

G3T Japan Global Wellness Institute's Hot Springs Initiative Chairman's Welcome Address

Charles Davidson

Friday 18th October - 2:00pm

On behalf of the board of the Global Wellness Institute Hot Springs Initiative and as the Australian Representative of the FEMTEC Council I welcome you all to the fifth Global Thermal Think Thank (G3T).

Before we do anything I would like to pay our respects to all of the people of UEDA and Nagano who have particularly suffered as a result of the terrible typhoon that struck Japan last week. I would like us to have a minutes silence to pay our respects.

Wait one minute

It is an honour and a privilege to be hosting this event in Japan, a country which has woven hot springs culture into the fabric of its society and into the minds, bodies and spirit of its people. It has the oldest continually operating hot springs enterprise on earth at more than 1300 years and has refined bathing to an art form. Thank you for welcoming us.

The Hot Springs Initiative has an underlying purpose which is to:

- Facilitate the evolution of a collaborative and innovate industry that delivers health and wellbeing for our visitors
 - Create International Understanding through hot springs
- and to
- Encourage corporate responsibility to society

Throughout the course of this conference I hope we are all able to share the Hot Springs Initiative's purpose and grow together.

The G3T has only been possible because of the effort, dedication and support of many people and I would like to acknowledge and thank them. This was going to be thanking in person allot of people from the Nagano and Ueda Governments and local and national Onsen associations. In their absence I would still like to thank them for

the incredible efforts they did make even though we were not able to proceed.
Those people include:

Mr. Abe, Mayor of Nagano and his special team in Nagano prefecture government who have been helping at many levels for the delivery of the entire conference.

The Ueda-City Government who have been very happy to help coordinate many of the elements of the event.

Mr Harunosuke Kurasawa, Deputy Chair of the Bessho Onsen Association and President of Ryokan Uematsuya
(別所温泉観光協会副会長/信州別所温泉旅館上松や代表取締役 倉沢晴之助)

Mr Muneharu Saito, President of Saito Hotel, Kakeyu Onsen (鹿教湯温泉 齊藤ホテル 代表取締役社長 齋藤宗治)

Mr Takuro Aoki, Director of the Commerce and Tourism Department at the Ueda City Government (上田市商工観光部商工観光課 課長 青木卓郎)

Mr Tomoaki Okada, Chairman of the Nippon Spa Association (NPO日本スパ振興協会 理事長 岡田友悟)

Those who are here and who I would like to thank include the Mori Trust Company and in particular their CEO Ms Miwako Date.

James Clark-Kennedy, Hot Springs PhD Candidate at RMIT University in Australia and the graphic designer who has helped craft the invitations and programs.

And extra special thanks goes to our country event directors who have worked tirelessly till all hours of the morning for a number of months to deliver this event: Ms Yoriko Soma, President of Conceptasia Management and Consulting Limited (株式会社コンセプトアジア 代表 相馬順子) and Tomonori Maruyama, Chief Research Consultation at Mitsui Knowledge Industries.

Now that we have only a small group of participants I think it would be good to go around the room and make a quick self-introduction and to give us one thing that you would like to see happen or for you to learn more about as a result of this conference.

It is time now to get underway with our program and I would like to ask my co-host Maruyama San to welcome and introduce our first speaker Dr Yasuaki Goto.