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Message from Director, CSEAS, Kyoto University, Japan

It is indeed a great privilege to write this message to commemorate the organization of the Second International Symposium on GeoInformatics for Spatial-Infrastructure Development in Earth & Allied Sciences (GIS-IDEAS 2004) to be held from 16 to 18 September, 2004 in Hanoi, Vietnam. I would like to congratulate the Japan-Vietnam Geoinformatics Consortium (JVGC) for taking the initiative to organize this important meeting.

Since its official establishment in 1965, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University, has actively engaged in developing research activities focusing on Southeast Asian countries, among which Vietnam has always been an important country where our staff and visiting scholars have been continuously carrying out various research projects and studies. It is therefore heartening to see that the GIS-IDEAS Symposium offers a unique forum for sharing our research findings and fosters a better understanding of Southeast Asian affairs. CSEAS, Kyoto University, is proud of being actively involved in the organization of GIS-IDEAS 2004 and I am very glad to know that specialists from all over the world are taking part in the deliberations of this symposium. I hope that the GIS-IDEAS 2004 will enrich the understanding of natural, social and human environment of Southeast Asia and provide a good occasion to strengthen the existing cooperation and friendship between Japan and Vietnam.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to send my warmest greetings to the organizers and participants, and cordially wish the GIS-IDEAS 2004 a great success.

Tanaka Koji
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