

Address

**Mr Tetsuhito Minami
Unit Chief of UNESCO Unit 3
The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology**

Good afternoon Mr Oda, President of NISE, distinguished participants and persons involved. In the opening of the 25th Asia-Pacific International Seminar on Special Education, I am privileged to have opportunity to welcome you all and to extend greetings on behalf of The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

In the year 2000, World Education Forum representatives from international organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, The World Bank, as well as governments of 181 countries gathered together and adopted the Dakar Framework for Action toward achieving "Education for All". The objectives relevant to this year's seminar are to make special consideration to children under difficult environment and to improve quality basic living skills as well as aspects of education. This will be the 5th year since then and international community is expected to accelerate its efforts in UNESCO and other conferences.

Compared to other regions of the world, Asia-Pacific region is showing relatively good progress in its efforts toward achieving Education for All. However there is a group of excluded people or excluded group who maybe the last on the list in receiving the efforts toward completing dissemination of education such as women and people in extreme poverty. In order to achieve Education for All, there must be no excluded people from this effort and special education is needed for this group.

I hear that the topic of this seminar is "Improvement of Educational Practice and Environment for Students with Intellectual disabilities -for active participation in society through employment" as you are aware education is not objective but means. Education is important as a step to have a job and to

live quality life throughout one's life time. Thus I believe it is important to improve education and also to build good philosophy of education through such seminars where we are able to exchange information and have good discussion on education with a set goal.

Last but not least I would like to thank The National Institute of Special Education who has contributed to the development of special education in the seminar and also I would like to conclude my speech by thanking all the people who have made great contribution and devotion in organizing this seminar and wishing for the participants that seminar will be fruitful and successful.

Thank you very much.