

JNA News Release Vol.44

Japanese Nursing Association

JNA Requests to the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare: Urging the assignment of nursing professionals to a UHC Knowledge Hub to share Japanese nursing expertise and experience with the world

The Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) President Hiroe Takahashi and a Board member of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the JNA Global Strategic Advisor Megumi Teshima submitted a letter of request to then Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Keizo Takemi in September, urging the government to place Japanese nursing professionals at the core of a Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Knowledge Hub. At the World Bank's 2024 Spring Meetings event in New York, the Japanese Minister of Finance announced the establishment of the UHC Knowledge Hub to achieve UHC in low- and middle-income countries, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. The Hub is expected to be established in Japan in 2025.

In Japan, the universal health insurance system was introduced in 1961, realizing the provision of healthcare services to all people. Since then, Japan has been recognized for achieving UHC relatively early by expanding covered services and reducing co-payments. It has led to an increase in life expectancy, a reduction in health inequalities, and the achievement of the world's highest level of healthcare, making Japan play a vital role in the discussion on UHC to date.

The nursing profession in Japan is committed to maintaining and expanding UHC and has years of expertise and experience in this area. Globally, the nursing profession represents approximately 60% of all healthcare professionals and is an essential element in strengthening national and regional healthcare systems and achieving UHC.

At the meeting with then Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, JNA President Takahashi stated, "The key to promoting UHC in low- and middle-income countries is to incorporate nursing expertise into the UHC Knowledge Hub, including the health financing perspective, and the activities, experiences and knowledge of the nursing profession in Japan are beneficial to other countries as well ". JNA president presented a letter of request to then Minister Takemi, calling on the WHO to assign nursing professionals to the core of the Hub to best utilize Japanese nursing expertise and experience in this area.

Prof. Megumi Teshima, an ICN Board member and JNA Global Strategic Advisor, accompanied the submission of the request. Noting that ICN President Pamela Cipriano is a co-chair of the UHC 2030 Steering Committee, Prof. Teshima stated, "I would like the government to invest in nursing and to create a vision in the UHC Knowledge Hub that nursing underpins UHC."



Photo: From left, JNA President Takahashi, then Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare Takemi, and ICN Board member Teshima

Contact

Dept. of International Affairs Japanese Nursing Association

5-8-2 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001, JAPAN

Tel: +81-3-5778-8559

intl@nurse.or.jp

<https://www.nurse.or.jp/english/>