

# ***Address***

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Mr. Hosomura, the President of NISE, participants, ladies and gentleman, on behalf of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO and MEXT, I am very pleased to extend my heartfelt welcome to all the participants of the 24<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific International Seminar on Special Education.

NISE and Japanese National Commission for UNESCO cosponsored the seminar on special education with the major aim of development of special education in Asia-Pacific region.

As you may know, “Dakar Framework for Action “ adopted in the World Education Forum in April, 2000 is guiding principle for “Education For All (EFA)” to all the government of the world and international organizations. This guideline set a goal by 2015 to provide the access all children to free and quality compulsory education and completion of education with special consideration given to the children under especially difficult conditions. In order to attain the goal of EFA, of course it is indispensable for the teachers and policy planners to enhance their levels for the leadership as well as the policy planning, therefore, this seminar should definitely facilitate.

The theme of this seminar is “Educational Support for Children with Multiple Disabilities with Sensory Impairment including Deafblindness”. I believe that you would recall a famous story of American women with multiple disabilities, Ms. Helen Keller and her teacher, Ms. Sullivan. I believe all of you have read the story during your childhood and what impressed us was how important trust

relationship was between teachers and students. Even now after several decades of their time, the importance of trust relationship is unfailing true.

I believe, in order to attain the EFA goal, we need a solid foundation of trust relationship between children and teachers as well as policy makers. I believe you share the same view for the education learning as well as overcoming disabilities and in treatments. As for the relationship between relevance of education and treatment on the disabilities, I am quite sure our keynote speaker, Dr. Jude Nicholas will give us an interesting talk.

In this seminar, participated by the experts from 12 countries in Asia-Pacific region, I do hope that this seminar will facilitate active information exchange based upon their own experiences and I do also hope that based upon the result of the seminar, you would be able to deepen your plans as well as implementation of the education in your countries so that we can enhance the educations meeting with the needs of the children with special needs.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my gratitude to NISE holding this seminar and also I do hope that participants would have the most successful seminar. With this, I would like to conclude my remarks.

Thank you very much.