

ABS Greetings

ABS Chair Hiroshi Tsunoi

In the world today, conflicts and competition have become increasingly heated since the end of the Cold War; and humanity is confronting numerous tribulations, including indiscriminate acts of terrorism. What more significant theme could we have, then, than that of this year's Association of Baha'i Studies Conference, "The Prosperity of Humankind"?

The presentations at this year's conference cover four main areas, all of which are essential for the prosperity of humankind: First, a universal language; second, virtues; third, education; and fourth, the rights of groups such as indigenous people. It is our hope that the conference attendees will make the most of this opportunity to fully explore the manifold aspects of this year's important theme.

The Prosperity of Humankind

Jane Goldstone

The concept of global prosperity is presented as one of the four main arenas, together with moral education, human rights and the equality of women, through which the Baha'i Community has been participating in the peace process. The major themes in *The Prosperity of Mankind* statement are discussed in relation to the current situation in Japan. With the realization that material prosperity has failed to bring contentment, the Japanese people are actively seeking ways to develop the kind of spiritual leadership envisioned for them by 'Abdu'l-Baha.