

March Program

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2003

SPEAKER: **Mr. Akira Miyajima**
 President
 The Organization for Pharmaceutical Safety and Research (OPSR / Kiko)

TOPIC: ***Report from the Front Line: Drug Approval in Japan***

Established as a Japanese semi-governmental organization authorized by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, one of the biggest missions for OPSR, more often known as “Kiko,” is to improve the quality, efficiency and safety of medicines. (To review Kiko’s organizational structure and details of its services, please visit its Web site at: www.kiko.go.jp)

At this program, Mr. Miyajima, President of Kiko, who will visit from Japan, will provide updates on the drug approval system in Japan, as well as reform of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law and how it is affecting the approval process. This will be a rare opportunity to discuss any crucial issues in this area directly with the head of one of the organizations responsible for drug approval.

Since joining the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW), Mr. Miyajima has held various positions at MHLW and other government agencies. Prior to being appointed to the President of Kiko in October 2002, he was Director General, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, at MHLW. His past responsibilities include: Councilor, Minister’s Secretariat, MHLW; Vice-Director, General Affairs Department, Social Insurance Agency; Director, Medical Profession Division, Health Policy Bureau, MHLW; and Consul, Consulate General, San Paulo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.