

To: Michiko Nakayama

To Our Friends and Associates in Japan

It has been a while since I was posted in Tokyo with the New York Times, but I continue to follow the news in Japan with keen interest.

As many of you may already know, my journalistic concerns are often focused on humanitarian issues in developing countries and conflict areas. Dr. Hamlin and her hospital are emblematic both of the humanitarian needs and of our capacity to fill them. In fact my upcoming book, "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for the World's Women," co-written with my wife, Sheryl WuDunn, discusses the activities of the Hamlin Fistula Group in much detail.

I applaud the fact that Hamlin Fistula Japan, whose activities I have supported since its early inception, is making an important step in raising awareness in Japan on behalf of the girls and women with obstetric fistula around the world.

My wife and I apologize that we cannot be present to celebrate the 50th anniversary event with you, but send our sincerest regards.



Nicholas Kristof
New York Times