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Chairman's Welcome Speech

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Tobacco Control

Chairman: The honorable Mr. Kumegawa Hajime
Kagawa prefecture medical society chairman

We will hold the 12th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Tobacco Control from 10-11 (Saturday-Sunday) November 2018 in Takamatsu, Kagawa prefecture. The chairman would like to say a few words here as a welcome.

In 2020, Tokyo will host Olympics-Paralympics, and in Japan the debate about the harms of (active) smoking as well as passive smoking is finally beginning, even in the National Diet. In Kagawa, this causes us to feel great privilege as well as a big responsibility.

The chairman of the executive committee, Mr. Junji Morita began to promote smoking cessation in Kagawa at the Takamatsu Red Cross Hospital from about 1990 as an innovative service not yet covered by health insurance and began an outpatient smoking cessation clinic two times every month. Thereafter, he founded the "Kagawa club to protect against tobacco and to defend health". In 2003, he held a national smoking cessation education workshop 20 times in Marugame. In 2011, he held a national seminar 11 times in Takamatsu to promote smoking cessation and has since promoted other no smoking activities. In continuing these activities in Takamatsu, the Society will hear of an initiative by Mayor Onishi regarding no smoking activities and related facilities for smoking cessation and aims to implement these proposals in 2018.

As smoking prohibition in taxis was spreading nationwide nowadays, Kagawa was the 17th prefecture in the nation to implement this policy in March 2008. At the time of this implementation, the Kagawa club to protect against tobacco and to defend health and the taxi union discussion group for the Chugoku Shikoku region of Kagawa prefecture were first created. In 2016 smoking rates by prefecture were published, and so far the average smoking rates in Kagawa prefecture have dropped to as low as the 4th lowest in the nation.

These activities in Kagawa prefecture are related to this conference, and I hope that the theme of "no smoking grass roots project" at the current conference could eventually be spread nationwide.

In recent years, the issue of smoking has been affected due to the emergence of nicotine vaporizers (electronic cigarettes). At the current conference, we expect to provide some details about the new debate concerning nicotine vaporizers.

Many people will attend this convention, and we hope that not only Sanuki noodles will become famous from Kagawa, but also this no smoking movement. I

sincerely hope that this conference and the broader movement could result in positive changes for the country.

November 2017