

ICA Statement, 28-29 March 2011, Panama

The International Council on Archives, gathered for its Executive Board meeting in Panama from 28 to 29 March 2011, wishes to express its sympathy and solidarity with the professional archival community in Japan in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami, which have inflicted so much suffering and loss on the Japanese society. The ICA will do its best to respond to the needs and requirements the archival institutions of Japan may have as a consequence of the disaster the country is facing.

Responding Address to the Message of ICA Executive Board by Mr. Yamazaki

Thank you very much. I was encouraged by your message. The recent earthquake in Japan was very big. It was 9.0 in scale and was the biggest in our history of 2,000 years. Tsunami was also the biggest in our history. Some coastal cities constructed the walls of 10 meters high to protect cities but they were meaningless. Tsunami exceeded 15 meters in some places. As a result, more than 10,000 people were dead and another 10,000 people were still missing.

Nuclear power station in Fukushima is another problem. There are three principles to cope with nuclear power station accident; Shutdown, Cooling, and Confinement. They have already been shutdown. This is important. Our case is different from Chernobyl case in late 1980's. But they still have troubles in cooling and confinement. I hope that things will be getting better soon.

We have to make miracle to overcome these situations. We made miracle twice in our history. We made modern country in very short period; from Meiji Restoration in 1968 to the victory over Russia in 1905. This is the first miracle. The second miracle was the quick restoration from ruins after World War II. Now is the time for us to make the third miracle. I would appreciate it if you could help us in making the third miracle. Thank you very much again.