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Remarks by Mr. James P. Grant
Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
to
Photo Exhibit - Takeyoshi Tanuma

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The moving photos of Mr. Takeyoshi Tanuma remind me of the ancient poem by Yamanoueno Okura, which I read many years ago:

Silver, gold and jewels
Are to me but trash up-piled;
Treasures are of little worth
Beside the treasure of a child.

The children as seen through the eyes and lens of Mr. Tanuma take on a special meaning, eloquent and evoking not only their world but the world as they see it. Many of the photographs in this exhibition have a further meaning for UNICEF, for they were taken during the travels of Mr. Tanuma with Ms. Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, our Goodwill Ambassador.

Both Ms. Kuroyanagi and Mr. Tanuma for many years have been valuable partners of UNICEF and have visited to many countries on UNICEF missions since 1984. We all admire and respect Ms. Kuroyanagi's tireless efforts advocating for the cause of children. They have seen -- and you will see recorded here -- the delights of children and the sadness of all too many.

For life is harsh for children in developing countries. Some 40,000 die each day from malnutrition and childhood diseases that could largely be prevented. A third of families in the rural villages of the developing world do not have clean water or hygienic sanitation. Some 100 million children of school age never attend schools. Mothers and children are the primary victims of the wars still taking place in many parts of the world.

There is new hope for these children and all children of the world: the Convention on the Rights of the Child guarantees them a better life in nearly all areas crucial to their well-being. At the 1990 World Summit for Children, world leaders pledged to make a reality of these rights and to achieve concrete goals in the 1990s for the betterment of children's lives.

In viewing these photos, you will gain a sense of what needs to be done for the children of the world, and how we can all join together in accomplishing that valuable task. I sincerely hope that in visiting this exhibit at Konica Plaza you will come to share the vision of the world of Takeyoshi Tanuma and Tetsuko Kuroyanagi. In coming to feel that "every child is my child", you can become a part of the Grand Alliance for Children and join hands with UNICEF in helping those children of the world who are in greatest need.

James P. Grant
Executive Director
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