**PRESIDENT ADDRESS**

**THE IALRW JAPANESE BUSINESS MEETING**

**(Tokyo, 21 APRIL 2018)**

These days, day by day, we witness through the media, violence and brutalities, death and killings, spread across the globe. The on-going wars and conflicts have taken millions of lives of innocent people and cause terrible hardship and misery for those who survive the attacks; then there are the mass killings and street violence in cities, and even in schools. Yet, despite this terrible state, let us not despair. Indeed, it is in the very nature of human beings that out of tragedy, comes hope and with hope comes determination to change the situation; and we can work to change hatred into friendship, and conflict into harmonious living. Indeed, this was the way of our IALRW predecessors when IALRW was founded, in amidst of the miseries created by the First and the Second World Wars.

Since her foundation, IALRW has happy successful stories on helping women got their rights, helped them improve and empower themselves through education and skills so that they were able to improve their lives and became respected members of society. IALRW will continue to assist women along these lines. Moreover, today, it is enlightening to see that there are also many woman associations working similarly on the needs and issues related to women, and IALRW will cooperate with these groups wherever appropriate. Working with others not only has a greater assurance of accomplishment but it is also a process of educating ourselves and opens up the world to us, making our lives richer and more fulfilling. It should be noted that although IALRW works mainly for woman needs and interests, IALRW however is not gender biased. Indeed, IALRW does have male members and is also a part of IARF (International Association for Religious Freedom) which is an association made up of both women and men and people of all nationality and religion.

Unfortunately, IALRW today does not have enough workforce and nor also enough financial means to carry out as many activities as we hope to do. As such, as President of IALRW, I hereby appeal to our members not only to be dedicated to the course of IALRW but also to invite more people to join IALRW and to help find means to make more money for us so as to enable us to carry out the needed activities, making these activities more meaningful and effective. We need to have a healthy combination of senior and junior members, a combination of experience and stamina, and with a variety of ability and skills. As such we should also have sets of activities that can appeal to different age groups. Thus, IALRW needs to diversify our approaches and broaden our activities to be more appealing to new talents and skills. The world is changing very fast and if we do not adjust accordingly, then IALRW will be irrelevant to the world today. In the context of contributing to society, everyone can contribute within her or his own capacity. Indeed, no one is so humble as to be irrelevant and no good deed is ever redundant. Each and everyone is a special person in her and his own way and, is therefore great in her and his own way. What we need to do is to care and to be friends to those around us, to help others be comfortable and happy.

May we succeed.

Dr. Kamar Oniah Kamaruzaman

President of IALRW,

Tokyo, Japan

21st April 2018