

Message at the opening ceremony
of the 22nd World Congress of International Society for the Study of
Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP 2021)

September 15, 2021

Distinguished guests and participants,

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you today online, at the opening ceremony of the 22nd International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy Congress 2021, with official support from the Japan Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy. I am grateful for this opportunity to be together with you, sharing our desire to improve the health of women with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those who have been making efforts to carry out this Congress.

Among hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, pre-eclampsia is one of the leading causes of maternal and perinatal mortality. According to ISSHP, pre-eclampsia causes over 500,000 fetal and neonatal deaths and over 70,000 maternal deaths every year. Pre-eclampsia seriously affects various organs of pregnant women and can cause early termination of pregnancy by restricting fetal development and the placental function. With the objective

of resolving these difficulties, ISSHP has been making great contributions to addressing challenges in the prevention and treatment of problems related to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, by stimulating research, disseminating appropriate information, and promoting education. I would like to express my deep respect to all of you who are devoted to this area, listening to patients and working to reduce their difficulties.

Early identification of high-risk pregnant women can lead to appropriate countermeasures and increase the chances of reducing maternal health disorders. In the case of Japan, every pregnant woman receives a Maternal and Child Health Handbook, and indicators of her health, including blood pressure and urine protein, are recorded periodically by medical experts. These figures are useful for the early detection of pre-eclampsia. If problems are found in the regular health checkups for pregnant women, measures such as medical guidance and treatment by a doctor, lifestyle guidance by a midwife, and/or dietary guidance by a registered dietitian are provided. After the birth of the baby, the baby's health information is recorded in the Maternal and Child Health Handbook, facilitating a continuum of care. I am grateful for the increase in the number of pregnant women around the world who benefit from these measures, and strongly feel that further reductions in the problems caused by hypertensive disorders of pregnancy can be achieved through the activities of various professionals, as well as the recognition of appropriate actions by pregnant women and their families.

I understand that ISSHP's programs include a session on the new guideline, which reflects the latest developments, such as advances in predicting and preventing pre-eclampsia. I sincerely hope that the Congress will offer an excellent opportunity for participants to exchange information and to discuss both challenges and future prospects, raising awareness of pre-eclampsia, so that all pregnant women will be able to feel more at ease in nurturing precious lives, and giving birth to the babies who will build our future.

Thank you very much.