

**Japan Academy of Community Health Nursing (JACHN)
Established: October 15, 1997**

JACHN Newsletter No.9

NEWS FROM JACHN

Greetings and Messages



**Sachiyo Murashima
President of JACHN
The University of Tokyo**

It is a great privilege for me to serve as President of the Japan Academy of Community Health Nursing (JACHN) for the next 3 years from August 8, 2009.

JACHN was established on October 15, 1997. Our goals are to promote academic development and education of community health nursing and to contribute to people's health and welfare. For leverage, we hold annual conferences, publish semi-annual journals, and issue the JACHN Newsletter (in English).

We have set up committees to help us work toward our goals: the Editorial Board, the Committee for the Promotion of Research Activities, the Publicity Committee, the Education Committee, the Committee for Promoting International Exchange Activities, the Science Council of Japan and Other Related Committee, and the Policy Proposing Committee for Social Insurance Union Society Related Nursing. The Selection Committee for Outstanding Manuscript Awards was newly formed in 2008 to recognize activities in community health nursing by giving awards for quality articles.

In 2007, the symposium "Innovation of Community Health Nursing - Future Role of JACHN" was held to commemorate the 10th anniversary, and a section summarizing the activities and the history of the academy over the ten years was created. We have embarked on the next decade. Our academy now has more than 1,200 members, and we welcome your advice to help us make further progress.

JACHN covers the areas of public health nursing (public health nursing for municipalities, occupational health nursing, school health nursing) as well as home care nursing.

Regarding the circumstances surrounding JACHN, the Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses was amended on July 9, 2009, extending the training period for licensed public health nurses (PHNs) from six months to one year. In addition, a new path was created for the exclusive education of registered nurses during the four-year curriculum of nursing colleges and universities. On the other hand, social issues such as widening disparity, increase in the number of suicides, and work-related disease are worsening and thus more highly skilled PHNs are required. The importance of industrial PHNs is also increasing. Meanwhile, home care nursing needs to be urgently improved to raise the level of medical and health care service. Education on advanced practical skills, including expanding the role of nurses, is essential.

JACHN will continue to make even greater contributions to modern society. We seek to make active proposals to society based on evidence from social action programs and research. We hope to discuss with our members how we can better fulfill our responsibilities.

Your continued support and guidance would be greatly appreciated.

Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses Is Revised!

On July 9, 2009, “the Bill for the Partial Revision of the Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses and the Act on Assurance of Work Forces of Nurses and Other Medical Experts” was passed at a plenary session of the House of Representatives and became act. This act will take effect in April 2010. This revision concerns the following three points.

- (1) The period of education for public health nurses and midwives was increased from “six months or more” to “one year or more”;
- (2) “Graduates of ‘a university/college’” shall be the first category to be specified in the list of persons possessing qualifications to take the national board examination for nurses;
- (3) Post-graduate clinical training was made a “mandatory effort.”

Behind this revision is the increased diversification and sophistication of the abilities demanded of public health nurses, midwives and nurses, respectively. This is the result of the expansion and diversification of the demands for medical treatment, public health and public welfare that accompany the increased sophistication of medical treatment, the declining birth rate and the aging of society in Japan, as well as factors such as the increased complexity of the structure of diseases resulting from the diversification people’s lifestyles.

1. Improving the Quality of Public Health Nurses and Midwives

The period of education required to be qualified to take the national board examinations to become public health nurses and midwives used to be “six months or more.” However, under the revision concerned, this period has been extended to “one year or more.” Therefore, curriculum enrichment based on this change will be encouraged, thereby improving the quality and abilities of public health nurses and midwives (Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses, Article 19, Article 20).

In the case of public health nurses, the extension of the education period was essential when considered based on the expansion of their role demanded by duties such as abuse prevention, health crisis management and the prevention of lifestyle-related diseases. As a result of the concerned revision, many universities are reviewing their heretofore integrated curriculum for public health nurses and registered nurses. Conventional universities for nursing studies used to have all students acquire two types of licenses in four years. However, hereafter the course of study for registered nurses will be separate from the course of study for public health nurses; thereby making it possible for universities to have diverse options, such as offering a system that will have students select a course or offering these as postgraduate courses or as graduate school master’s degree courses.

2. Toward Nursing Education Centering on University Education

In the concerned revision of the act, “graduates who have taken the course of study required for nurses at a four-year university” shall be the first category to be specified in the list of persons possessing qualifications to take the national board examination for registered nurses. Until now, listed first under the national board examination qualifications for registered nurses were the graduates of “universities, junior colleges and high schools and the postgraduate courses of applicable high schools (five-year comprehensive courses) designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.” Listed second were graduates of “nursing schools designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.” (Items listed third and fourth have been omitted.) The concerned revision does not change the existing qualifications to take the national board examinations. However, especially by specifying four-year universities in Item 1, it can be said that the revision clearly presents the direction hereafter of shifting the core of nursing education to universities. This will contribute toward further improving the quality and abilities of nurses and securing human resources, which are the goals in view of the rapid increase in nursing studies universities and a society that is increasingly higher education oriented, whose birth rate is declining and whose population is aging. (Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses, Article 21).

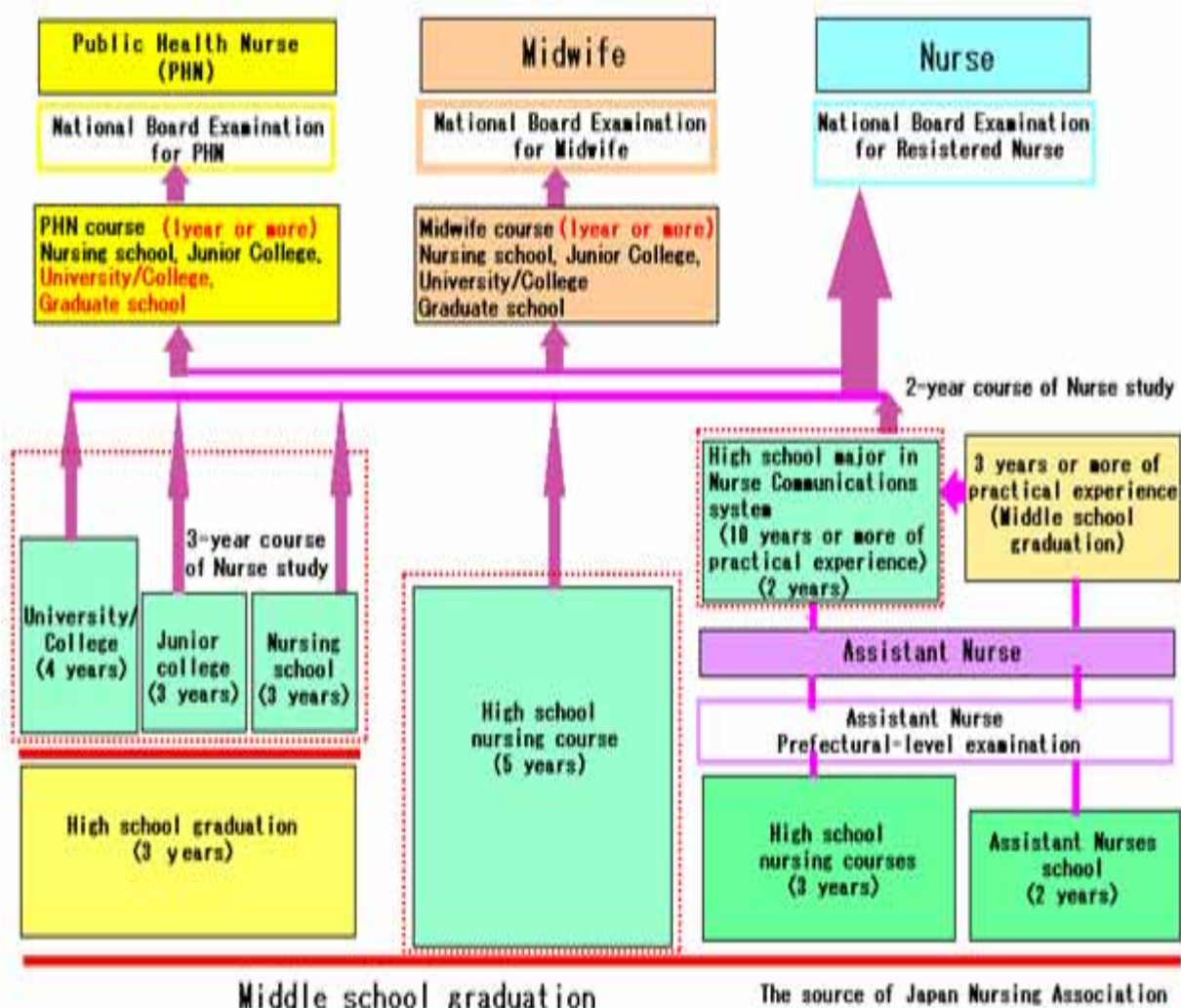
3. Post-graduate Clinical and Training Made a “Mandatory Effort”

Furthermore, the revision makes it a “mandatory effort” for both the nursing professional and employer to endeavor to undertake clinical study and training after acquiring a license to be a public health nurse, midwife or registered nurse. In other words, the act specifies that even after graduation individuals must endeavor to receive study and training and improve their abilities in order to work as a nursing professional. It is anticipated that by implementing these clinical study and training programs, the practical abilities of nursing professionals will improve and early resignations will be reduced (Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses, Article 28) (Act on Assurance of Work Forces of Nurses and Other Medical Experts, Article 3, Article 4, Article 5, Article 6).

It is hoped that as a result of these revisions of the concerned acts, education and study will be linked and of high quality from the basic education level to the present, and that this will foster public health nurses, midwives and registered nurses who protect the life and health of people.

Nursing Education System in Japan (Diagram)

The nursing profession in Japan, which requires that professionals pass the relevant national board examination, is composed of three categories, public health nurses, midwives and registered nurses. As the diagram below illustrates, there are various courses to the acquisition of the respective licenses.





The 4th ICCHNR Conference “Health in transition: Researching for the Future” was held in Adelaide, South Australia on 16th-19th, August, 2009

Setsu Shimanouchi , International University of Health and Welfare
Sally Kendall , University of Hertfordshire

1. The conference was held at Adelaide Convention Center in Australia. It was hosted by the Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) of South Australia. The chairperson was David Meldrum: Director, and Meldrum Consulting. Dr Debbie Kralik of RDNS was the Chair of the organizing committee and Professor Rosamund Bryar and Professor Sally Kendall have played important roles as Conveners of ICCHNR from UK. The conference was four years after the 3rd ICCHNR in Tokyo.

A total of 367 people from 26 countries registered and attended the conference. Among them 150 participants were from Australia, 94 from Japan, 36 from United Kingdom, 21 from Korea, 10 from USA, 8 from Thailand, 7 from New Zealand, 5 from Canada and 4 from Hong Kong.

2. The theme of the program was health in transition. . A number of keynote speakers were invited to present aspects of their research that represented different perspectives on transition. Participants were invited to attend breakfast and dinner sessions on 17-19th where they could speak and discuss issues with the keynote speakers.

There were 176 general oral research presentations and 157 poster presentations. Among them, 18 oral presentations and 92 posters were by Japanese nurses. The Lisbeth Hockey prizes awarded for the best oral presentation and the best poster were both awarded to Japanese participants.

Finally, we held a symposium themed “Disaster-Now What.” That addressed many aspects of health care and transitions associated with natural and man-made disasters.

3. We had an impressive time and enjoyed the activities within the conference program provided by the participants. We also had a good time in Adelaide. It is a very beautiful city within a green park.
4. Although the 5th ICCHNR has not yet been announced, a n International Symposium will be held by University of Alberta in Edmonton City, Canada in 2011. Full details will be on the ICCHNR website, www.icchnr.org.ukT

I look forward to meeting you all there.



Impressions from Young Researchers



Participation in ICCHNR

Sayaka Kotera, Okayama University
Saori Iwamoto, Kobe City College of Nursing

The 4th International Conference on Community Health Nursing Research was held from the 16th to the 20th August, 2009 in Adelaide, which is the capital city of South Australian State.

We saw that downtown Adelaide had been rezoned effectively. It was full of lush, green trees and grass. Public transportation facilities were developed and there are a lot of cultural facilities such as museums and art museums in Adelaide. It was a nice town.

There were many participants in this conference, coming from all parts of the world. Countries such as Australia, the host country of this conference, and Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, Thailand, South Korea, to name a few. We saw many Japanese participants at the conference, and we talked with each other in Japanese. Many Japanese participants made oral and poster presentations. Abroad we felt close to the same Japanese participants that we would have been acquainted with during similar academic conferences in Japan. Of course we had a good time with the overseas participants. It was a great opportunity to exchange information and learn the current community nursing situations in other countries.

During the opening ceremony, Aborigine's traditional dance and music were performed. Especially, a peculiar style of the native musical instrument named Didgeridoo [dei:juridou:] was impressive. A lecture concerning Aboriginal healthcare was provided. It reported that many Aborigines were still experiencing racial discrimination, and this situation made their mental health worsen. We were able to study a health related problem within a different culture and custom in countries and current states of the activity at the conference in spite of our linguistic handicaps. We would like the chance to learn about more cultural contexts and a health related problems in various countries by participating in the next ICCHNR conference.

At the end of this conference, we visited Kangaroo Island and saw a wild kangaroo, the koala, and the sea dog. Those experiences excited us greatly. We were impressed by wonderful nature in Australia. We have strong feelings that we would like to visit this great country again.

Participation in the 4th International Conference on Community Health Nursing Research

Emiko Kusano, Senri Kinran University

During the midst of intense heat in Japan, I visited Adelaide, Australia for the first time, where even in winter, the climate was mild and not too cold. Participating in the 4th International Conference on Community Health Nursing Research stimulated me.

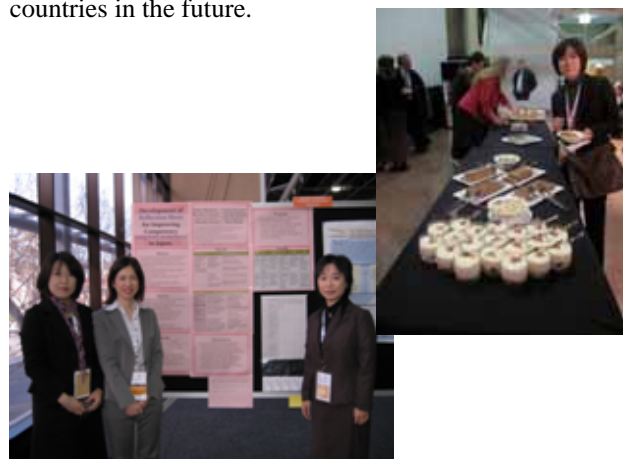
When I visited the international conference held at Adelaide Convention Center, I felt nervous for a moment as a young researcher. Though I could not make myself understood in English, I felt the enthusiasm for research from the overseas participants during the discussions within the poster hall and oral presentations. Young researchers especially impressed me, and motivated my own research.

Moreover, it was possible to become acquainted with Japanese researchers doing research related to my topic at this conference. I was surprised that one of them, my age made an oral presentation. It is thought that opinions can be exchanged even in Japan from now on.

Through participation in this conference, I am reminded of my poor English abilities all over again. (I always think the same thing whenever I go to other countries...) If it were in Japanese, I could have discussed more and become involved more. I would like to challenge myself to give an oral presentation some time in the future.

When reflecting on my work, I am reminded every day, that my view tends to be narrower in Japan. Participation in this conference was a good opportunity to refresh myself by touching the bountiful nature and different cultures of Australia, to look my research conducted in Japan once again and to get motivated by researchers of my own age.

People say it may be a grand dream, however, I wish I could conduct research with researchers from various countries in the future.



Purpose and Action of Committees for the Term of the 2009 to 2011 Fiscal Year

Editorial Board

Misako Miyazaki

Graduate School of Nursing, Chiba University

The Journal of Japan Academy of Community Health Nursing is the official journal of Japan Academy of Community Health Nursing (JACHN). The journal is issued twice a year, which publishes authoritative peer-reviewed articles. It provides original article, review article, preliminary report, community health nursing report, and information and letter. It is an essential resource to improve practice, education and research on community health nursing.

Editorial Board has 4 action plans as follows in the next 3 years (2009-2011):

1. Ensuring the quality of referee reading by establishing a clearer set of referee standards
2. Providing rapid and adequate peer-review by encouraging closer cooperation with the editorial board members and the referees
3. Enriching the contents of articles of the journal
4. Considering the possibilities of introducing electronic submission and acceptance system of research papers

Committee for the Promotion of Research Activities

Kiyomi Asahara

St. Luke's College of Nursing

The purpose of this committee is two-fold: promote research activities of the Japan Academy of Community Health Nursing (JACHN) members and encourage collaboration between members and nurses who work in the community.

The activities for 2009-2011 fiscal years are as follows:

1. Conducting the research seminar at the annual meeting at JACHN or another more accessible location place that enables members and nurses to come together. Contents of the research seminars are EBN/EBHC, action research, qualitative research, social epidemiology, ethics for conducting research, and useful knowledge and techniques for publication such as a way of answering to review comments and writing paper in English.
2. Promoting collaborative research among members and nurses.

Publicity Committee

Toshiko Tada

The University of Tokushima

We have three purpose, those are promotion of publicity work, support of each committee action and support of academic meeting.

An action plan (the next 3 years) is as follows;

1. *Update contents of our homepage and a new informational publication:* We have requests such as modification and update, a new information publication from the board of directors and each committee.
2. *Support of committee action:* We inform an academic meeting member of a report from each committee.
3. *Support of academic meeting:* We provide information about an academic meeting that is held every year.

Because the Publicity Committee always wants to receive information/opinion from members, please contact us whenever you are necessary. We hope to increase members of academic meeting.

Education Committee

Miyoko Uza

University of the Ryukyus

The purpose of the Education Committee of the Japanese Academy of Community Health Nursing (JACHN) is to promote academic development of the community health nursing (public health nursing, occupational health nursing, home care nursing, and school health nursing) through reexamination of the community health nurse education system and its curriculum after the revision of the Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives, and Nurses.

Action Plans:

1. The committee will examine the community health nurse curriculum and its education contents within basic nursing education.
2. The committee will examine the role of JACHN in improving public health nurse education.
3. Based on the above mentioned two action plans, the committee will provide recommendations regarding the revision of the community health nurse education system and its curriculum reflecting the revised Act of Public Health Nurses, Midwives, and Nurses.

Committee for Promoting International Exchange Activities

Reiko Okamoto

Graduate School of Health Sciences,
Okayama University

The purpose of this committee is to promote the international exchange activities for community health nursing practice, research and education.

Action plans for 2009-2011 are as follows:

1. Issuing the JACHN newsletter in English once a year to inform about JACHN activities and the latest trend in community health nursing affairs of Japan.
2. Holding a Japan and Korea Joint Conference on Community Health Nursing every four years. The second conference will be held at Tokyo/ Japan in 2011.
3. Organizing an international seminar once during this period. The committee intends to invite a foreign researcher.
4. Promoting an international network-building in cooperation with International Conferences on Community Health Nursing Research (ICCHNR) and other associations.

Policy Proposing Committee for Social Insurance Union Society Related Nursing

Kumiko Ii

Japanese Nursing Association

This committee was established for the purpose of developing policy proposals for social insurance and the fee structure to cover nursing care services to community residents receiving home care based on the evidence. The committee will be study policy proposals for revision in 2012 of social insurance.

*Abolition of a frequency restriction of home care by nurse

*A raise of fee for home care by nursing

*Set a high valuation on arrangement of special nurses

We will conduct a investigation to JACHN members as occasion demand.

Science Council of Japan and Other Related Committee

Michiko Konishi

Gifu College of Nursing

Action Plan and Activities

1. Activities as a member of the Japan Association of Nursing Academies (JANA)

Attendance to the general annual meeting, gathering information and reporting it to the board of directors and members.

Publication of newsletters, administration of the homepage, organization of symposiums and collaboration with the Science Council of Japan.

2. Science Council of Japan activities

One council member and 15 members from the nursing sciences field belong to human life sciences fields on Science Council of Japan. The human life sciences fields deal with nursing problems, public health, elderly and life-style related illnesses. We are exchange of necessary information to work in cooperation with the Science council of Japan and similar organizations, such as The Alliance of Japan Public Health Sciences. It greatly contributes to community health nursing by rising discussion on the position of public health nurses.

Selection Committee for Outstanding Manuscript Awards

Kayoko Hirano

Tohoku University School of Health Sciences

Activity Planning

2009

The committee operates with the editing committee to determine a selection methods (a sphere of entry articles, criteria for selection, and a member of a selection committee) and honorary members, and it also award for the selected personnel.

·discussion and determination on an article selection process

·discussion on a plan of certification

·discussion on honorary member selection criteria and a honorary membership card

2010

·award ceremony of the selected articles

·selection of honorary members and presentation of the honorary membership cards

2011

·determination on the selected articles

·selection of honorary members

The 13th Annual Research Conference of JACHN

We include the 13th annual conference of JACHN 2010. The main theme of the conference is "Propose the policy for reforming health disparity of society by the community health nursing". Speeches, symposiums, oral and poster presentation, round table session and workshops will be planned to allow members to present their practical exercise as well as results of educational and research activities, and to exchange opinions on them.

We look forward to the participation of our members and many other people to ensure a successful conference and contribution to community health nursing.

Date: 10-11 July, 2010

Venue: Hokkaido Citizens Activities Promotion Center
Nishi 7-chome, Kita 2-jo, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, 060-0002, Japan
<http://www.kaderu27.or.jp/index.htm>

Chairperson: Kazuko Saeki (Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Hokkaido University)

Program

- First day, 10 July (Sat)
 - Chairperson's speech: Kazuko Saeki
- "Evidence-based health program and policy"
 - Symposium
 - Oral and poster presentation and work shops
 - Banquet
- Second day, 11 July (Sun)
 - Educational Speech
 - Oral and poster presentation and work shops
 - Mini Symposium
 - Round table session

For further information:

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