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Good research is always the result of cross-breeding of ideas between individuals—if their backgrounds are different, the resulting pool of ideas increases and improves the quality and impact of the final results.

In this perspective, the previous Japanese–Swedish symposia on the effects of noise [1, 2] have been remarkably successful. The blending of experience from two countries in different parts of the world and with different cultures, has made collaborative studies and comparisons of data especially fruitful. Research on noise comprises the application of a variety of disciplines—medical, acoustical and behavioural. Cultural differences add another dimension where deviations and similarities increase the power of the scientific designs in evaluating noise induced effects.

This third Japanese–Swedish workshop follows the tradition established in the two previous ones. Presentation of a wide variety of noise related effects and extensive discussions in a tranquil atmosphere, provided the basis for much constructive thinking. Particularly satisfying were the reports from collaborative investigations between Japanese and Swedish groups.

In science, the ultimate answer is never obtained and existing paradigms must be continuously questioned. In view of the importance of environmental noise for the health of the population, the continued collaboration between Japanese and Swedish researchers will provide an important basis for such work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REFERENCES

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