

Greeting from Masaru Hashimoto Governor of Ibaraki Prefecture



I am delighted that the 15th World Congress of Music Therapy has become such a grand event with so many participants from Japan and abroad who devote their energies to music therapy.

This congress has been held in countries all around the world, and it is an honor for Ibaraki Prefecture that Tsukuba is the first city in Japan to host it. On behalf of the residents of Ibaraki I welcome you all to our prefecture.

I would like to express my deep respect for all in attendance who broadly contribute to society through the maintenance and improvement of people's health by dedicating themselves to researching, popularizing, and educating people about music therapy and training music therapists.

Japan has one of the longest life expectancies in the world, and one in four citizens are over the age of 65. Here in Ibaraki, we are striving to create a society where people can continue to lead healthy and meaningful lives in the places they call home through measures such as enhancing medical and care services and improving countermeasures against dementia.

Substantial systems promoting the independence and participation in society of people with disabilities are increasingly sought after throughout the world. Ibaraki is working to promote the employment of people with disabilities and the protection of their rights, as well as the enhancement of their participation in culture, the arts, sports, and recreation based on the principles of normalization and full participation.

You are gathered here under the theme of Moving Forward with Music Therapy - Inspiring the Next Generation to share the results of your work and learn from one another. I hope that this will lead to music therapy playing an even bigger part in the welfare of the elderly and people with disabilities.

Tsukuba, the host city of this congress, is blessed with a rich natural environment that includes Mt. Tsukuba, one of Japan's 100 most famous mountains. It is also one of the world's leading science cities, and last year in May it hosted the G7 Science & Technology Ministers' Meeting. Ibaraki is an agricultural prefecture with the second highest agricultural production value in Japan, and also the home of many traditional crafts such as Yuki Silk and Kasama Pottery. I hope that you will take the opportunity to savor the delicious food and traditional and cultural charms of our prefecture while you are here.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Honorary President Hinohara, President Murai, and Congress Organizer Ms. Kato from the Japanese Music Therapy Association, and everyone else who worked hard to make the 15th World Congress of Music Therapy a reality and wish for the success of this event, the growth of the World Federation of Music Therapy, and the health and success of everyone here. Thank you very much.

Masaru Hashimoto

Greeting from Tatsuo Igarashi Mayor of Tsukuba City



I would like to congratulate the World Federation of Music Therapy on the occasion of holding its 15th World Congress of Music Therapy. As Mayor of Tsukuba City, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to you. It is our pleasure to have such a meaningful event in Tsukuba in 2017.

There are more than 100 research institutes, 16,000 researchers and 7,000 scholars with doctoral degrees in Tsukuba. Research in various fields carried out with cutting-edge equipment in research centers including JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), AIST (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology) and KEK (High Energy Accelerator Research Organization) attract researchers and visitors from all over the world through research activities and international conferences. Also, Tsukuba was designated as a Japanese Geopark in September, 2016. Thanks to Mount Tsukuba, Lake Ushiku and Kokai River, Tsukuba is rich in nature. Please enjoy the natural environment of Tsukuba. We provide guided tours for visitors with our hospitality such as Tsukuba Science Tour to visit research institutes and Segway tours to visit sightseeing spots in the city. I hope all of you will have opportunities to discover the history, nature, cityscape and cutting-edge technologies and get new ideas and inspirations from the city's characteristic space and atmosphere.

Music Therapy is a treatment and education method intentionally using physiological, psychological and social benefits of music to overcome mental and/or physical disabilities and improve QOL. It is therefore used for children to seniors. My city vision is to make Tsukuba lead "the future of the world". I am grateful that the congress is held in Tsukuba for the first time in Japan and hope that Music Therapy will widely contribute to society for maintaining and enhancing human health.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who helped organize the 15th World Congress of Music Therapy in Tsukuba from the bottom of my heart.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Igarashi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greeting from Dr. Leo Esaki Director of Tsukuba International Congress Center



Chairman of The Science and Technology Promotion Foundation of Ibaraki,
Nobel Laureate in Physics (1973)

It is a great honor to host the 15th World Congress of Music Therapy at the Tsukuba International Congress Center, and I would like to thank the World Federation of Music Therapy for giving us this opportunity.

It goes without saying that music has a powerful influence on our minds. This event should be of great interest to anyone interested in the use of music for treatment, since reports on research and the clinical practice of music therapy from all over the world will be presented at the Congress. This research and practice will undoubtedly be discussed with enthusiasm during the many presentations and sessions of the Congress, and will lead to the greater development of the field of music therapy.

It is expected that approximately 30% of the total population of Japan will be 65 years old or older in 2025, and that the elderly population will continue to increase. As a result, music therapy, which aims at the amelioration and prevention of physical and psychological symptoms, has recently been attracting more attention here.

Tsukuba is a “world leading science city” since more than 20,000 researchers are working in its many research institutions. It is the center of the most advanced scientific research and technological development. In that spirit, I would be very pleased if the World Congress of Music Therapy in Tsukuba can also be an opportunity for the further development of music therapy.

Our Congress Center provides excellent facilities, equipment and services, and we have a wealth of experience hosting international conferences. We will make every effort to meet your expectations and make your Congress a success.

I welcome you to Tsukuba from the bottom of my heart, and look forward to meeting you here in Ibaraki, Japan, at the 15th World Congress of Music Therapy.



Greeting from the President of WFMT



Amy Clements-Cortes

Ph.D., RP, MT-BC, MTA, FAMI

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 15th World Federation of Music Therapy (WFMT), World Congress of Music Therapy (WCMT) in Tsukuba, Japan.

The Japanese Music Therapy Association (JMTA) and specifically the WCMT Commission Chair, Ms. Michiko Kato have been working hard to prepare this dynamic and scholarly congress for over three years.

I am honoured to have been a part of the planning process, and I want to commend all who have volunteered their time towards organizing this congress to host over 2000 delegates.

The congress theme “*Moving forward with Music Therapy - Inspiring the Next Generation*”, is an exceptional occasion for music therapists, health care professionals, musicians, students, researchers and educators to learn and share their work with a focus on stimulating the next generation of therapists, and the important directions for clinical music therapy practice.

During our time together in the international city of Tsukuba we will be hosted by the JMTA in the beautiful space offered in the Tsukuba Congress Centre.

This outstanding congress features 4 spotlight educational sessions, 8 pre-congress workshops, and a variety of cultural events including: “*Sado*” Tea Ceremony, “*Kado*” Flower Arrangement, “*Shodo*” Calligraphy, an evening trip to *Iias TSUKUBA*, a Reception party and an overnight bus trip.

In addition there are 255 paper presentations, 23 roundtables, 16 symposiums, 53 workshops, 185 posters and a variety of student events. I am so excited to embark on several days of engaging, celebrating and learning from speakers from over 45 countries representing the 8 global regions of the WFMT.

As the President of the WFMT, I am fortunate to see how music therapy is advancing around the globe through my constant contact with the WFMT council, therapists, educators, researchers and organizations in the 8 WFMT regions. I want to thank you for your participation in this congress and for supporting the WFMT. I hope you savor our time together, and leave feeling stimulated, refreshed and with fond memories.

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Sincerely,

Amy Clements-Cortes

Greeting from Shigeaki Hinohara Honorary Director of Japanese Music Therapy Association



The theme of the 15th World Congress of Music Therapy in Tsukuba is “Moving Forward with Music Therapy - Inspiring the Next Generation”. How do those of you attending the Congress interpret this theme, and how do you relate it to your own music therapy work?

Music is a universal tool for communication which has the power to connect people’s minds, just as music therapy has the power to console and heal our minds and bodies on a deep level.

I hope the 15th World Congress of Music Therapy will be worthy of the phrase “World Congress”, and that attendees will discuss music therapy’s prospects for the future while sharing their diverse values.

Shigeaki Hinohara

Greeting from Yasuji Murai President of the Japanese Music Therapy Association



I am very pleased to welcome you to the 15th World Congress of Music Therapy at the Tsukuba International Congress Center. We are very grateful to Michiko Kato, head of the Congress organizing committee, for her leadership. Tsukuba is a beautiful city, where one can enjoy the view of Mount Tsukuba towering in the distance.

Music therapy practice and educational programs in Japan have steadily advanced over the years, learning from the music therapy community all over the world. Music therapists everywhere, once they begin working in the real world, face common difficulties, and often struggle by themselves to solve those problems. Detailed reports of case studies, based on the clinical experiences of other music therapists, are very helpful to other therapists.

By participating in this World Congress, we can learn from the experiences of other music therapists working in clinical settings. I sincerely hope that you are able to engage with many peer therapists at this event and can add a new page to your music therapy practice.

Yasuji Murai

Greeting from the Congress Organizer



Welcome to the World Congress of Music Therapy! Welcome to Japan!

The first world congress of music therapy in Japan is about to begin, and more than 2,000 people are attending from over the world. I hope it will be an unforgettable congress for each of you!

The theme of the Congress is “Moving Forward with Music Therapy”, a theme which was chosen with the hope that leaders in the field of music therapy, experts, practitioners, beginners, students, and people from other fields would gather, interact and learn from one another. We also hope that attendees find ways to advance the discipline of music therapy, both at the international level and at the regional level, wherever you may be from.

The sub-theme, “Inspiring the Next Generation”, also has multiple meanings. This sub-theme was chosen with the hope that people of different generations will increase their cooperation in research and clinical settings, and that young people will have more opportunity to assume responsibility and create more stable work opportunities for young people entering this discipline.

Finally, I would like to thank the many people who helped prepare the 15th World Congress of Music Therapy. It would have been impossible to hold such a big event without their hard work and enthusiastic support. The rest of the Congress is in your hands. I hope all of you will take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy yourselves, meet new people, expand your networks, and boost music therapy, here and around the world.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michiko Kato".

Michiko Kato, MA, RMT (Japan)