



**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WPR/RC42/DIV/5

**Forty-second session
Omiya, Japan
10-16 September 1991**

10 September 1991

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**OPENING REMARKS BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
WESTERN PACIFIC, OMIYA, JAPAN, 10 SEPTEMBER 1991**

Honourable Vice-Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr Sakamoto, Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Regional Office for the Western Pacific of the World Health Organization, I warmly thank the Government of Japan for inviting us here for this session of the Regional Committee. Japan and WHO have been partners in health for 40 years now, and it is both a pleasure and an honour to mark our long and successful collaboration in this way.

In the 1950s and 60s our Organization was able to channel a large amount of much-needed support for health care to this country as it recovered from the devastation of the Second World War. In more recent years, this country in its turn has made an enormous contribution through WHO to meeting the health needs of others in the Region and beyond. Not only has it given the world invaluable technical and material support for health, it has given us our current Director-General.

After achieving so much together in the past, who knows what the future holds for us? We come to Omiya for this session of the Regional Committee full of pleasant anticipation, both for the next few days we will spend with you in your wonderful country and for the coming years of working with you for the health and well-being of all the people in this Region.