

The 7th ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies

“Towards an Inclusive Society”

*Strengthening the collaboration between social welfare, health and medical systems
for Children with Disabilities*

31 August - 3 September 2009, Tokyo

Overall Summary with photos



The Seventh ASEAN and Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies under the theme of “Towards an Inclusive society” was held from 31 August to 3 September 2009, in Tokyo Japan, hosted by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Government of Japan (MHLW Japan), in collaboration with the ASEAN secretariat, the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO/WPRO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

With the aim of enhancing ASEAN and Japans close collaboration with the health and social welfare fields, we shared views and ideas and had a valuable exchange of knowledge, experiences, lessons learnt and good practices especially towards “strengthening the collaboration between social welfare, health and medical systems for children with disabilities”.

We also have visited Yokohama Rehabilitation Center and other facilities providing health and welfare services for children with disabilities in Yokohama City. During the study visit, many good practices have been observed and discussed, particularly for children with disabilities in response to their individual conditions and developmental stages, within their communities.

The proceedings and outcomes of this meeting are shown in the ANNEX as agreements and recommendations.

Day 1: Monday, 31 August 2009

Plenary Session

Mr. Taro Muraki, Assistant minister for International Affairs MHLW Japan, welcomed the participants to The 7th ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies. He stated that this meeting is a means to share knowledge that will further strengthen cooperation between ASEAN countries and Japan to overcome present and emerging challenges, in particular, on how to build a caring society in which children with disabilities live in healthy ways.



Mr. Nobuyuki Takakura, Deputy Assistant Minister for International Affairs, MHLW Japan, made a speech under the title of “ASEAN-Japan Collaboration in the Development of Health and Welfare Services” and noted that the MHLW recognizes ASEAN’s tremendous challenges with identifying potential areas for ASEAN+3 cooperation on health and social welfare as a basis for developing joint activities. He stated that Japan seeks to strengthen linkage between Japanese programs and the potential areas for ASEAN+3 cooperation on health and social welfare.

Prof. Yasuhide Nakamura, Professor, Department of International Collaboration, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University, held a keynote speech under the title of “Toward a Coexistence Society: from the perspective of maternal and child health.” He introduced the history of Japan’s progress during these 60 years on MCH and children with disabilities.



Prof. Hideharu Uemura, Director, Social Work Research Institute, Japan College of Social Work, held a keynote speech under the title of “Toward the Full Participation and Equality - Social Welfare for Children with Disabilities -.” He introduced situations surrounding the children and people with disabilities in Japan.

Dr. Daisuke Tanaka, Deputy Director, Office of International Cooperation, International Affairs Division, Minister’s Secretariat, MHLW, recapitulated the previous meeting to follow up the progression of the meeting.



During the country presentation session, each country presented its current situation, systems and measures, problems to be solved, the ideal measures regarding children with disabilities, and challenges and actions for future collaboration between health and welfare.

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Day 2: Tuesday, 1 September 2009

Study visit in Yokohama City.



Day 3: Wednesday, 2 September 2009

Plenary Session

Dr. Donald Tambunan, Head of Social Welfare, Women, Labour and Migrant Workers Division, ASEAN Secretariat introduced the "Overview of the ASEAN Cooperation on Children Welfare." In his presentation, he introduced the ASEAN Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan



Strategic Framework and Plan of Action, the Socio Cultural Community Blueprint, and initiatives and situations of ASEAN on children with disabilities.



Ms. Remedios Paulino, Technical Officer, Division of Building Healthy Communities and Populations, World Health Organization, Western Pacific Regional Office presented the efforts of WPRO under the title of “Injury and disability prevention among children: to thrive as they survive.” She comprehensively stated WHO approaches for children with disabilities.

Ms. Aiko Akiyama, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) introduced actions of UN ESCAP under the title of “Issues on children with disabilities in ASEAN in the light of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).” She introduced the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities incorporating the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the role of UNESCAP.



Dr. Yoko Isobe, Associate Expert, Social Security Division, Higher Education and Social Security Group, Human Development Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) presented activities of JICA as “JICA : Disability, Development and Inclusive Education.” She introduced the JICA’s vision on disabilities: “full participation and equality”, and gave some examples by introducing some projects.

Group Discussion

The following themes were discussed earnestly, during the group discussion session. Each group consisted of approximately the same number of participants from both health and social welfare sectors.

Group1: “The collaborations between social welfare and health over children with disabilities.”

Chair: Ms. Lai Poh Guat (Malaysia),

Rapporteur: Ms. Amy Ting (Singapore)

Presenter: Dr. Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial (Philippines)

Facilitator: Prof. Yasuhide Nakamura, Department of International Collaboration, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University

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Japanese Representatives: Ms. Yukiko Nakanishi, Technical Advisor, ASEAN Cooperation Project, Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development,
Prof. Shinjiro Nozaki, Vice Director, Center for International, Collaborative Research, Nagasaki University
Dr. Ryo Takagi, Deputy Director for service planning Division for the Persons with Disabilities, MHLW.



Group2: *"The possibilities of international cooperation and collaboration of ASEAN countries as it ought to be."*

Chair: Ms. Lawalhati Pablo (Philippines)

Rapporteur: Mr. Rattawoot Nanthaikuakool (Thailand)

Presenter: Dr. Aminah Bee bt. Mohd Kassim (Malaysia)

Facilitator: Prof. Hideharu Uemura, Director, Social Work Research Institute, Japan College of Social Work

Japanese representatives: Prof. Soya Mori, Senior Research Fellow, Deputy Director, Poverty Alleviation and Social Development Studies Group, Inter-Disciplinary Studies Center, IDE-JETRO

Ms. Etsuko Ueno, Director, International Relations Division, Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD).

