

Department of Biotechnology Ministry of Science and Technology Government of India

DBT



**AIST** 

## DBT -AIST International Laboratory for Advanced Biomedicine



Classroom for Advanced & Frontier Education





## Series - 38

Date and Time: June **17**, 2019 (3:30 JST) Venue: Central 5-41 2F (Meeting Room #1)

Speaker: Y. Mitani

Affiliation: National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan

E-mail: mitani-y@aist.go.jp



## Title: Luminous animals from fields to the Lab

Maybe some people have experiences to see fireflies in the field. They emit mild green light and attracted eyes of human beings from the ancient times as described in many old documents from all over the world. However, the diversity of luminous animals is not well recognized by most people because real diversity of these animals are under the ocean. Some reports say that luminous animals are widespread and scattered over diverse branches of the tree of life, and more than 700 genus include luminous species and 80% of them are living in ocean. Until now, bioluminescence systems have been revealed from a diverse array of animals, as many as more than 10 phyla. The luminous mechanisms including luciferin and luciferase have been characterized for many species, particularly for terrestrial animals including fireflies, click beetles, and railroad worms. Recently, a novel luciferin was identified from an annelid, the Siberian earth worm. However, we still have much more luminous animals with unknown molecular mechanism(s). In this seminar I will talk about recent topics about luminous animals including fireworm luciferase that originally discovered.

