Commendation

Dr. Peter Maurer was born in Switzerland in 1956. After studying history and international law in the Swiss capital of Berne, and receiving his doctorate, he entered the Swiss diplomatic service in 1987. He was appointed Deputy Permanent Observer at the Swiss Mission to the United Nations in New York in 1996. Following this, he was appointed Ambassador and Head of the Human Security Division in the Political Directorate of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne in 2000. In 2004, Dr. Maurer was appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York. In this position, he worked to integrate Switzerland, which had only recently joined the United Nations, into multilateral networks. In June 2009, the UN General Assembly elected Dr. Maurer Chairman of the Fifth Committee, in charge of administrative and budgetary affairs. In addition, he was elected Chairman of the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. In January 2010, Dr. Maurer was appointed Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Berne and took the reins at the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs. He was recognized for his work as a diplomat, and, on July 1, 2012, he succeeded Jakob Kellenberger as the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Established in 1863, the ICRC was responsible for the creation of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. As an impartial, neutral and independent organization, its mission is to protect the lives and dignity of, and provide necessary assistance to, victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. The world holds these activities in high esteem; the ICRC has been the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize on three occasions since the founder of the ICRC Henri Dunant first received the honor in 1901. Presently, under Dr. Maurer's leadership, the ICRC carries out humanitarian work in over 80 countries and regions. After Dr. Maurer assumed the presidency, the ICRC's operational budget grew from 1.1 billion Swiss Francs in 2011 to over 1.8 billion Swiss Francs in 2016, helping the organization to address the needs of victims of conflict and to provide appropriate assistance in unstable armed conflict situations. Through dialog with all the national governments and actors involved in a conflict, the ICRC is able to promote and strengthen international humanitarian law and universal humanitarian norms and principles in order to reduce human suffering. Together with this, through technological advancements and the creation of new partnerships, the ICRC has also been able to discover new and innovative solution strategies and improve the efficacy of humanitarian assistance.

The ICRC has conducted activities in Japan in the past, during the two World Wars. In World War I, the ICRC made visits to camps in Japan and Siberia where prisoners-of-war were being detained. The ICRC established a delegation in Japan (1942-1949) during World War II which engaged in visits to prisoner-of-war camps and provided aid and care to victims of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima. Although it was on the receiving end of assistance from the international community seventy years ago, Japan is now in a position to offer its support to others. Japan is one of the

ICRC's main donors and strategic partners, and, in 2009, the organization opened the ICRC Mission in Tokyo.

Since the opening of the ICRC Tokyo Mission, the ICRC and Waseda University have been working together on sustained initiatives to promote humanitarian values and an understanding of international humanitarian law among the young scholars and students who will define the future of Japan. Beginning in 2010, Waseda University has actively supported the International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition, which aims to deepen students' understanding of international humanitarian law not through the study of theory, but rather through the real world application of the rules that govern armed conflicts. In addition to this, the ICRC and Waseda University began cohosting the Young Reporter Competition in 2016, which offers young people interested in pursuing a career in journalism a chance to learn about conducting journalistic investigations from a humanitarian perspective. Dr. Maurer visited Waseda University when he was in Japan in 2016, and engaged in direct dialog with students interested in journalism about how to solve various humanitarian problems outside Japan, as well as the role of the news media in conveying information about conditions on the ground in conflict zones to the public. Furthermore, the ICRC has accepted many Waseda University students interested in humanitarian assistance and humanitarian law as interns.

The founder of Waseda University, Okuma Shigenobu, and Sano Tsunetami, founder of the Japanese Red Cross Society's predecessor organization the Philanthropic Society, studied together at the Saga Kodokan, and in 1888, Okuma took it upon himself to become a member of the Japanese Red Cross. The humanitarianism that is at the foundation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement lives within the history of Waseda University, as well as in its educational and research undertakings. It is also reflected in our students and alumni, many of whom have gone on to engage in humanitarian work themselves. Because of this, Dr. Maurer should be looked up to as a role model by the entire student body of Waseda University, including international students who come from conflict zones, for his personal commitment to traveling the world to engage in dialog and his tireless efforts in the field of humanitarian assistance. As a university striving to nurture global leaders who will contribute to the achievement of world peace and happiness in human society, this is indeed a fitting occasion to present this Honorary Doctorate to Dr. Maurer.

Waseda University hereby confers the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws upon Dr. Peter Maurer.

Vivat universitas scientiarum! Laudate quem universitas honorabit!

November 20th, 2018

Waseda University