

Congratulatory Message

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The Takemi Program is an interdisciplinary research program that Harvard University established in its School of Public Health (HSPH) and named after Dr. Taro Takemi, former president of the Japan Medical Association (JMA), in recognition of his ideas. Dr. Takemi pointed out the global necessity of enhancing and improving health services and the worldwide problems stemming from limited resources and he advocated the development of new, efficient health resources and the improvement of their methods of distribution.

The JMA has supported this program since its establishment, especially since 1994, from when it has selected and provided scholarships to send two Japanese fellows to take part in the program each year.

The Takemi Program 30th Anniversary Symposium held in Boston on October 11th and 12th this year is a milestone that just so happened to coincide with HSPH's 100th anniversary, and so it was positioned as part of a number of celebratory events.

I am sure that the opportunity for the Takemi Fellows who assembled again from around the world to have discussions with Professor Michael R. Reich and other Harvard community members on several topics and to verify the actual situation in the world with each other was more than a chance to catch up with old friends; it was also an invaluable opportunity to take a new step toward the program's 31st year.

I have been in a position supporting this program for eight years now, and just during that time it has not always been easy to carry out the task of providing underlying support for stable administration in the midst of social upheavals synchronized to global factors.

I am honored to be awarded the title of Honorary Takemi Fellow that was conferred on me in conjunction with this celebration, having gone through that transition, together with the members of the Japan Medical Association, including President Yoshitake Yokokura, as a symbol of Harvard University's warm thanks for the entire history of the JMA's activities.

The Program Committee established in the JMA Global Health Committee planned this celebratory event in the JMA office building so that it would become an opportunity for further project continuation in the future as well as being conducted in a form that makes activities that connect international and community health seem closer in the eyes of JMA members and the Japanese public.

I pray that it becomes an opportunity to share not only with JMA members but also with all relevant organizations and the public that the cherished wish of former JMA President Taro Takemi passes on to the next generation of national healthcare, that Japan's community health care shows firm endurance in any time of difficulty, and that it becomes the cornerstone for creatively protecting the universal health insurance coverage that supports the lives and health of the entire nation.