

SYMPOSIUM ON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH / MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
MARCH 18, 1996

I WANT TO THANK THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER (OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH) FOR SETTING UP THIS MEETING. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL BE DISCUSSING THE FUTURE OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

I AM FAR FROM BEING AN EXPERT ON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, BUT I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR THE U.S. AND JAPAN TO COOPERATE IN A BROAD ARRAY OF FIELDS. AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE RESULT OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS WILL PROVE AGAIN THAT THE JOINT EFFORTS OF OUR TWO NATIONS UNLOCK NEW DOORS OF KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE, AND UNDERSTANDING.

I AM IMPRESSED BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF BOTH THE AMERICAN AND THE JAPANESE DELEGATIONS. AMONG YOU HERE ARE SOME OF THE WORLD'S FINEST EXPERTS IN THE FIELD. YOUR PARTICIPATION HERE IS A MAJOR STEP IN EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL -- AND WORLD CLASS -- RESEARCH LINKS IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL BE DRAFTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR BILATERAL BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE RELATIONSHIP. BOY, THAT WAS A MOUTHFUL! I HOPE THAT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL SOON BE REFLECTED IN THE POLICIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO BUILD NEW BRIDGES BETWEEN OUR RESEARCHERS AND TO BETTER THE STATE OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH.

THE BENEFITS OF INCREASED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO BOTH INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS AND TO INSTITUTIONS ARE INCREASINGLY EVIDENT. AS RESEARCH GETS MORE AND MORE EXPENSIVE AND FISCAL CONSTRAINTS BECOME MORE AUSTERE, THE POOLING OF RESOURCES IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO LEVERAGE PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT IN BASIC BIOMEDICAL STUDIES.

AND THE BENEFITS ARE MULTIPLIED WHEN YOU LOOK AT YOUR REAL PURPOSE -- SERVING THE CAUSE OF BETTER HEALTH AND HUMAN COMFORT AROUND THE GLOBE. HEALTH ISSUES CERTAINLY TRANSCEND NATIONAL BORDERS.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF HIGH RESEARCH PRIORITY FOR BOTH COUNTRIES. THE 30-YEAR OLD U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATIVE MEDICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A WELL-ESTABLISHED BILATERAL MECHANISM FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH IN SUCH AREAS AS AIDS AND EMERGING / RE-EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MORE RECENTLY, THE U.S.-JAPAN COMMON AGENDA HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION IN THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE FIELD. THE TREMENDOUS SCOPE OF THE COMMON AGENDA IS REASSURING PROOF OF WHAT THE U.S. AND JAPAN CAN ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER. I AM VERY PLEASE TO SEE THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP DEEPLY INVOLVED IN A KEY ELEMENT OF THAT SHARED AGENDA.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS SYMPOSIUM WILL ALSO EXPLORE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND STUDENTS TO LOOK BEYOND THEIR OWN BACKYARD, AND THINK ABOUT RESEARCH AND TRAINING OVERSEAS. MORE CAN CERTAINLY BE DONE IN BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN TO BROADEN THE HORIZONS AND THEREBY STIMULATE THE SCIENTIFIC CREATIVITY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. SO THIS IS AN APT CHALLENGE WHICH I THINK YOU WILL FIND REWARDING.

FOR ITS PART, THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO KEEP THE DOORS OF LEADING AMERICAN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS OPEN TO YOUNG FOREIGN RESEARCHERS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT JAPAN DO THE SAME.

YOU GATHER FOR A HIGH PURPOSE. I WISH YOU WELL IN YOUR TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS AND LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

THANK YOU.



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