



ICMGP 2024
CAPE TOWN • SOUTH AFRICA • 21 - 26 JULY
CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

NIMD: Minamata Storyteller



Tuesday – NIMD: Minamata Storyteller

- **Dr Masatake Fujimura**



- Prof Vernon Somerset; Ms Mitsuko Yasoshima

Dr Masatake Fujimura

- Doctor of Pharmacy
- Research Director at National Institute of Minamata Disease
- Focus is on mercury as a pollutant
- The main target of methylmercury is the cranial nerve system, and exposure leading to the irreversible impairment of neural function is one of the most severe consequences.
- His group aims to clarify the causal factors and the characteristics in methylmercury induced neural dysfunction using a comprehensive approach on the molecular (gene and protein), cellular (cultured cell), individual (laboratory animal) and human (pathology tissue) levels, and then to apply these results to aid in diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

Opening Remarks: Vernon Somerset

- Minamata Disease – caused by mercury poisoning
- Occurred in the town of Minamata, Japan – 1950s
- Effluent containing Hg and toxic chemicals were released from an industrial plant
- Hg accumulated in shellfish & fish – eaten by local population
- Disease causes muscle weakness, loss of peripheral vision, hearing and speech impairment
- Local population suffered severely when family members reported health problems related to the event

Opening Remarks: Masatake Fujimura

Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan

- Live connection for online remarks.
- Over to colleagues in Japan.

Mr Masami Ogata

- Introductory comments.

Minamata Storyteller

- Video presentation.

Minamata Storyteller

- Opportunity for comments and questions.

National Institute of Minamata Disease

- NIMD, Japan
 - Special greetigs to staff of NIMD in Cape Town, RSA
 - Video presentation
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- Opportunity for comments and questions

Closing Remarks

- The Minamata incident led to Minamata Disease being declared.
- Methylmercury poisoning became one of the most serious environmental disasters to date.
- Through story telling the world was informed of the disaster.
- Minamata Convention was named after the city.
- Global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.
- We encourage those adversely affected to continue with the story telling, so that we never experience a similar disaster.

Acknowledgements

- Mr M. Ogata
- People of Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan
- Dr Masatake Fujimura
- Staff from NIMD
- Ms ??? - translator

Announcements and House Rules

- Delegates - wear your badges at all times.
- Mobile App - download for regular updates.
- Sessions chairs and speakers to report to speakers room, in meeting room 1.53 – two hours ahead of the session start time.
- Do not upload your presentation in the venue room.
- Parking disc exchange tickets are available at the registration desk.
- Artisans in the exhibition hall are only here until Thursday. Please support them.
- We acknowledge our partners and sponsors.

Heading

- A
- B