

## *Press Release*

Contact: Eric M. McKeeby  
Communications & Public Relations Manager  
301.770.2920, ext. 245; [emckeeby@raps.org](mailto:emckeeby@raps.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
27 June 2007

---

### **RAPS Holds Japan Seminar, High-Ranking Officials Participate**

**Tokyo**—More than 200 senior-level professionals and high-ranking Japanese officials from the healthcare product sector attended the first-ever Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) Japanese seminar in Tokyo earlier this month.

*The Importance of Regulatory Affairs Professions for the Development of Advanced Medical Technology*, which addressed concerns facing the healthcare product industry took place on 12 June at Tokyo Women's Medical University and was supported by Japan's Society of Future Medicine.

This event was attended by high-level officials from several Japanese governmental agencies. Akira Miyajima, Chairman of Japan's Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA), presented at the seminar—as did top personnel from the Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare (MHLW), and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

Individuals working in industry and academia were also in attendance and addressed the need for and importance of the regulatory professional in Japan.

The seminar also helped launch a stronger presence in Japan for RAPS, which in 2005 announced the creation of its Japanese affiliate.

“Through the presence of RAPS in Japan, we are able to promote a stronger and more expanded role for the regulatory affairs profession there,” said Sherry L. Keramidas, PhD, CAE.

Keramidas said the efforts of RAPS and its Japanese partners have contributed to a greater understanding of regulatory affairs as a critical profession in Japan.

“Japanese leaders are very interested in increasing the numbers and capabilities of regulatory professionals in government and in industry. RAPS is working to provide and adapt its professional development framework and learning resources for this critical initiative in Japan,” said Keramidas.

*-more-*

The increased focus falls in sync with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s “Innovation 25” strategy initiative, which was discussed at the seminar. “Innovation 25” is a long-term program aimed at growing Japanese innovation in areas such as medicine, engineering and information technology.

RAPS, which plays a critical global role in the discussion of emerging science and policies, will work with Japanese leaders and professionals to further develop the regulatory profession there—and finding ways the profession can assist with the implantation of “Innovation 25.”

“There continues to be great interest and need for RAPS in Japan balanced against the challenges of establishing a presence and working in Japan,” said Keramidas.

Keramidas added that the seminar was an important first step in legitimizing RAPS and regulatory affairs presence and role in Japan and will be followed by plans to change and improve RAPS support in Japan.

### **About RAPS**

The Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) guides and supports individuals—from industry, government, academia, research and clinical organizations—to bring life-saving and life-enhancing products to the global marketplace quickly and safely.

Founded in 1976 and operating outside the political arena, RAPS provides a neutral forum on emerging science and global regulatory challenges, offering personal and professional resources to help RA professionals continuously improve and work smarter, faster and in compliance with regulatory models.

RAPS established the regulatory profession worldwide and brings knowledge and progress to it. By identifying scope of practice, defining core competencies, upholding professional standards, developing professional certification, and providing educational and networking opportunities, RAPS supports professionals throughout the healthcare product lifecycle. [www.raps.org](http://www.raps.org)

###