

## **Launch and Key Activities of the ILSI Japan Tea Task Force**

YUKIHIKO HARA, Ph.D.

Tea Solutions,  
Hara Office Inc.

### **< Summary >**

ILSI Japan Tea Task Force was launched in 1997 at the strong insistence of Dr. Alex Malaspina, then the President of ILSI, who came to Japan to talk to the people concerned about starting the Tea Task Force here since Japan was and had been leading the study of health benefits of tea.

We formed the Tea Task Force with the active cooperation of renowned brands of tea beverages and others. The activities of the Task Force are now focused, along with the seminars on tea, on the study of the chemical components of tea leaves obtained throughout the tea producing areas of the world. The data base thus obtained will be made available for the wider use of the tea industry as a whole. In 2008, the Tea Task Force became the Tea Information Working Group with more concentrated efforts on the expansion of the data base.