

Speech at the Closing Session on August 9 by Setsuo Miyazawa, Chair, Local Arrangement Committee, 16th World Congress, International Society for Criminology

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to report that as of 6 pm, yesterday, 1,467 participants registered. 164 sessions were held, while only 18 sessions were cancelled. 92 posters were posted, and six scientific tours were conducted. This Congress has become a success by any standard.

Naturally, the largest group is Japanese participants. Their number is 1,150. Dear fellow Japanese criminologists, I am really grateful to your support.

I should emphasize, however, that in spite of the extremely unfortunate impact of the fear caused by the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, 317 participants registered from outside Japan. The international participants represent 41 countries and regions, including such distant countries as Nigeria, Uganda, and South Africa. Dear international participants, your commitment has made this Congress a truly world event. I hope that you and Japanese participants will keep contact and continue intellectual and personal interactions.

Now, I would like to ask your permission to indulge in a bit of a personal history.

The late Professor Koichi Miyazawa of Keio University, though unrelated, gave me an inspiration to hold a World Congress in Japan when we participated in the 10th World Congress in Hamburg in 1988. Professor Miyazawa started his own effort a few years later, but his hope did not materialize.

The effort to hold a World Congress in Japan resumed when President Ichiro Tanioka of the Osaka University of Commerce, a Keio graduate and a former student of Professor Miyazawa, joined me to start a team effort to inherit Professor Miyazawa's dream.

Some Japanese participants in the 14th World Congress in Philadelphia in 2005 met at the "White Dog" restaurant there and agreed to work together to hold the 16th World Congress in Japan. That small meeting was the real beginning of the preparation for this Congress.

It is sad that Professor Miyazawa passed away in July last year, and we became unable to invite him to this Congress. I am sure, however, that he is smiling with satisfaction in the heaven.

Any conference of this magnitude requires a large sum of funds. We are extremely lucky to have received grants and donations from many organizations and individuals in spite of the very unfavorable economic situation. We gratefully acknowledge them in the program.

One of the key factors of our success is that senior leaders of the seven criminological associations in Japan understood the value of holding a World Congress in Japan and agreed to form the Japan Federation of Criminological Associations as the formal host of this Congress. Those leaders formed the Organizing Committee as a steering committee under Professor Toyo Atsumi, a

close friend of the late Professor Miyazawa. I hope that the seven criminological associations will maintain the Federation and will continue their joint effort to develop criminology in Japan.

Under the Organizing Committee, the Local Arrangement Committee was established to handle details of the planning and to run the Congress. Professors Minoru Yokoyama and Toyoji Saito have been at the core of this Committee as its Vice Chairs. I would like to thank all of these committee members for their support and hard work.

Then, I would like to express my greatest appreciation to the real driving force, which has sustained our effort through these years, not to mention these few days. That is the staff members of the Secretariat which was established under President Tanioka as the Secretary General. We, the committee members, have been constantly amazed by their knowledge, ability, energy, tenacity, and dedication. All the participants of this Congress must have witnessed their contributions through these five days. I would like to particularly mention Ms. Minae Osawa and Ms. Mari Sakagami.

Finally, but not the least, I would like to thank our travel agency, event directors, simultaneous interpreters, and all other support staff, including students.

Now, I would like to formally announce the closing of the 16th World Congress of the International Society for Criminology, by expressing a hope that the ISC will grow further as the only comprehensive international criminological association, where criminologists of all stripes from all over the world get together.

Let's enjoy the closing party!