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BUREAU REGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL**

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**STATEMENT BY MR TOSHIAKI BABA
REPRESENTATIVE, INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF MEDICAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (IFMSA)**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Lee for the continuous support from WHO for our activities. I would like to also thank Dr Omi for letting medical students of this region to witness how regional health issues are dealt with at an international level.

We, IFMSA is an alliance of medical students' organization, representing 1.5 million medical students in 92 countries worldwide.

In collaboration with UN Agencies, NGOs, and universities, we operate 400 projects on local, national, and international level to intervene with the global health status.

Our mission is to improve the health status and serve the community through 1. training and empowering medical students, 2. representing students in the field of health, and 3. offering services to medical students, such as student exchange program, participated by 8000 medical students every year.

Through our activities, we create culturally sensitive, and public-health minded physicians of tomorrow and many of them become leaders in various fields, such as public health and international health.

We are currently focusing on six areas, one of which is reproductive health, with a special attention to adolescents' sexual health including HIV/STI.

IFMSA runs peer-education project on sexual health for teenagers in over 20 countries, and our trained student facilitators are much appreciated that we are fully booked for the next 12 months

for the interactive session in the classroom full of games about sexuality, HIV/STI prevention and relationship.

Another example is IFMSA-UNESCO regional training on HIV and Human Rights held in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, Middle East, and Central America. Through the workshop, we developed the Young People in Action Kit, for which we won the gold medal of excellence from UNESCO last year,

IFMSA also developed a guideline on the integration of HIV/STD in the medical curricula.

In Asia-Pacific, we are going to hold a Regional Training Congress on project management in the field of adolescents' health, in March 2004, in which we train the student leaders from this region to be able to establish a long-term project in youth sexual health.

We believe that one of the most efficient way to improve regional adolescents' reproductive health status is through supporting active medical students as key resources. IFMSA can reach out to a large number of medical students I this region, and we are experienced and instrumental in conducting students-led projects, involving other students and youth.

Therefore, we would like to call for the kind support in every possible way from your government and organization for the local medical student activities and IFMSA, fighting against HIV/STI among youth.

Thank you very much indeed.