

Thank you, Mr. Miko, for your kind introduction. It is my great honor to make a speech at the First WHO Ministerial Conference on Global Action Against Dementia. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to WHO and the UK Department of Health for giving me such an opportunity.

To accelerate our efforts against dementia, strong political leadership is critical. Japan hosted the Global Legacy Event in Tokyo last November. At this event, the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared his government's intention of formulating a new action plan for dementia . As a result, in January, "The Comprehensive Strategy to Accelerate Dementia Measures", so called "New Orange Plan", was formed with the view to realize an age- and dementia-friendly community. The strategy is developed by our Ministry in collaboration with 11 other government agencies.

In Japan, one-seventh of those aged 65 and over or 4.62 million are with dementia, and this proportion is expected to rise to one in five or around 7 million in 2025. If we include Mild Cognitive Impairment or MCI, today, one-fourth of the elderly have either dementia or are at the preliminary stage. Dementia has become one of the "common" diseases. In such a society, we should support persons with dementia to learn to live with dementia, rather than merely considering them as those in need of care. Moreover, with the nationwide Long-Term Care Insurance system, we seek to realize an integrated community care system, where housing, healthcare, long-term care, and living support services are provided in a community setting in an integrated manner.

Raising awareness of dementia is the basis for building the age- and dementia-friendly community. The "Dementia Supporters" training is a program Japan can be proud to share with the world. The Dementia Supporters with proper knowledge and understanding support persons

with dementia and their families in communities, workplaces, schools and so forth. Those who completed the supporters' training program get orange bracelets like this. Of course, I am one of the supporters. We have already trained 5.8 million "Dementia Supporters," and our goal is to increase them to 8 million in FY2017.

Care and risk reduction are also the areas we think Japan can contribute to the world.

For example, Japan is seeking next generation prospective population-based dementia cohort, which will be the nation-wide cohort consortium with high quality and efficacy. With possible international collaboration, this research will bring out the seeds for the future strategy toward risk reduction as well as early detection and diagnosis.

Advanced care using ICT and robotics also has an immense potential for contributing to care and risk reduction in the future. We will also develop a big data gathering scheme from prospective intervention-based cohorts. We believe that these studies will enable us to develop personalized risk reduction strategies and put them into practice in the community.

Lastly, Japan is willing to share our accumulated knowledge and experience in, such as training for care practitioners, with Asian countries and beyond. However, we also believe that the underlying public health system holds the key for making the care and risk reduction strategy a truly viable solution. To this end, Japan is more than happy to share our experiences with the Universal Health Coverage, including the nation-wide Long-Term Care Insurance system, with the world.

Thank you very much for your attention.