

## Message regarding the Tohoku earthquake

On the 11th of March, one of the biggest earthquakes in history struck the Tohoku region of Japan. The earthquake and following tsunami has caused unimaginable, extreme devastation across wide areas in the Tohoku and Kanto regions. This is compounded by concern relating to incidents at nuclear power plants in the area. Our thoughts go out to everyone affected by this truly tragic disaster. I also offer my sincerest condolences to those who have suffered the sad loss of loved ones at this time, and feel great sorrow for those who have been injured or lost their lives.

The 52nd Annual Meeting of JSPP was due to be held in Sendai from March 20-22, however, it was unfortunately cancelled due to the seriously damaged situation of the area and surrounding transportation systems. Preparation for the Annual Meeting involved great efforts from those involved, including cooperation of all members during the planning and preparation process. The decision to cancel the Annual Meeting is considered the deepest sadness by the JSPP Executive. The appropriate next steps and remedial measures will be examined in a swift manner, and I kindly ask for understanding from all members during this time. As a society, JSPP also aims to provide as much assistance and support as possible to those in the affected areas, and asks for cooperation from all members for this.

I once again offer my deepest condolences to the many people who have suffered tragic loss and injury as a result of this great disaster, and wish to let them all know our thoughts are with you.

Kazuo Shinozaki  
JSPP President