Subcommittee / Environmental Initiatives



Significance of Biodiversity Conservation for Risk Management of Infectious Diseases

Koichi Goka Professor, National Institute for Environmental Studies

Pathogenic microorganisms and virus are components of ecosystems, constructing endemic interrelationships with each specific host species thorough the co-evolutional history. The spill-over of
the pathogens from natural habitats into other area will cause encounters between the pathogen and
new hosts which have never evolved the immunity or resistance, and will result in rapid spread of
"emerging infectious disease (EID)". The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has attracted attention to the
research and debate that biodiversity destruction and anthropogenic environmental change are
deeply related to EID pandemics. In this presentation, we will consider EID risk as an environmental
problem and discuss the significance of nature symbiosis for avoiding new pandemics.