

Address by the Organizer at the Opening Ceremony of
23rd World Congress of Neurology

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Sunday, September 17, 2017
Kyoto International Conference Center

Your Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino,
Your Excellency, Ms. Michiyo Takagi, State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my great honor to deliver an address as a co-organizer at the Opening Ceremony of 23rd World Congress of Neurology, in the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Hidehiro Mizusawa, Congress President, 23rd World Congress of Neurology, and Prof. Raad Shakir, President of World Federation of Neurology, who really contributed to the great success of this Congress.

Science Council of Japan is a representative institution of Japan's scientific communities in all kinds, from Humanities to Engineering, including Life Sciences and Physical Sciences. Our primary purpose is to develop and advance scientific outcomes to ensure that the science is reflected in, and infiltrates policy making, industry, and people's lives.

Since its establishment in 1949, with a view of promoting international exchange in science,

we have deepened our ties with research institutions worldwide by hosting international conferences in Japan and dispatching researchers to conferences held abroad.

We are very pleased to host this international congress and welcome participants from many countries and regions.

I understand Neurology covers hundreds of diseases of the brain, nervous system and muscle such as dementia, stroke, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy and so on. These diseases cause various signs and symptoms as well as disabilities. Therefore, I think Neurology is a very wide and important specialty of medicine particularly in the contemporary society which is aging rapidly. In other words, Neurology is essential for long and healthy life.

As a co-organizer, I hope that there will be intense discussions crossing national and regional boundaries on significant research topics, future perspectives, and international collaborations.

I am also delighted that this congress will be an occasion to share the meaning and importance of Neurology with the society through the general public forum.

Before closing my welcome address, I would like to express my wish for the full success of this congress. In addition, I hope that your stay in Kyoto, and in Japan, will be enjoyable and memorable, and will foster a fine understanding of Japan.

Thank you for your attention.