

Masaharu Tsubokura Secretary general



Now that this international symposium on disaster management and recovery for children and communities 2016 has now successfully been concluded, I thank you very much indeed for your attendance to the 2-day symposium, to squeeze time out of your busy schedules. It is a truly international conference with English and Japanese and interpretation, translation. It was a dizzying experience for me but I hope that this symposium has served the

purpose to provide you the information and message.

The moderators, panelists, and speakers, keynote speakers, I'd like to sincerely express my heartfelt gratitude. We have the session 1, 2, 3, and presentations from four mayors of the municipalities, panel discussions, and keynote speeches. Personally, I had two learnings out of this symposium: one is that there are so many issues remaining but 5 years have passed since the disasters and slowly but steadily we are moving a step forward. Of course, it is unlikely that the radiation will be reduced to zero, but the dosage is coming down and the industries have revived and the people are doing their utmost effort to really continue their lives.

Second point is that people cannot live alone. They can live with the support of others, neighbors, and friends to move ahead, inspection, monitoring, screening and all the industries and every one person cannot live alone. He has to be supported and he has to support other people around him.

Now this symposium was made possible with the cooperation of so many people. Two beautiful moderators, students working as volunteers. Transportation was actually provided by Seisa-group. And you actually enjoyed the lunch curry. The cooks were working very hard early in the morning to prepare the tasty seafood curry for you.

And then there are interpreters. Interpreting work is quite consuming work because the interpreters have to keep up the pace of translating from my very quick Japanese into English. And also the city staff member and also the staff members from the municipality, governments and those guides and escorts, all those people really contributed their power and their enthusiasm to make this symposium a truly successful one. I sincerely hope this information and data, a message will be a foundation for us to really make the great future.

Thank you very much indeed.

