

開会式挨拶

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Yosikazu Nakamura, the president of the 21st International Epidemiological Association, World Congress of Epidemiology 2017,. It's my great pleasure and honor to have this opening ceremony with [Her Imperial Highness Princess Akishino](#). On behalf of the all members of the organizing committee, I would like to welcome all the delegates from around the world. Through the regular registration, 1018 epidemiologists from 59 countries and areas around the world have registered to participate in the Congress, and the number must increase through the onsite registration. About 60% of the registered epidemiologists are from abroad.

As all of you know, the Congresses have been held in every three years. The first one was held in the Netherlands in September 1957. I was born one month later in October 1957. This means I will be 60 years old soon this year. The 60-year-old has special meaning here in Japan, called Kanreki in Japanese. I introduce this Kanreki on the preface of the program book so please take a look at it if you are interested. Thirty years ago, in 1987, I participated in the 11th WCE held in Helsinki, Finland. At that time I was not a researcher in epidemiology but a medical officer in a local government, but Professor Hiroshi Yanagawa, who is my mentor and is going to deliver special lecture after this ceremony, accompanied me to Helsinki. At that time, I did not even dream that I would host the Congress 30 years later.

This is the second occasion to have the WCE in Japan, following the 14th Congress in Nagoya, of which Professor Kunio Aoki served as a president. We asked Dr. Aoki to be a special adviser of this Congress, and he is sitting over there.

The theme of the Congress is "Global/Regional/Local health and epidemiology in a changing world." As you know, infectious diseases are still burden of health even in developed countries and areas as well

as in developing ones. For example, about 2 thousand peoples die of tuberculosis in Japan annually even now. More than one emergence and re-emergence infectious diseases appear every year in the world. But non-communicable diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and cancers, also become large problems not only in developed countries and areas but also in developing ones. In addition, the issues which should be covered by epidemiology, such as maternal and child health, mental health, environmental health, occupational health, and ethical problems, are expanding in a changing world.

It's very hot and humid in this season in Japan. Unlike uncomfortable climate, I do hope hot and hot and **HOT** heated academic discussions take place in the Congress venue. I have a piece of advice for young epidemiologists, in particular. Because this is an international Congress, you may think the official language is English and fluency in English is essential, but I don't think so. The official language can be broken English as well, like my English. Queen's English and authentic American English are good for discussions, but broken English is also welcomed. Please don't hesitate to discuss because of not being fluent in English.

After the Congress, please enjoy the hot summer in Japan. There are many sightseeing places. Famous Nikko National Park is in Tochigi prefecture, where my university locates, and it will take for about 2 hours from the Omiya station. By express train. Thirty minute train trip takes you to central Tokyo. Even around here there are many nice places for you to visit. For instance, one of the largest railway museum is in Saitama, juts 2 minutes trip from Omiya station through shuttle train.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Princess Akishino, other guests, and many persons and organizations provided support to the Congress.

Thank you.