

Address

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First of all, the overseas distinguished delegations, I would like to extend my gratitude from bottom of my heart. My name is Oda, I am in charge of this seminar and the president of National Institute of Special Education. Welcome to our country from such distance. I understand some of you came here last year as well. Some of you came here for the first time. And I am very sorry in advance if you feel any inconvenience.

Including this seminar, I like to extend my gratitude for all the participants. This seminar is for fulfillment and development of education for children with disabilities. And in cooperation with all the delegations from each country.

We would like to think about this theme from many different aspects, I really appreciate your participation. In our institute, we engage in the education for the children with disabilities, with that purpose in cooperation with Japan National Commit ion of UNESCO, we started this seminar in 1981, since then we held this seminar every year and this is the 26th seminar. In the past, we have invited administrative officers, researchers, and people in education from Asia-Pacific countries and totally we have invited more than 340 participants. Like this we have continued this seminar more than 20 years.

From this year, we have set the new theme. “Asia-Pacific International Seminar on Education for Individuals with Special Needs” this is the new name for this seminar. And also the long-term theme of the seminar for next 5 years was set as “Advancement of Education to Meet the Special Needs of Individuals-Towards Realization of Principle of Equity and Social Cohesion”. On top of that, under this long-term theme, especially this year we have set the theme “Collaboration based on partnership among related fields for appropriate service provision to individuals–education, health care, medical care and welfare”.

Each country might have probably different issues to overcome depending on the country , the situation might be different, however, the initiatives for the education for the children with disabilities in each country should be for the needs of each individual child, this is for sure. So, even if we have many different the situations, together in cooperation, it is meaningful for us to get together, to talk to each other and learn from each other, this is really remarkable for us.

Right now, depending on the degree of the disabilities we are shifting out the position from special education towards educational needs of individuals and educational support for the needs.

This 26th Asia-Pacific International Seminar is going to be held in this transition period which is really remarkable for our country. Also through the seminar our National Institute is going to be in cooperation and collaboration with Asia-Pacific countries. And I really hope that this seminar can contribute to the education for the children with disabilities, and international cooperation.

Last but not least, I would like to conclude my words wishing for the meaningful seminar for every one of you, I really do hope so. In such a short period of time, please keep your health and I really hope for very good collaboration.

Thank you very much for your attention.