

ISO/TC249 国際会議

開会挨拶

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- Good morning, distinguished delegates and colleagues from around the world.
- It is my great honor to deliver opening remarks at this inaugural Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC249/SC1. As former Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, I am delighted to address the significance of this historic gathering.
- Let me express my sincere gratitude to the Japan Liaison of Oriental Medicine—JLOM—for hosting this meeting in Japan, and extend a warm welcome to all experts who have traveled from across the globe.

Asia's Shared Challenge of Super-Aging

- The Asian region stands at the forefront of unprecedented demographic transformation. Japan leads this shift, and key figures illustrate our reality.
- Currently, around 29% of Japan's population is aged 65 or older, and 16% is aged 75 and above. Looking ahead to 2050, the population aged 75 and over in major metropolitan areas is projected to increase by approximately 150% compared to 2020 levels. Furthermore, by the mid-2030s, around 40% of all households will be single-person households.

- This represents a profound shift from family-supported aging to elderly individuals living alone in highly urbanized environments.
- This is not Japan's challenge alone. Vietnam will see its elderly population double from 7% to 14% in approximately 18 years. Many Asian nations face "growing old before growing rich"—confronting rapid aging without adequate preparation or resources.

Active Aging and Traditional Medicine

- In this new era, our goal must be "Active Aging"—enabling older people to maintain social connections, extend their productive years, and proactively manage their well-being through proper nutrition, exercise, and comprehensive health approaches.
- This is where traditional medicine can play a transformative role. For millennia, traditional medicine has been deeply integrated into daily life across East Asia. Its holistic philosophy—preventing illness at the pre-disease stage, what we call "*Mibyou*" in Japan—aligns perfectly with Active Aging principles.
- Traditional medicine offers integrative approaches to chronic disease management, pain relief, cognitive function maintenance, and mental health promotion. For elderly individuals living alone, it can provide not only health support but also vital social connections, helping prevent isolation.

Evidence-Based International Standardization

- For traditional medicine to fulfill its potential, it must be grounded

in scientific evidence and supported by internationally recognized quality standards. This is precisely why the work of ISO/TC249/SC1 matters so profoundly.

- The standardization of herbal medicine quality and safety, acupuncture needles and medical devices, and harmonization of terminology and health informatics — these efforts create the essential foundation for integrating traditional medicine into 21st-century healthcare systems.
- Evidence-based international standards protect patients, build trust, and facilitate international medical cooperation.

Future-Oriented Collaboration

- The experts gathered here today bring the wisdom and experience of diverse traditional medical systems. I sincerely hope your deliberations will achieve a balance between scientific rigor and respect for the diversity of traditional medicine, creating truly international standards that serve all humanity.
- I am confident that this inaugural meeting of SC1 will mark a historic milestone, and that your collaborative efforts will make a profound contribution to realizing Active Aging across Asia and around the world.
- Thank you very much for your attention and dedication to this vital work.