

Dear President
FUJITA Hachiteru Sensei

Dear Vice presidents
KATATANI Noritaka Sensei
MURAYAMA Takehiko Sensei

Dear members of the Japan Society for Impact Assessment

MINNA SAN KONNICHIWA!

On behalf of the International Association for Impact Assessment, it is an honour and a pleasure to congratulate you on the 20th anniversary of your Society.

OMEDETO GOZAIMASU!

20 is a special number, in many cultures and aspects of science:

In atomic physics, 20 is considered a magical number, because nuclei of atoms with 20 protons or neutrons are more **stable**.

In some countries, the number 20 is used as an index in measuring visual acuity. 20/20 indicates normal vision at 20 feet, and indicates "**perfect vision**"

In other cultures, 20 is a **sign of balance and harmony**.

In Japanese tradition 20 is the **age of majority**.

HATACHI DESU NE!

So congratulations to JSIA for arriving to the majority of age, as a stable organization, in perfect balance and with a perfect vision.

It is remarkable how much the JSIA has achieved in 20 years: it has been instrumental in 15 Asian Impact Assessment Conferences and has also established formal and fruitful collaborations with the Korean and Chinese societies for Impact Assessment, benefitting our profession and practice in the whole region.

The IAIA Japan Branch was established in 2016 and a conference was held in Nagoya that year. It was for me one of the most enjoyable IAIA conferences. It was also the first time I have tried sake, a memorable tasting enjoyed among admired and respected friends and colleagues.

TANOSHIKATTA DESU!

The IAIA has had the honour of counting with board members from JSIA.

We are thankful not only for their dedicated service, but also for the extraordinary effort of staying awake so late at night to attend the meetings.

KOKORO KARA KANSHA SHIMASU!

This year in Vancouver, an award was provided to Akiko Urago for her incredible labour of translating to Japanese the IAIA publications.

There are many other contributions to the promotion and advanced of Impact assessment, small and big, within Japan, within the Asian region and at globally at IAIA.

All of them are important.

OTSUKARESAMADESHTA!

On behalf of IAIA, congratulations to JSIA for its 20 first years of existence.

We look forward to work with you for the 20 years to come and more!

KORE KARA MATA YOROSHIJU ONEGAI SHIMASU!

Gabriela Factor
President IAIA
2022-2023