

JssP

Safe Community Network News

By Japanese Society of Safety Promotion

TOPICS Vol.021 1 st Nov 2009	
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1. Report of The 3rd Annual JssP Conference

This network-k news would like to introduce the impression of The 3rd Annual JssP conference which Ms. Mieko Matsuda (Participant) contributed, and the presentation Prof Lu Pai gave us at international symposium.

The Impression of activities for suicide prevention in each community

I really learned a lot of things from a sectional meeting of suicide prevention at the 3rd Annual JssP Conference.

Prof. Yutaka Motohashi's words " Mr. Hakamada (Buddhist priest in Akita) , who is the leading figure of suicide prevention in Akita, is worried, because he realized that suicide is decreasing but people who is thinking to want to die never decrease" impressed me. Prof. Yutaka Motohashi (Akita University) is the top expert of suicide prevention in Japan.

Prof. Toru Takizawa showed a students' activity for making the place that elderly can have a good time. As I was very surprised that the rate of suicide has decreased drastically by the activity, Prof. Yoshiyuki Watanabe (Kyoto prefectural medical university) just asked him why it decreased such drastically. The answer was "It is maybe the effect that public nurses visit all the elderly houses and talked with them about their troubles when surveillance". I was impressed again by the ability of public nurses. At the same time, the answer let me reconfirmed the importance of hearing directly from the subjects on a surveillance and a screening.



Key-Note Speech, Prof. Motohasi

Moreover Prof. Watanabe said "Important thing of surveillance is to get hold of each subjects by signing each subjects name, not only getting hold of a quantity and rate. I really agree with what he said.

On the other meeting, a case in one community was showed. In the community, if the elderly who live alone dose not get up late morning, a neighbor give that person call "It's time to go to hospital". If it begins raining during that person's absence, a neighbor gets in the house and brings washing into house freely. What makes me surprise was that suicide is actually no one in the community.



I think such function of community does not match with community in urban area respecting others privacy, but that has the point to prevent suicide. (Ms. Mie Matsuda, Kyoto Prefectural Public Mental Health Center, Kyoto, Japan)

Report of Presentaionn; Gradually Expanded Safe Community Movement –Taiwanese Experience- Lu Pai, Director, Taiwanese Community Safety Promotion Center

Safe Community movement was introduced to Taiwan in 2002, after the 1st Asian Regional Conference on Safe Community held in Suwon Korea. Safe Community was started to conduct as

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national project. In order to expand Safe Community into all over Taiwan, four difference type communities were appointed as pilot areas.

1. Neihu; a metropolitan community, Population 270,000
2. Dungshu; an agricultural community, Population 50,000
3. Fengbin; a seaside aboriginal community. Population 6,000
4. Alishan, upland aboriginal tribes, Population 1,500

And then these four communities have been designated as Safe Community in 2005, under a guidance of Prof. Lu Pai and the others. In these communities, activities taking the most of resource in each community have been conducting, and capable leaders were brought up in each community, through developing Safe Community. And then the glory of the designation induced a lot of community getting interested in joining the movement.

In order to deal with surged needs for assistance in developing community safety programs, Taiwanese Community Safety Promotion Center (TCSPC) was established. TCSPC has four support centers in the north, the middle, the south and the east, the support centers assist community and expand community safety program.



International Symposium

In 2008, three communities; Zongzheng, Shoufeng, Shihkang, were designated. Community safety programs are expanding rapidly in Taiwan.

The challenge they are facing now is the decreasing budget from central government. Looking for financial support from local government and/or big enterprise is underway. Hopefully, a NGO foundation can be established to support the gradually expanded safe community movement in solid sustainable way.

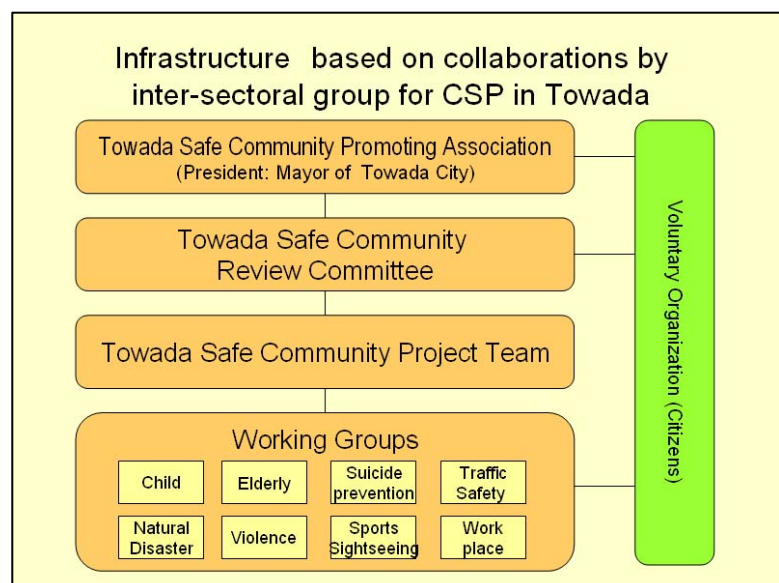
Safe community movement in Taiwan is that voluntary participation and activities of residents are very active. Movement residents lead themselves be helpful to your community in developing safe community movement. Visit and study Safe Community in Taiwan. (Reference; Presentation of Prof. Lu Pai in Towada, Japan)

2.. Towada Community Safety Program -1-

Activities of Towada City designated as 159th Safe Community will be showed serially in this Network News.

This is the first one. I would like to show promoting organization in Towada.

Promoting structure of Towada consists of 4 organizations, as you can see in right figure. The top of the system is Towada Safe Community Association, and Towada Safe Community Review Committee, Towada Safe Community Project Team, Working Groups are under that. This structure's characteristic is what voluntary organization is put in the structure as skewering each section.



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To avoid government taking the initiative, government and voluntary organization build a joint structure to carry out activities more effective by dint of making voluntary organization have important role of promoting Safe Community. Voluntary organization has been continuing a grass-root movement and helping Towada City Government.

Introducing each organizations, Towada Safe Community Association was organized by representatives of the related field, such as a public health, a welfare, a education, a crime prevention, a disaster prevention, a government so on. The president of the association is Mayor of Towada City. This association decides on their policy and makes various programs promote in collaboration with the related organizations and residents.



Towada Safe Community Promoting Association

Towada Safe Community Review Committee was organized by the chief of the related division in Towada City Government and voluntary organization. The president of the committee is the chief of department of health and welfare Towada City Government. The committee discusses about subjects and findings from each working groups, and makes a plan and programs to promote safe community.

Project Team is an internal organization of City Government, and makes an inter-sectoral coordination of activities for Safe Community among each section.

In Working Groups, there are 8 groups of the related area: Child, Elderly, Suicide prevention, Traffic safety, Natural disaster, Violence prevention, Sports and Sightseeing, Work place.

Each Working Groups discuss about effective activities in each areas. Moreover Working Group also carries out each activity with the related organization, voluntary organization and citizens.

This is the promoting structure in Towada. As I said, Voluntary Organization has a important role in each section, and help activities for safe community.

By the way, this voluntary organization's name is "Organization to make Towada become the member of Safe Community". But, as Towada already has become the member, they are wondering to change name. "Organization which made Towada became the member of Safe Community". How do you think?

Introduction: Japanese Program for Safety Promotion

Bullying prevention (Kyoto Prefecture)

Kyoto Prefecture has been providing schools with counselors as there is increasing number of students who commit suicide because of bullying.

It is important to establish a system to provide teachers with opportunity to gain knowledge and skill and counseling services to deal with bullying, since it is very important to find bullying and take immediate action at an early stage of bullying.

Counselors are now deployed at all junior high schools and 15 high schools in the prefecture.

Moreover, training seminars about 'counseling mind' are provides to school teachers. Although counseling about bullying needs special knowledge and skill, teachers can learn at least about 'counseling mind' such as how to respect, understand sympathetically, which are very important when they talk with students. For teachers who currently worry about bullying, counseling services are also provided by clinical psychotherapists.