

50th Anniversary of the Japan Society for Medical Education

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The World Federation for Medical Education is honoured to be associated with the Japan Society for Medical Education on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The Society has played a material role in the development of medical education in Japan to its present leading international position.

Every doctor has a moral obligation to teach, when the opportunity or need arises. In particular, every doctor working in a medical school has that obligation to teach and to develop the professional skills in education needed to support his or her teaching. Medical education is not a discipline apart from the practice of medicine, it is a body of knowledge, understanding and skills that pervades medical practice everywhere, particularly in the school. Medical education is not something to be put solely in departments of medical education, it must permeate the culture and ethos of the medical school.

In earlier centuries, medical practice in Japan was legacy to the tradition of the Confucian scholar-doctor, who only practised medicine out of goodwill, and without taking payment.

The culture of a professional medical guild was not known, and therefore there was no structure for mutual support and development of doctors with interests in exchanging new ideas and practices in medical education, ethics and management of health care. The Japan Society for Medical Education is a manifestation of the development of this positive culture of communal knowledge and support between doctors and scientists concerned with education.

We look forward positively to the next 50 years of the Japan Society for Medical Education. Great work has been completed; and much more can and will be done.

WFME wishes the Society every success.

