



It is my honor to offer a few words at the 30th Anniversary of the Nagasaki Association for Hibakushas' Medical Care (NASHIM).

NASHIM was founded in 1992 to provide relief to atomic bombing survivors overseas and victims of radiation accidents around the world, conducting internships for doctors around the world to contribute to the international community and promote international cooperation through medical care for victims of radiation in order to use the wealth of experience and research accumulated in Nagasaki effectively for treatment of radiation victims around the world.

NASHIM has focused on training medical professionals to provide treatment for radiation victims areas severely affected by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in 1986, which include Ukraine, the Republic of Belarus, and the Russian Federation, as well as in the Republic of Kazakhstan, where nuclear tests have been conducted in Semipalatinsk since 1949, conducting training programs for 166 trainees to date.

I visited the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2007, Ukraine in 2008, and the Russian Federation in 2009, and was able to see firsthand how those who had learned medical treatment for radiation victims through NASHIM's training programs now play a role in their local area.

NASHIM has also created several publications to spread knowledge about radiation and treatment for victims of radiation.

The organization has contributed to the training of doctors and specialists treating radiation victims in the former Soviet Union through the publication of Russian-language textbooks, atlases, and more in areas closely tied to the treatment of radiation victims, such as hematology, endocrinology, ultrasound diagnostics, and pathology.

After the accident at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in March 2011, NASHIM hosted a symposium in Tokyo and published the "Q&A on Radiation and Radioactive Substances", which was distributed free of charge to municipalities affected by the accident in order to help spread correct information on radiation exposure and its effects on health, making a significant contribution to ensuring the health and safety of residents. NASHIM's efforts to date have been highly praised as an all-Nagasaki contribution to the international community, with local governments and medical institutions working together to make use of the characteristics of the city.

Nagasaki University has been involved in NASHIM projects as well, publishing textbooks as well as taking in trainees dispatching experts, primarily at the hospital, medical school, and Atomic Bomb Disease Institute.

As the only medical school in the world that has ever been in an atomic bombing, Nagasaki University hopes to continue contributing to the international community in close cooperation with Nagasaki Prefecture, the city of Nagasaki, and other organizations involved in NASHIM.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the NASHIM secretariat and all those involved in planning and organizing this symposium in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Congratulations on this momentous occasion.

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Shigeru Kohno, President of Nagasaki University