

Live Love Animals ICAC KOBE 2015

The 4th Kobe International Conference on the Care for All Creatures 2015 Opening Address

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第4回神戸全ての生き物のケアを考える国際会議 2015が、ここ神戸の地で再び開催されますことを心よりお祝い申し上げますとともに、世界各地からお集まりの皆様を歓迎いたします。

この度の国際会議は、「阪神・淡路大震災の経験を、人と動物の幸せな未来へ」をテーマとして、人と動物の共生を推進していくため、様々なシンポジウムにより、人が果たしうる責任を考え、その情報を広く情報発信していく大変意義深い会議であり、参加者の皆様の活発な議論を期待しております。

さて、あの阪神・淡路大震災当時、震災による家屋の倒壊等により、市民が飼育していた犬猫等にも被害がおよび飼い主の手を離れるなどの状況が生じました。獣医師会や動物愛護団体を中心となった「兵庫県南部地震動物救援本部」が「動物救護センター」を拠点に救護活動を展開し、また、全国からのボランティアの方々や並々ならぬ献身的なご協力や多くの方々からの暖かいご支援

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the hosting of the 4th Live Love Animals International Conference on All Creatures Care here in Kobe once again. I would also like to welcome all of you who have gathered here from all over the world to attend the conference.

With the theme of “Turning the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake into Brighter Futures for People and Fellow Animals”, a variety of symposia will be held with the aim of promoting the symbiosis of people and animals. The conference is a meaningful one in which participants are asked to think about the responsibility that people play, and raises awareness on a large scale. I hope that all those taking part in the conference will enjoy fruitful and lively discussions.

When the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake struck, due to the collapse of buildings and other reasons, many pets such as cats and dogs fell victim to the earthquake and were separated from their owners. The “Great Hanshin Earthquake Animal Rescue Headquarters” established

によって、多くの動物たちが救われ、多くの被災者が励まされました。これらの救護活動が、災害時に被災動物の救護対策を講じていく端緒となったものと考えております。

あれから20年という月日が経過しましたが、今を生きる私たちの責務は、あの震災を風化させることなく、鎮魂の気持ちをいつまでも持ち続けるとともに、震災が起こったときの対応や、その後の街の再生のために取り組んだ経験や知識、そして何よりも想いを継承していくことではないかと、あらためて強く感じております。

最後に、本会議の開催にご尽力されました関係者の方々に深く敬意を表しますとともに、本会議が大きな成功を取られますよう祈念いたしまして、巻頭のあいさつとさせていただきます。

by veterinary medical associations and animal welfare organisations carried out relief work based in the “Animal Relief Centre”, and many animals were rescued and victims encouraged through the contribution of volunteers and the warm support of people from throughout the country. This was the first time such relief work to help animal victims following a disaster was carried out.

20 years have passed since that time, and now it is our responsibility to remember those lost without letting the memory fade, as well as to hand down the knowledge and experience of the disaster, how we responded to it, and the initiatives carried out for the subsequent rebuilding of the city. I strongly believe that it is most important for us to continue to share our own personal memories of that time to the next generations.

Finally, I would like to express my respect to all those involved in the planning of the conference, and wish that it is a great success.