

## Congratulatory Remarks for the Japan Society for Medical Education

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It is my great pleasure and honor to give congratulatory remarks for the 50th anniversary of the Japan Society for Medical Education (JSME). As a former president of the Korean Society of Medical Education (KSME) and current vice-president of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), I would like to express my sincere gratitude to JSME for its efforts and cooperation with international exchange, particularly between Korea and Japan. Since its inception in 1969, JSME has been promoting exchange with organizations around the world, including KSME, WFME, and the Western Pacific Association for Medical Education.

KSME and JSME entered into an agreement of cooperation to establish a program of exchange and collaboration in medical education in July 2006 by Professor Kwang-ho Meng, former KSME president, and Professor Nobuhiko Saito, former JSME president. The first invited speaker was the immediate past president of JSME, Professor Nobutaro Ban. Since then, a total of 12 speakers from JSME have delivered magnificent speeches during annual KSME conferences.

Japan started its Western medical education system based on the German model during the Meiji restoration era (1868-1912) as a national policy. The extent of the German influence can still be seen today not only in Japan, but also in South Korea and Taiwan as well. In this regard, the alliance of the regional medical education institutes will contribute to the formation of a new spirit in medical education, which ultimately seeks to incorporate far-East Asian humanities into the Western medical education model.

The common goal is to transform the medical education of our region into a platform that is recognized as a world-class, global leader. However, despite the shared historical experiences and ongoing efforts of medical education in the far-East Asian region, innovation and change on a fundamental level are still needed. The stronger alliance will offer more practical, fresh insight into the current trends of medical education, and will serve as a collective voice on the shared educational challenges, contributing to what will ultimately become a globally and regionally relevant evolution of medical education. Already, JSME has committed to extending its role in this regard by hosting international sessions during its annual meetings.

I have had many experiences with workshops and meetings in Japan, including the famous Workshop at the Fuji Education Institute. I also had the honor of being the team leader of the external evaluation of Tokyo Women's Medical College. Through these experiences I have learned of the incomparable persistency, and the fine precision of the meticulous process of innovation in medical education in Japan.

I am confident that the JSME, with its unique global mission and vision for the establishment of common ground, will make significant contributions to education both locally and internationally. With this in mind, I very much anticipate JSME taking on its role as a leading organization for the development of global medical education.

