**Letter of Condolence**

We are deeply stunned by the news on that Ms. Rachel Kachaje, DPI-World Chairperson, has passed away.

She was one of the splendid and distinguished leaders of the world disability movement, and enthusiastically committed to realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and full implementation of CRPD. In Malawi, she was appointed as the Minister for Disability and Elderly Affairs in 2013 and directed the country for development of disability policies and improvement of the living of persons with disabilities.

She also had a close relationship with DPI-Japan. She visited Japan for participation into 6th DPI World Assembly in Sapporo in 2002 and JICA training course “Mainstreaming and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Southern Africa” which was organized by DPI-Japan in 2003, respectively, and shared knowledge and experience of disability movements and empowerment of persons with disabilities in southern Africa. Since then, she occasionally supported DPI-Japan’s activities in and for Africa: For continuation of the JICA training course and launch of the project for the establishment of independent living centers in Africa, she gave us valuable comments and suggestions for the plans, and offered us her networks for implementation. In 2016, after elected as the DPI-World Chairperson, she warmly welcomed the delegates from DPI-Japan at DPI-World Assembly in Cairo, Egypt, and discussed the future of disability movements.

At present situation of COVID-19 pandemic, DPI-World and world disability movements need her strong leadership. The sudden loss of her is too huge to us. But we have to move on with her legacy, and continue our movement for realization of our rights and CRPD.

May her soul rest in peace. On behalf of members of DPI-Japan, I would like to convey our deep condolences to her family and friends.

September 4, 2020

Midori Hirano

Chairperson of Disabled Peoples’ International Japan Assembly (DPI-Japan)