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**STATEMENT BY DR EIJI IWATSUBO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF PARAPLEGIA**

On behalf of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia, I want to express my congratulations for the success of the forty-second Western Pacific Meeting of WHO.

On this occasion, I want to bring some sociomedical problems of paraplegia to WHO Regional Committee.

Paralysis caused by spinal cord injury is a serious handicap resulting in a wheelchair-dependent, miserable life. It raises not only personal health problems but also economical problems to his family and society.

In Japan, labor accident has been reduced in the past several decades, but it is still the major cause of this injury in Asian countries, where the working environment is not well arranged.

Nowadays, automobile accident under the influence of alcohol and sports or leisure accidents under careless actions are the paramount causes among the young generation. Car accident may bring them either death or quadriplegic tragedies.

Prevention of these careless injuries is one of the most important and effective measures to avoid this personal and social tragedy. Education for the prevention of spinal cord injury for school children and spreading information for social members are the urgent concerns of our society.

I am expecting that the campaign to prevent spinal cord injury will become one of the topics of WHO in the near future.