
Opening Address

Senior Vice Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan
Mr. Seiichi ETO

Since Minister Hidehisa OTSUJI, of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, cannot come here on account of State business, I am presenting a welcome address for him. My name is Seiichi ETO, the Senior Vice Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. I would like to say a few words on behalf of the organizers of the "Symposium on Globalization and the Future of Youth in Asia".

To the government representatives of 13 Asian countries, and all of you from related bodies including workers' and employers' organizations, and all of you who are interested in this issue; I must thank you most sincerely for participating in the "Symposium on Globalization and the Future of Youth in Asia" today. In addition, to Mr. Somavia, the Director-General of ILO, and to Prof. van Ginkel, the Rector of UNU; thank you for your cooperation as co-organizers of this symposium, and your kind acceptance to deliver lectures.

The Japanese Government, the ILO, and the United Nations University for the first time in their history jointly hosted a symposium to which high-level participants from Asian countries are invited. I feel greatly honored to have this meeting here in Japan.

Now, we are about to start a two-day symposium, which theme is globalization and the future of youth. I am looking forward to thorough discussion that takes account of viewpoints unique to Asia on what we can do to make all people in the world share the profits of globalization while globalization accelerates, and how we should address youth employment issues in such environment.

These issues are becoming very important in Japan, too. Above all, it is essential to create the environment where young people, the bearer of the future, can exercise their capability fully. This is one of the most important issues for the young people themselves and consequently for the whole society. To address it, young people have to display initiative to develop their ability further, and make efforts continuously to acquire knowledge and skill that society requires. Relevant parties, such as governments, workers, employers, and international organizations, need to assist these efforts.

I am sure that the discussion at this symposium will enable us to find out future direction of the relevant parties in every country including Japan to address this issue. I believe that our discussion at this symposium about how to realize 'fair globalization' and society where young people can exercise their capability fully will be fruitful with your valuable views and experience.

Thank you for your kind attention.