

## Closing Remarks

Tony ALVAREZ  
*Chairman of the Japan-Based Executive Committee of the  
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)*<sup>1</sup>



As chairman of the Japan-Based Executive Committee of PhRMA, I am very pleased to have been able to participate in the 3rd PhRMA-JMA Joint Symposium 2015. Members of both PhRMA and the Japan Medical Association share the role of contributing the highest of medical care, the importance of which is especially highlighted in the event of a disaster. The theme this time, “Searching for the Ideal Medical Scheme at the Time of Urgent Disasters in Japan and the US” was extremely timely. While disaster preparedness in Japan and the US has many differing aspects, there are many similarities. I believe that the discussion on the topic, Best Practice, will be highly beneficial in improving the capacity of support during disasters in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the doctors and executives who gave us lectures. Mr. Ken Burris is the leading authority who has dedicated his entire career to disaster preparedness and emergency medical care. Dr. Nicolette A. Louissaint is also an expert who is well known in this field in the United States.

Meanwhile, Dr. Masami Ishii takes on a leading position in this significant field in Japan. Mr. Toshinori Ogata, Deputy Director-General for Disaster Management Bureau, Cabinet Office and Dr. Haruhiko Hakuno, MHLW Emergency and Perinatal Medical Care Team Leader, spoke on the government’s position in making every effort to tackle and resolve the threats that are caused by disasters, and actual examples of programs modulated by the national government.

During this symposium, we were given the opportunity to discuss the important theme of disaster medical care, something that greatly impacts the Japanese people and society. I would like to once again thank Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura for his leadership in various aspects of public health not limited to this important field, and to Dr. Masami Ishii for his wonderful job as a moderator.

<sup>1</sup> Chairman of JBEC from February 12th, 2014 to December 31st, 2015.