of Promotion Committee for International Fisheries and Ocean City, Hakodate, entitled “Marine Biotechnology: Utilization for Component of Marine Organism”.

There were several panelists on the second half of the discussion invited at this symposium such as Mr. Matsunaga, Mr. Yoshio Kumagai, Program Officer, Japan Science and Technology Agency, Mr. Yoshinari Ikegami, President & CEO of AKO KASEI CO., LTD., Dr. Kaori Sakurai, Associate Professor/Tenure-Track Researcher, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. They discussed and exchanged their opinions about expectations and challenges toward this project with every audience in the hall.

In addition, many people including Mr. Masanao Ozaki, Governors of Kochi, participated fellowship meeting at the end in order to build social relationships between the tenure-track researchers and the others

\*IMT: Promotion Program for Young Scientists and COE for Innovation of marine Science and Technology

