

## *The 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

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.

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 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. Pauly Jean Rosell-Ubial (Philippines)

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

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 Nanthakuakool (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).

Day 4: Thursday, 3 September 2009

Plenary Session

On behalf of Group 1, Dr. Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial reported on the group discussion. She mentioned that the bottom line of the discussion was that collaboration should be done on an inter-disciplinary and multi-sectoral level and that challenges faced include limited human resources, lack of national coordinating mechanisms, lack of national plans of action, and limited follow-through from policy to implementation. The identified measures that need to be developed and issues arising from implementation of measures were reported and the recommended follow-up items on both national and regional levels were also presented.

Dr. Aminah Bee bt. Mohd Kassim, serving as the Group 2 presenter, remarked that the Group 2 discussion had the objective of identifying the possibilities for international cooperation and collaboration between ASEAN countries on children with disabilities. She presented on the guiding principles for all initiatives and best practices for regional cooperation identified through the group discussion. She stated that the Group 2 members agreed on the necessity of capacity building at the implementation level for practitioners, professionals and PWDs and its related organizations in the technical, programmatic and financial management areas.

General Overview of the 7th Meeting

The following are the final remarks from each country and each participant.

Brunei: With regard to the issue of CWDs, to see that the problems we face in Brunei are shared by other countries is something that is heartening. I hope we will all be successful in our endeavours.

Cambodia: The presentations were very informative and the opportunity to share information and best practices is truly valuable. We seek to implement all the recommendations made in the group discussion sessions and ask for your continued cooperation. We would like to thank the organizers and the team of people for bringing this meeting to a successful close.

Indonesia: During this meeting we learned more from ASEAN countries and Japan concerning programs being implemented that target CWDs. The meeting has provided inspiration to increase support for CWDs. One of the concrete recommendations could be for concrete cooperation between various ministries. We would like to thank the organizers for conducting the 7th ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies.

Lao PDR: We would like to thank the organizers for organizing this meeting, which

provided an excellent opportunity to share information. When we visited Yokohama on day two of the program, we visited a centre for children with intellectual disabilities and saw how these children are treated in Japan. We would like to request further support from JICA and other bodies in the form of technical cooperation.

Malaysia: This meeting was an excellent forum for discussion and identifying future plans. We agree with the recommendations that have been formulated and will endeavour to see that they are implemented in Malaysia. We would like to further enhance support for families, similar to the support programs we witnessed in Yokohama during the field visit. We would like to achieve a staffing ratio similar to that of Japan, although the realization of such a goal may take time.

Myanmar: We would like to express our thanks to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan for organizing this meeting. During the meeting participants have been able to share information and experiences on providing care and support for CWDs. The outcomes of the meeting have been most beneficial for all participants.

Philippines: We would like to thank the government of Japan for organizing this meeting. Our vision for Philippine society is improved quality of life, particularly for the disadvantaged sector of society and the vulnerable, including PWDs and CWDs. Although the Philippines has a strong legal framework for PWDs, implementation is lacking and we need to give our programs further focus. We need to coordinate all functions and services for PWDs and CWDs. Our visit to Yokohama provided further inspiration and will give us something to aim for as we set out to provide better services.

Singapore: This meeting has been a wonderful assembly. Through site visit, we found that Japan has achieved complete integration of health and social care services. What was most impressive of special school was the quality of teaching and the quality of interaction. The smiles of the children reflected the success that has been achieved at this school. Our thanks go to the organizer for ensuring the success of this meeting.

Thailand: We would like to thank the organizers for their efforts in organizing this meeting. We have learned a lot from Japan and ASEAN colleagues. It would be a good idea to hold other forums for sharing best practices. Thailand would be happy to host a forum on best practices, with support from ASEAN and Japan. The visit to Yokohama rehabilitation center was a real eye-opener for us and provided pointers for future actions. We too would like to combine health and welfare services, as has been achieved in Japan.

Vietnam: At this meeting we exchange experiences among nations about collaboration between social welfare and health in caring for CDWs. We will move forward with a review of the MCH handbook system. Measures for CDWs will be incorporated into the National Plan of Action for Children. Vietnam would like technical assistance from Japan and ASEAN to conduct research on the prevention of child mental health.

WPRO: I think all of us will be leaving this meeting richer in knowledge, experience and also in friends. Please do not forget to incorporate the building of safer environments for children in your national action plans.

ASEAN Secretariat: This is an extremely useful forum for sharing experience and I would like to thank all countries for your participation and input. We are particularly happy that we have come up with concrete recommendations and look forward to more achievements. It should be stressed that this meeting is a very important one as it provides a way to realize the vision of a caring and sharing community in ASEAN by 2015. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan is to be thanked for its efforts in organizing this meeting.

Prof. Nozaki: I am very happy to participate in this meeting, this time in my capacity as a professor of Nagasaki University. I believe that this meeting now has the power to make proposals and offers continuity on policy issues. I make a request to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to continue this meeting, in view of the results that have been achieved to date. I would like to thank all participants for their valuable contributions.

Prof. Uemura: This meeting has been extremely fruitful and productive. I am head of a research institute and in Japan we are finding that the aging society is presenting new and unique challenges. ASEAN countries will face similar issues in the future and this kind of meeting provides a valuable forum for sharing information on expertise and best practices. It is important for us to continue to cooperate to enhance services to PWDs.

Prof. Nakamura: I would like to express my thanks to all of you. This is a truly valuable experience to share information. I hope that the discussions we have engaged in have provided new ideas or inspiration to you all. Special thanks go to Dr. Takei for chairing the meeting. This meeting also provides an opportunity to strengthen our face-to-face network.

## Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

The recommendations of both groups were synthesized into a single set of recommendations, which should be this meeting's recommendation. The agreements and recommendation is shown in the ANNEX.

## Closing Remarks

Dr. Masato Mugitani, Assistant Minister for Global Health, MHLW Japan, thanked all the participants on behalf of MHLW for their cooperation during the meeting. He stated that through the discussions, the participants could learn from each others' experiences and could receive good perspectives for policy coordination strategies, and that this meeting will strengthen linkages and cooperation between the health and welfare sectors in ASEAN countries. Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned.