

J. Tokyo Med. Univ., 58(3) : 329, 2000

Greetings

Nobuhiro HAYASAKA

**Director
Tokyo Branch Office, ILO**

It is indeed a great honor for the ILO to be able to co-sponsor this important international scientific symposium. As you know, the International Labour Organization is a specialized agency on work related issues under the United Nations. We have been carrying out wide ranging activities in order to secure the fundamental workers' rights as well as improvements in working conditions. The first pillar of ILO's activities is the formulation of international labor standards through Conventions and Recommendation setting. The second is providing technical cooperation to promote ratification and implementation of those Conventions and Recommendations. The third deals with wide ranging studies and research activities. Among these activities, safety and health promotion of workers have always been at the top of ILO's mission, and already more

than 20 conventions have been formulated in this area. A global programme has been established for labour, safety and health in the field of technical cooperation as well. Work related stress which is the theme of today's symposium has been one of ILO's main research areas. In 1996, we have been given several Recommendations resulting from a project saying that reorganizing work and training are the two important means of eliminating stressors. The project conclusion from 1996 reads as follows; "If you have control over your work, supportive managers, well-designed tasks, proper training, and career opportunities, then you can cope with a very demanding job. They may sound ordinary, but at the same time it poses a very fundamental and basic importance".