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Prof Setsuo Miyazawa
Professor, Aoyama Gakuin University Law School
Tokyo, 150-8366, Japan

24 August 2011

Dear Prof. Miyazawa:

I am writing this brief note to express my appreciation for the work that you and others on the national and local arrangements committees put into bringing the recent World Congress of the International Society of Criminology to a successful conclusion. As a member of the Scientific Commission of the Society, I was involved in advance talks regarding the Congress and its program. I can report that we all are very pleased with how the Congress turned out, and its favorable impact on the many hundreds of participants who attended.

The facilities that you choose in Kobe were first rate. There was plenty of space for this large group at the convention center, and the day that the Congress expanded to a nearby university let us experience that high-quality venue as well. Congress staff members were always on hand to help with technical and logistical problems, and they were unfailingly well informed and good humored. Participants I talked to enjoyed their evenings out in the city center as well. Kobe proved to be an unexpectedly lively and interesting place.

The scientific program was also excellent. I found the morning speakers engaging and interesting, and the translation service did a good job interpreting their remarks. It is difficult to say anything in summary about the hundreds of panels that filled our afternoons and evenings, for no one could attend any but a fraction of sessions on offer! The ones that I observed were specialized enough to focus on cutting-edge research issues, and those who attended got quite involved.

You are to be further congratulated for your efforts to assure good attendance at the Congress. The web site was first rate, and the group handling registration details were responsive and helpful. Following the March 2011 incident, the updates and informational materials that were distributed to potential participants went a long way toward reassuring everyone that Japan continues to be a safe and pleasant place to visit and work.

In short, the Congress was, in my, view a huge success. Organizers of future world congresses – and several were in attendance to learn what needs to be done – have a high standard to live up to. Congratulations to you and your team.

Sincerely,

Wesley G. Skogan
Professor