

Closing Remarks

Chairman of RERF, Director of HICARE, Director of JPPNW **Ohtsura Niwa**

Thank you for the introduction. I am Ohtsura Niwa.

I am deeply honored to be making the closing remarks of today's symposium which I believe is a great success.

I have one issue to add to those already presented by the speakers here today. That is, the symposium demonstrated that the radiation research field has reached a turning point. In the past, the field has evolved around natural science of radiation effects on human health, but many speakers today indicated that science of human dimension is equally important when dealing with those suffering from radiation. We listened to Professor Kenjo who highlighted the importance of cutting edge science and technology when it comes to diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients. In addition many speakers, including Dr. Clement mentioned Radiation Effects Research Foundation which studies the health effects of radiation among atomic bomb survivors. The Foundation studies a group of people to assess the risk associated with radiation exposures.

Professor Mettler however discussed Sadako Sasaki, an individual survivor in Hiroshima whose 12 years of life gave a tremendous impact on the society. Dr. Kodama and Professor Kamiya also mentioned the importance of individuals when considering the health effects of radiation. I personally believe that the symposium today is the first scientific meeting in which the name of a single survivor is mentioned and the importance of individual based aspect is recognized.

The issue we now face is how we accommodate individual based aspect in addition to population based aspect in our research. In addition, how we incorporate human and societal dimensions of radiation effects in our science. I personally lived in Fukushima for three years and moving to Hiroshima last year forced me to think of our duty to recognize the individual aspect of A-bomb survivors in addition to the population based aspect. Dr. Clement mentioned dignity as a keyword. This made me realize that we need to think about how A-bomb radiation destructed lives of the survivors. While we study health effects, we also should think and respect their lives. To me, this has been a truly revolutionary symposium. Thank you.