

## Foreword

It is a pleasure for me to introduce the second issue of the Technical Reports of the Institute of Cetacean Research (TEREP-ICR). As explained in the presentation of the first issue, the main objective of the TEREP-ICR is to describe and report on the process, progress, or results of technical or scientific research, or the state of a technical or scientific research program conducted by the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR).

I believe that the production of the first issue of the TEREP-ICR was an important step toward achieving the aim stated above. TEREP-ICR No. 1 was distributed widely among the scientific community. It was distributed among approximately 100 individual scientists from Japan and 30 foreign countries. It was also distributed to approximately 160 research institutions (including universities, research institutes, public libraries, museums and aquariums) both in Japan and foreign countries. I am happy to report that positive comments were received from several colleagues about the high quality of TEREP-ICR No. 1. Some international colleagues noted that TEREP-ICR will contribute to increased research collaboration because it informs external scientists of the kind of data/samples collected and the kind of technical and scientific research conducted by ICR scientists. I appreciate these comments because they validate the main purpose of the TEREP-ICR.

I sincerely hope that this second issue of the TEREP-ICR will continue contributing to an increased understanding of the technical and research activities conducted by the ICR among the national and international scientific community.

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