

Regarding the content of Ms Riko Muranaka's acceptance speech for the John Maddox Prize.

May 1, 2018

In Ms Riko Muranaka's personal BLOG (dated 2/2/2018) <http://www.rikomuranaka.com/news/1003>, she posted her acceptance speech for the John Maddox Prize. Towards the end of the speech the following is written:

"In Japan, three thousand lives and ten thousand wombs are lost to cervical cancer every year. When I gave a talk at my old school Hokkaido University, I was asked by a young gynecologist, "How many more wombs do we have to dig out?" In Japan, a class action lawsuit is said to take ten years, and it seems that no politician make a decision to restart the HPV vaccination until the lawsuit is over. If we have to wait ten years for any hope of HPV vaccination starting again, how many more wombs will Japanese gynecologists have to dig out? The answer is "A hundred thousand". Please imagine all those wombs gone. Please imagine the women who owned them, the children who were born from them and lost their mother, and the children who were supposed to be born from them."

The talk that is referred to in her speech was organized by the Department of Paediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine at Hokkaido University and took place on August 21st, 2017. The young doctor that asked the question is indeed a doctor at Hokkaido University.

However, the question he asked is, 'How many more wombs will Japanese doctors have to REMOVE?' and not 'How many more wombs will Japanese doctors have to DIG OUT?'. What Ms Muranaka claims the young doctor said is false.

The phrase 'dig out' makes it sound like the doctor has no respect for the women he is treating and just see them as mere organs. We felt the need to publicly issue a statement regarding this matter on our homepage, because if we remained silent the danger exists that both the reputation and the trust of the doctor in question, as well as this organization, may be damaged.

General Incorporated Association WIND
Representative Director
Noriaki Sakuragi (Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido University)