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Prefatory Note

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The international seminar that started out in Japan as “APEID Seminar” (Regional Seminar on Special Education of Selected APEID Participating Countries in Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with UNESCO ROEAP (“PROAP” since 1987)) in 1981 later evolved into Asia-Pacific International Seminar on Special Education. This year marks the 25th year since the first “APEID Seminar”. The publication of Journal of Special Education in the Asia Pacific (JSEAP) was proposed in and approved by the representatives from the Participating Countries in the Asia-Pacific International Seminar on Special Education 2004, in commemoration of the Seminar history and for further development of education for disabled children in the Asia-Pacific region.

It has been one year since the 2004 Seminar. We are pleased to announce the publication of the first issue of JSEAP.

In addition to the editing countries (Japan, China, Korea and Malaysia), the publication of JSEAP owes to cordial support and cooperation by other Seminar participating countries, their related agencies and the participants. On behalf of the chief editing country and agency, I would like to express my gratitude for such support and cooperation.

I sincerely hope that JSEAP would make contributions towards the development of education for children with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region not limited to the JSEAP editing countries through international partnership among all the participating countries and through continued publication and use of JSEAP.