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International restoration support conference

## Message

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On behalf of the Japan Medical Association (JMA), I would like to again extend my sincere sympathy with those who became victims of a strong typhoon Yolanda which hit the Philippines in last November.

I am deeply impressed to hear that the AMDA started its substantial support activities at the outbreak of the disaster and now they are planning to develop a network system which will enable us to make a stronger support for the future challenges against the expected disasters.

In the case of typhoon Yolanda, in fact, when the JMA decided the financial donation to the Philippine Medical Association through the AMDA for the actual logistic activities to help the local victims in the areas especially in Leyte Island. The action of the AMDA which closely coordinated with the Philippines Medical Association was marvelously prompt.

The JMA has held a long time close relationship with the AMDA represented by Dr. Shigeru Suganami. In recent activities in the disaster relief, we have worked with the AMDA which is characterized by its prompt action, high reliability, and high performance as well as steady feedback. It seemed to be a good and timely decision for the JMA to make a financial donation to the Philippine Medical Association through the AMDA at a very early stage of the disaster.

Moreover the JMA requested the Philippine government and the Philippine Medical Association to permit the cross license agreement in the emergency cases and also asked the AMDA to work together with the Self-Defense Forces of Japan in the affected areas. Based on these efforts of the JMA, the AMDA effectively collaborated with the Self-Defense Forces in its local relief activities, which enabled steady and safe support endeavors of the Japanese medical teams in the affected areas.

I understand that there are still many difficulties to tackle with and remove in the future. It will be a very good timing for the AMDA together with various groups which have engaged in the assistance activities to hold a meeting like this to exchange opinions and experiences at this time.

I do hope that the AMDA will develop its activities as a professional organization and this international restoration support conference will further ensure to make a mutual aid over the borders and contribute to the true recovery of the Philippines.