

Opening Remarks

President of JPPNW, President of HICARE **Keiichi Hiramatsu**

My name is Keiichi Hiramatsu, president of Hiroshima Prefectural Medical Association, and I also serve as president of HICARE and president of JPPNW.

I am very pleased to see so many of you participating in this the 9th IPPNW North Asia Regional Conference and the HICARE International Symposium to mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, and I express my sincere gratitude to all those who have worked so hard to make this day possible.

This symposium is jointly staged by HICARE and JPPNW in Hiroshima, which was the first place to suffer the horror of atomic bombing. On the 70th anniversary of the bombing, I think this is a highly significant event that gives us the opportunity to conclude past activities and open a new page looking to the future.

Since this symposium is being conducted jointly with the seminar for doctors in designated medical institutions for treatment of the A-bomb survivors, I think it may be a long two-day event for everybody concerned, but I expect that you stay attentive to the end.

Since we have many citizens in attendance today, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce the activities of HICARE and IPPNW.

HICARE was established in Hiroshima in 1991 after the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant with the objective of sharing Hiroshima's accumulated expertise in treating A-bomb survivors and research on the effects of A-bomb radiation for the medical care of radiation-exposed people throughout the world.

Now, 25 years have passed and we have received 455 doctors and researchers from 20 countries and sent 201 specialists to 16 countries, utilizing Hiroshima's expertise to contribute to the health care of the radiation-exposed.

In 2014 HICARE was designated as a Collaborating Center of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and we have been utilizing that network to contribute to even more countries and regions.

Meanwhile, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) was founded at the end of the 1970s while the Cold War was still in progress, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Bernard Lown from the U.S. and Dr. Evgueni Chazov of the Soviet Union.

IPPNW was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 in recognition for its achievements in accumulating knowledge and raising public awareness about the devastating consequences of nuclear warfare from the viewpoint of medical specialists.

The Japanese affiliate, JPPNW, was established in 1982 and currently has some 2,600 members belonging to 13 branches. While participating in world and regional conferences, it continues to stress the inhumanity of nuclear weapons through conducting lectures on the realities of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the long-term health effects of

radiation exposure, holding poster exhibitions and conducting other steady activities geared to realizing Japan's responsibility as a country to have suffered atomic bombings.

JPPNW has also formed the North Asia region together with the affiliates of China, North Korea, South Korea and Mongolia, and the Mongolian affiliate sent a representative mission to this regional conference.

I hope that today's symposium deepens your understanding of our activities throughout the world, in order to pass on to the next generation the results of medical care for the radiation-exposed that have been built on numerous ultimate sacrifices, and promote the best contribution that Hiroshima can make to the rest of the world.

In closing, I would like to express my hope that you all find this symposium informative and useful in your future endeavors.

Greetings

IPPNW Regional Vice President - NORTH ASIA **Masao Tomonaga**

Hello everyone. My name is Masao Tomonaga and I am the regional vice president of IPPNW for North Asia.

I am very pleased to see the staging of the 9th IPPNW North Asia Regional Conference here in Hiroshima. Actually, until yesterday I was in Geneva attending the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to discuss approaches to constructing the legal framework for the abolition of nuclear weapons that was adopted as a resolution at the U.N. General Assembly held in December last year. I managed to attend the first three days of the OEWG from Monday. I visited Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs two weeks ago to request the Government of Japan's attendance at the OEWG too, and it has also decided to take part in the final phase. With participation by approximately 100 countries, we are seeing extremely lively debate is being conducted.

IPPNW has so far worked very hard to formulate a scenario for the abolition of nuclear weapons with the focus on the inhumanity of such weapons as witnessed in the tragic consequences of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and I traveled to Geneva in the hope of seeing this scenario come to fruition, however, we still seem to be only halfway down the road to realizing this goal. The campaign to convey the inhumanity of nuclear weapons is faced with great difficulties, as can be gathered from the fact that not even one nuclear power participated in that meeting. However, there are moves to establish a consensus for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and I was encouraged to witness multilateral negotiations conducted with this end in mind.

The 1st IPPNW North Asia Regional Conference was staged in Nagasaki in 1997, largely thanks to the immense efforts of Dr. Kenjiro Yokoro, who was Secretary General at that time. Participation at this time comprised Japan, South Korea and China, and affiliates were also subsequently established in North Korea and Mongolia, however, following various twists and turns after about 20 years since that time, the affiliates in South Korea and China have become dormant, and, unfortunately, we have also recently lost contact with the North Korean affiliate. We thus face an uphill task in trying to consolidate the North Asian region.

On the other hand, our Mongolia affiliate, which had suspended activities for a time, was re-established last year and now sends numerous missions that contain young representatives. This is extremely pleasing and I would like to express my gratitude to all our friends from Mongolia.

I believe that today's staging of the 9th North Asia Regional Conference is, therefore, very significant in this extremely transitional year in the movement for abolition of nuclear weapons. Of course, this is also the year that marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings.

I look forward to debating our next steps on our journey to abolishing nuclear weapons together with all the guests and the local IPPNW members gathered here today. Thank you all for your participation.

※This greeting was translated by the HICARE Secretariat.

Greetings by Guests

President, Japan Medical Association **Yoshitake Yokokura**

On behalf of the Japan Medical Association (JMA) I would like to say a few words at the occasion of the HICARE international symposium which marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings.

The 1st IPPNW North Asia Regional Conference was hosted by the Japanese affiliate in 1997, and this year marks the 9th of the regional conference. This international symposium by HICARE - Hiroshima International Council for Health Care of the Radiation Exposed, I understand, aims at further improving the contents and enhancing more international contribution.

As the only country in the world to have suffered atomic bombings, Japan has appealed the international communities about the tragedy, ultimate sacrifices caused by such weapons, devastating impact in various aspects as well as the suffering and hardships of victims who still require treatment in 70 years after the event. I would like to express my deep respect for the prolonged and devoted efforts of the members of the Japanese affiliate of IPPNW (JPPNW), the HICARE and Hiroshima Prefecture who have been working at the forefront with these efforts.

As Japan's representative professional group of physicians, the JMA has for a long time actively appealed the basic policy on this issue mainly through the World Medical Association (WMA). In 1995, the JMA earnestly encouraged the member associations of WMA to adopt a WMA resolution calling for an immediate cessation of nuclear testing and the abolition of nuclear weapons and this successfully lead to adoption. This action for a resolution originated from a proposal made jointly by Hiroshima Prefectural Medical Association and Nagasaki ken Medical Association in the JMA General Assembly 1995. Then in 1998, the JMA made protests to the ambassadors of India and Pakistan in Japan against the nuclear tests conducted by those two countries, and it also played a leading role for the WMA to adopt a WMA resolution opposing nuclear weapons at the WMA General Assembly held in Canada in the same year. In the WMA General Assembly in South Africa in 2006 that was held soon after an underground nuclear test by North Korea, the JMA proposed a resolution denouncing the test and this again was unanimously adopted. More recently, at last year's WMA General Assembly in Moscow, we adopted a WMA statement calling for the national medical associations to enlighten the general public and lobby their respective governments for the abolition of nuclear weapons in view of their devastating impact on the global ecosystem and the massive human damage they may cause.

The JMAs will continue to be strongly determined to make strong appeals via the WMA, the Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO) and other international organizations to attain long held wishes of not only the A-bomb victims but all the people who are opposed to nuclear testing and nuclear weapons.

In closing, I sincerely hope that this symposium will be a good opportunity to provide a strong support to achieve its objectives for the worldwide movement to oppose nuclear testing and nuclear weapons.

Member of the House of Representatives
Managing Director of Parliamentary Group for the Relief of A-bomb Survivors

Minoru Terada, MPP

Thank you for the introduction. I am Minoru Terada, elected member of the House of Representatives in the Japanese Diet from Hiroshima prefecture district No. 5 constituency. I am also a Managing Director of the All-party Parliamentary Group for the Relief of A-bomb Survivors.

Let me first of all offer my hearty congratulations on the staging of today's international symposium, coinciding with the IPPNW North Asia Regional Conference, with the support and backing of HICARE, Hiroshima Prefectural Medical Association, Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture and many others who contributed a lot to hold this marvelous symposium .

As you are all well aware, moves to stage such a symposium to mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings have been gathering big momentum since the beginning of last year. As a Managing Director of the All-party Parliamentary Group for the Relief of A-bomb Survivors, and also as a member of the second generation A-bomb victims and survivors, I am very pleased to witness the fruition of this event under the full support and cooperation including manpower and funding of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

I am reminded of the time in September 2008 when the G8 Summit of Lower House Speakers was held in Hiroshima eight years ago. At this time, the then Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honorable Yohei Kono, speaking as secretary of the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament, made an urgent appeal for, among other things, realization of a "nuclear-free world," promotion of relief for A-bomb survivors, and enhancement of A-bomb victim medical care.

Also, on August 6 last year, the All-party Parliamentary Group for the Relief of A-bomb Survivors made appeals to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Yasuhisa Shinozaki and the ranking members of LDP including Tomomi Inada, the head of policymaking board, Sadakazu Tanigaki, MD of LDP to work for a nuclear-free world, to invite the G7 meeting so that the world's leaders can come to Hiroshima and see the reality of radiation exposure for themselves, and to adopt a resolution for the promotion of medical care for the radiation exposed and staging of an international symposium.

It pleases me very much to see the realization of one of these elements as an important step in light of the ruling party staging of today's symposium with participants assembled from all around the world. Moreover, as you are well aware, the G7 Foreign Ministers' Summit

Meeting will be held at the Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima in April 10th and 11th.

I hope that we can use these occasions to convey to the rest of the world our strong and ever-lasting feelings, the feelings of the victims of radiation exposure and second generation A-bomb survivors, as well as our desire to see the realization of a nuclear-free peaceful world and promotion of nuclear disarmament, and our commitment never to repeat the worst disastrous horrors of our conceivable past in the human history.

The All-party Parliamentary Group for the Relief of A-bomb Survivors fully endorses such opportunities as this.

Our group, together with well-conscious doctors and authorities is the main engine to promote such a epoch-making international symposium and has made strong impetus toward disarmament and continuous dialogue between world significant lawmakers.

Today is a valuable opportunity to see and hear presentations of the scientific know-how that has so far been accumulated, as well as the stores of knowledges and experiences that have been assembled by IPPNW and HICARE.

With Professor Emeritus Mettler and other authorities from around the world gathered here today, I look forward to a highly thought-provoking and future-openig symposium. Various scientific knowledge has been accumulated in the 70 years since the atomic bombs were dropped including Bikkinaew A-bomb testing and Three Mile Island incident, followed by Cherunoabilay melt-down incident. As political parties of the ruling administration, we are seeking full relief for persons who were exposed to radiation by entering an area within 3.5 kilometers of the epicenter and within 100 hours after detonation. Even today, almost 200,000 radiation exposure survivors live with health concerns, and many of them are suffering in the face of severe A-bomb diseases like MDS, cancer, and so forth and the serious fear of death.

I am convinced that today's symposium provides a major boost to our efforts to provide the earliest possible relief to as many radiation exposure survivors as possible.

In closing, I would like to extend my most sincere respect to all the other people who have helped and prepared to make this international symposium possible today and tomorrow, and I hope that it is successful and becomes a milestone and a benchmark in our efforts to achieve further progress.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare **Fusae Ota**

Thank you for the introduction. I am Fusae Ota, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Let me offer my hearty congratulations on today's international symposium to mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima by Hiroshima International Council for Health Care of the Radiation-Exposed (HICARE) and all those concerned.

Ever since its establishment in 1991, HICARE has worked tirelessly to make

contributions and promote international cooperation in medical care for the radiation exposed all over the world.

In order to conduct technical guidance and offer information for medical professionals involved in medical treatment for persons exposed to radiation all over the world, HICARE has so far accepted more than 1,300 trainees from abroad and dispatched more than 200 medical professionals to 16 countries.

I wish to express my sincere respect and gratitude for these efforts by all concerned over the years.

I also express my respect to the medical professionals gathered here today starting with members of Hiroshima Prefectural Medical Association, medical professionals from overseas who treat persons exposed to radiation, and all others who are routinely involved in the medical care for the radiation exposed in their respective capacities.

On a personal note, as someone who was born in the city of Kure in Hiroshima Prefecture and grew up surrounded by Hiroshima's natural scenic beauty, it grieves me to think that the A-bomb was dropped on this city.

Let me reiterate the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's intention to solidly support activities such as those we see today.

I intend to make the utmost effort in my position as Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare to promote comprehensive support measures for A-bomb survivors in the fields of health, medical care and welfare.

It is now 70 years since the A-bomb was detonated and the average age of the A-bomb survivors is more than 80 years. In view of this aging and requests received from various quarters, we intend to implement the following measures in addition to conventional policies.

- We will accelerate the A-bomb disease review process so that recognition as a rule can be granted within six months in all cases.

- Also, we will support the preservation of A-bomb-damaged buildings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a view to conveying the horror of atomic bombs to future generations and mourning the victims of the bombings.

Against such a background, the staging of this symposium and exchange of opinions on the theme of "Inheritance of the Experiences of Medical Care for the Radiation-Exposed and International Contribution" as an event to mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing in Japan, which is the only country in the world to be targeted by A-bombs, is both timely and of great significance.

I hope that today's symposium becomes an important event for HICARE to promote international contribution and cooperation in the area of medical care for the radiation exposed, and I sincerely look forward to even greater enhancement of its efforts in future.

In closing, I extend my hope that the members of HICARE and all of you gathered here today enjoy further success and activity in future.

I would like to offer a few words on the staging of this international symposium in Hiroshima, marking 70 years since detonation of the A-bomb.

I offer my sincere gratitude to all those in attendance for their efforts in promoting and disseminating medical care for the radiation exposed and passing-on their experiences.

Established in 1991, HICARE has worked to internationally spread research findings and know-how on medical care for the radiation exposed, accumulated thanks to the cooperation of A-bomb survivors in Hiroshima. Towards this end, HICARE has accepted and dispatched medical professionals, issued specialist publications on medical care for the radiation exposed and so on. Such efforts are highly regarded on the international stage, as demonstrated in its designation by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Collaborating Centre in 2014. The stream of medical professionals from around the world visiting Hiroshima in search of advanced technology in the medical care for the radiation exposed is unending, and HICARE will continue to shoulder high expectations in future.

As an organization of medical professionals, IPPNW has strived to disseminate correct knowledge about the threat of nuclear war and to prevent such a war from ever happening. Its activities parallel the efforts of Hiroshima City to convey the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and implement initiatives for the abolition of nuclear weapons and realization of permanent worldwide peace.

At the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in Hiroshima in April, Hiroshima City administration intends to let participants come into direct contact with the realities of atomic bombing and to convey a powerful message calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The average age of the A-bomb survivors is now more than 80 years, and the need for medical care for the radiation exposed is becoming increasingly pressing. In the judiciary, we have seen verdicts recognizing that persons outside of the official A-bomb affected areas can also be affected by radiation, and there is growing need for the impacts of radiation on the human body to be elucidated.

In these circumstances, I believe it is highly significant for so many related persons to gather in Hiroshima today with the aims of presenting the results of measures, holding discussions, sharing information on how to pass on the latest medical care for the radiation exposed and experiences, and conveying Hiroshima's message to Japan and the rest of the world.

In closing, I would like to wish the greatest success for this symposium and express my sincere hope that it is enlightening and inspirational for all those in attendance.

As governor of a prefecture that suffered from detonation of the A-bomb, I would like to offer a few words of respect and gratitude to all the members of HICARE and IPPNW and all of those who are routinely involved in the medical care for the radiation exposed both in Japan and overseas.

70 years ago, Hiroshima became the first ever target for detonation of an A-bomb, destroying the city and taking the lives of a great many people. Even today there are many persons in Japan and abroad who are suffering from the after-effects of the A-bomb radiation.

From immediately after the bombing, support was received from persons all over the world while the doctors of Hiroshima devoted themselves to providing medical treatment for those injured by the A-bomb. As a result, abundant knowledge related to medical care for the radiation exposed has been accumulated here in Hiroshima.

This storehouse of knowledge would not have been possible without the understanding and cooperation of the A-bomb survivors.

Having being accumulated over many years, this storehouse of knowledge is being utilized in the medical care for radiation-exposed individuals all over the world. As the importance of international cooperation grows in the field of medical care for the radiation exposed, I believe that growing expectations are now being placed on HICARE and IPPNW.

Against this background, I think it is highly significant for this symposium to be staged with participation from related persons from Japan and abroad as well as the people of Hiroshima Prefecture on the theme of "Inheritance of the Experiences of Medical Care for the Radiation-Exposed and International Contribution."

I hope that this symposium provides an opportunity to deepen understanding about cooperation in the medical care for the radiation exposed throughout the world and to further promote Hiroshima's unique efforts to advance international contributions.

In April this year, the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be held in Hiroshima City, and Hiroshima Prefecture will take this opportunity to bring the political leaders of the countries that possess nuclear weapons into contact with the realities of radiation exposure, convey the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and take other steps geared to the abolition of nuclear weapons and, recovery and building of peace.

By attending this symposium today, you are showing your understanding and hopes for the stance of Hiroshima, and I would like to humbly request your cooperation and support for the peacebuilding measures being taken by Hiroshima starting from the medical care for the radiation exposed.

Finally, I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to all the other people who have helped to realize this symposium today, and I hope you all find it informative and useful.