

Testimonial for the Japan Society for Medical Education on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary

Emeritus Professor Michael Field, AM MD BSc
President of Western Pacific Association for Medical Education

I am pleased to be invited to provide a statement about the Japan Society for Medical Education on the occasion of its 50th anniversary year. I do so in my capacity as the current President of the Western Pacific Association for Medical Education a regional division of the World Federation for Medical Education.

There is no doubt that the JSME is one of the leading national organisations promoting high standards for medical education in the Asia Pacific region. The Society's programs include conferences and publications, promotion of research and best practice, standard-setting for basic skills development, support for training of medical education specialists, and international collaborations and exchanges. Its wide range of activities ensures that future doctors graduating from Japanese medical schools are best able to serve the healthcare needs of the people of Japan and indeed the world.

Links between the JSME and the WPAME have been strong for many years. Distinguished former and current presidents of the JSME have taken their place as delegates for Japan on the Advisory Board of the WPAME: these include Toshimasa Yoshioka, Nobutaro Ban, and currently Yasuyuki Suzuki. Indeed Professor Yoshioka was a Past President of the AMEWPR (as WPAME was formerly known), and in 2012 he took the initiative to invite an external evaluation by our organisation of the medical program of his own school, the Tokyo Women's Medical University, as a precursor to the introduction of Japan's own national authority for medical school accreditation, the Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education. Furthermore, a key figure in founding JACME, Professor Nobuo Nara, collaborated with our organisation in the early stages of JACME's development, and invited me as President to attend as an observer in the pilot accreditation of the University of Tokyo School of Medicine prior to the formal establishment of JACME.

For all of these reasons, we congratulate JSME on its 50th year of activity, and compliment it on its national leadership in medical education and its increasing participation in regional and global developments in this field.

