

Dear those who had looked forward to attending BACELL2020 in Kobe:

As everybody is aware that various events have been cancelled due to the epidemic of the new coronavirus, now we must re-consider about holding BACELL2020. In Kobe, almost all the events until the end of April have been cancelled or postponed, also the same in Europe. What was most shocking to us was that a microbiology meeting, HDID, in France scheduled even for mid-May was cancelled recently (<https://symposium.inrae.fr/hdid2020/>).

We, the BACELL2020 local organizing committee, have been discussing with the venue, the Kobe Chamber of Commerce. Since both the lecture and poster halls can be arranged spacy to avoid deep contact among participants, lunches served in boxes, drinks disposable for single use, and banquet prepared on seated tables instead of buffet... we could have taken the most careful measures to prevent the spread of the virus infection. Thus, our original intention was to hold BACELL2020 on schedule if possible.

However, we have been told by a number of participants one after another that their trips had to be banned. Sooner or later, our University, Kobe City, or our government might prohibit any large international events such as ours. Moreover, it may be possible that flights to Japan would be arrested. In light of the above situation, although it is a total pity, discussions at the local organizing committee came to a painful conclusion that our only choice shall be to cancel BACELL2020. Actually, Fri 13th March is the time limit to minimize losses as much as possible.

As an alternative to holding the actual conference, an abstract book will be published in pdf version and posted on the website, and at least the research announcements and the sponsoring company's advertisements can be made in such a way. In addition, pdfs of the posters and presentation slides would be submitted on request, which can be viewed by linking to the program on the web.

On the other hand, many participants from overseas seem to have arranged air tickets and accommodations, and this would already have caused a considerable loss. Therefore, we would like to refund all paid registration fee, although we are not able to cover the other additional costs.

Again it hurts a lot, but we hope you would kindly understand and cooperate with this inevitable decision. We hope that this world-wide calamity will end as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Yoshida

On behalf of the BACELL2020 local organizing committee

Ken-ichi YOSHIDA, Ph.D.

FEMS Ambassador

Professor of Applied Microbiology

Graduate School of Science, Technology

and Innovation

Kobe University

1-1 Rokkodai, Nada, Kobe 657-8501, Japan

phone/fax: +81 78 803 5891

e-mail: kenyoshi@kobe-u.ac.jp

cell phone: +81 90 4279 6263
