

Sae Ochi Chief of the executive committee

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the executive committee members, I would like to welcome you to this International Symposium on Disaster Management and Recovery for Children and Community hosted by the Soma Area Council of Local Governments and in collaboration with WHO Center for Health Development and the Japan Medical Association. First of all, I express my

gratitude to the guest speakers, Dr. Shinjiro Nozaki from the WHO Kobe Center, Mr. Peter Johnston from IAEA, Professor Gerry Thomas from Imperial College, London, and Ms. Claire Leppold from Minamisoma Municipal General Hospital as well as all the speakers, chairs, and moderators for attending this symposium in busy schedule.

Last month, a huge earthquake struck Kumamoto and Oita Prefecture killing around 50 people. And several days after the disaster, more than 600 people in Republic of Ecuador were killed by an earthquake. I'd like to express my sincere condolences to the families of the victims. Now, the world is facing increasing intensity and frequency of disasters. With this, there is an increasing need in sharing experience and knowledge about how to prepare for, mitigate, and recover from such catastrophic disasters.

Fortunately, during these 5 years, we, the residents and researchers in Fukushima Prefecture have achieved a significant progress with regard to community recovery and we have accumulated many important knowledge. All the speakers here today and tomorrow have made enormous contribution to the recovery of this area. Learning from their activities will have an impact on all of our lives, provide a legacy for the children, and ultimately will benefit the entire world.

So, I have no doubt that we are having really interesting 2 days. Before I hand over to Mr. Shinjiro Nozaki, I'd like to thank Fukushima Prefecture IAEA, Foundation for Global Children, Yomiuri Shimbun, Fukushima Minpo, Fukushima Minyu Shimbun, and Soma-gun Medical Association for your support. And all the staff of Soma Area Council of Local Governments, Seisa Group and University of Tokyo for setting up and organizing the conference.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the participants here today. Welcome, and please enjoy this symposium along with us. Thank you.



Shinjiro Nozaki Senior consultant, WHO Centre for Health Development



Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I have to say very sorry for our Director, Alex Ross couldn't come here because of the family emergency problem. But I would like to read his message on behalf of WHO.

Honorable Mayor Hidekiyo Tachiya, Mayor Norio Kanno, Mayor Norio Kato, Mayor Katsunobu Sakurai, Dr. Sae Ochi, Executive Director, organizing

committee of this symposium, Professor Masayasu Kitagawa, Waseda University, Professor Kenji Shibuya, University of Tokyo, Professor Geraldine Thomas, Imperial College of London, Mr. Peter Johnston, Director of IAEA, distinguished speakers and honorable guests, on behalf of the World Health Organization, WHO and the entire staff of the WHO Kobe Center, it is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you to this important international symposium.

My sincere congratulations to Mayor Tachiya and organizing committee for organizing this robust conference that will explore many of the lessons and challenges that Soma City, the Tohoku region, and Japan have experienced during and after the Great East Japan earthquake, tsunami, and the nuclear accident. The innovations that you have created over the past 5 years, particularly in supporting the community to recover from these events, and mitigating the long term psychosocial impact of the disaster provide inspiration to others in Japan and around the world.

As we recently have seen in Kumamoto, the risk of natural disasters and their significant impact on people and economics are constant. Although tragic, the number of deaths from the Kumamoto earthquake was far less than that experienced during the Great Hanshin Awaji earthquake or the Great East Japan earthquake. This points to the benefits of constant learning from past experience and implement improvement in preparedness. Across the world, we are seeing a significant increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters, many hazards, and communicable disease outbreaks. We have been watching the emergence of new diseases such as Ebola, Zika as well as the spread of existing ones such as dengue and malaria.

WHO has a very important role to play to support countries and communities across the disaster health emergency, risk management, continual preparedness, response, recovery, and ensuring resilient health systems and communities. WHO and its many partners have various instruments and mechanisms to do this including the international health regulations and the providence of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.

WHO is emphasizing supporting countries to build resilient health systems that can detect and respond to any health emergency and to better assess risks and vulnerable populations.

WHO Kobe Center is a global WHO research center that focuses on UHC, Universal Health Coverage, innovation, and aging populations. Since its beginning, the center has also focused on supporting and sharing lessons and policy research for health emergency management.

Led by Japan, there is an increasing interest in learning about how to support long term survivors of disasters, especially older populations. We look forward to learning from this symposium and to working with you to disseminate the many important lessons globally. Thank you very much once again for being with us today and for your kind attention. *Arigatou gozaimasu.*



Satoshi Imamura Japan Medical Association Vice President



Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. May I add my warmest congratulations for the opening of the International Symposium on Disaster Recovery for Children and Community. I am really honored to offer some words of welcome on behalf of JMA, in front of many VIPs who are present here.

On April 14th, there was an earthquake in Kumamoto Prefecture

where lots of people have perished, and I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to all of them. I think that many of you who are present today may be dedicating yourself to help the people there, and I'd like to say my heart is always with those who were affected and who are still living in the shelters. As for JMA, we have dispatched JMAT or Japan Medical Assistance Team to the affected areas. We do hope that these medical assistances would help the residents there return to their normal life with security and peace of mind as quickly as possible.

Now, I'd like to offer my congratulations to the organizers including Dr. Ochi, the Executive Committee Chair, and Dr. Tsubokura, the General Secretary for their dedication to recover from the triple disaster in the past 5 years. Ever since the accident occurred at the power plant, the JMA have dispatched the JMAT comprising medical doctors and other health professionals from all over the nation to Soma City, Minamisoma City, Koriyama City, and Iwaki City amongst others. And on September 2011, we have made the proposal to the Governor of Fukushima, Mr. Sato, on recovery and construction from the disaster. Particularly after the nuclear power plant accident, we were worried about the health impacts on the pregnant women and children. That was why we have declared the importance of their assistance. Our other supports include development of the guidelines for intake of antidote iodine, conducting research on the emergency exposure effect on health, and so on. I hope that these efforts was of a help for your recovery activities.

Considering disaster and children, we will have to start with reconstruction of communities. Particularly, it is true in the aging society in Japan, that medicine- and nursing care- centered economy is essential to develop a community where people can live with mind of peace. Medicine and nursing care also can create new job opportunities in the affected areas, so it may leverage recovery of communities from the disasters. In other words, we need to create societies where children grow up, find their jobs, and then have their own families within the same community.

Tomorrow, Dr. Shibuya, professor of the University of Tokyo, will chair a keynote lecture and panel discussion. He was the Chair of a committee that issued 'Japan Vision Health Care 2035', which, by reversing our way of thinking, aims at taking adverse situations such as stagnation of economic growth and financial crisis as a big opportunities to add values to the healthcare of Japan so that it can lead the world.

Disasters do not only happen in Japan and nuclear power plants exist throughout the world. I believe

Congratulatory speeches by guests of honor

this symposium on children and disaster recovery will be beneficial to not only Japan but also to the world. In closing, I do hope for the success of the 2 day symposium. And also, I'd like to wish for the health and prosperity for all the participants here. Congratulations on this symposium. Thank you.



Congratulatory speeches by guests of honor

