

Day 4: Thursday, 3 September 2009

Plenary Session

On behalf of Group 1, Dr. Paulyne 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



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

31 August - 3 September 2009, Tokyo

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.