
Tokyo Medical University International Symposium

Small Airways and Etiological Factors in Respiratory Diseases

Sponsor: Tokyo Medical University

Supported by: The World Health Organization

Date and time: March 21, 22 1998

Place: Keio Plaza Inter-Continental Tokyo, 2-2-1 Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Opening Address

**Greetings from Takeshi Shibuya, M.D, Ph.D.
President of Tokyo Medical University**



Partly triggered by the 1991 Gulf War, the attention of the international medical community, and in particular the WHO, has been focused on the deleterious effects of smoke on the human body, with especial regard to effects on the peripheral airways. Even before then, the WHO had warned about this problem, that is air pollution, and had approached the problem from a global aspect, creating a project team to carry out research in this field.

Recently pathological conditions affecting the peripheral airways in the Western Pacific region resulting from forest fires in Indonesia have attracted much attention. The attention paid by this International Symposium to the influence of factors such as smoking, air pollution and infection on the peripheral airways, and also on the effects of respiratory diseases on peripheral airways, is due to the fact that our medical university is the site of a WHO laboratory center devoted to this problem and it was felt to be especially appropriate to hold discussions by the most eminent scientists in the region concerning this field. I am sure that this symposium will have particularly significant results.
