



Peter Grabosky BA, MA, PhD, FASSA
Distinguished Professor
Regulatory Institutions Network
School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy
College of Asia and the Pacific
Canberra ACT 0200 Australia

Telephone: +61 2 6125 1509
Facsimile: +61 2 6125 1507
Email: Peter.Grabosky@anu.edu.au
www.regnet.anu.edu.au

22 August 2011

Professor Setsuo Miyazawa, Ph.D., S.J.D.
Chair, Local Arrangement Committee, 16th World Congress of the SIC
Professor, Aoyama Gakuin University Law School
Tokyo 150-8366, Japan

Dear Professor Miyazawa,

It is with the greatest pleasure that I record the following recollections of the 16th World Congress of the International Society of Criminology.

I remember distinctly the moment that I learned from you personally that Kobe had been chosen to host the Congress. It was at a national criminology conference in Tokyo in October, 2008. I was immediately impressed with the speed with which you and your organizing team swung into action. During the three years between that moment and the opening of the Congress, promotional materials were to be found at every criminology meeting that I attended, in Asia, North America and Europe (I have not been to Latin America or Africa recently, but I am sure that news of the forthcoming Kobe Congress quickly spread to those places as well). In fact, I doubt that there was any criminologist on the face of the planet who was not aware of Kobe 2011.

The launch of the Congress website, and subsequent regular announcements through various media, bulletin boards, listservs, and the like, meant that the world criminological community was always mindful of your progress. The richly detailed and easily accessible Congress Website was the best conference website that I have seen.

The tragic events of March 2011, and the terrible loss of life that followed, caused many people from outside of Japan to fear that the Congress might not go ahead. But those who remembered the heroic recovery of Kobe after the earthquake of 1995 had no doubt that the Congress would prevail. And indeed it did! The announcements and messages of reassurance to foreigners who may have been concerned about the distant disasters at Fukushima were timely and appropriate.

Those of us who made the trip to Kobe were certainly rewarded. I will never forget arriving at the magnificent opening ceremony, and experiencing the amazing bird-life, splendid flowers, incredible *taiko* performance, and delicious international cuisine.

Throughout the preparatory stages and during the Congress itself, the hospitality, organization, and administrative support (including that of the timekeepers!) were nothing short of outstanding. The conference facilities, not only at the main Congress venue, but also at the beautiful and easily accessible university location, were wonderful. The quality of translation services was also first-rate. The Congress itself was grand, with captivating plenary speakers, and many interesting panels. The IT support was a great comfort to those participants who may have been “technologically challenged.” Summer in Kobe is predictably hot and humid, and the delicious drinks available during the Congress sessions were most welcome. The planning for the event was impeccable.

As someone whose experience of conference organization has been limited to events of a much, much smaller scale, I can only begin to appreciate all the hard work that you and your colleagues devoted to the Congress over such a long period of time. I can assure you that it certainly paid off. Please accept my heartfelt thanks and warmest congratulations for producing such an outstanding and memorable event.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Grabosky