

JNA News Release

Japanese Nursing Association

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<http://www.nurse.or.jp/jna/english/index.html>

JNA General Convention

Japanese Nursing Association held its General Convention for the fiscal year 2012 on June 5 and 6. It was attended by approximately 3,050 members (750 representatives and 2,300 JNA members), and the meeting included lively discussions of the FY 2011 Annual Report, Project Proposals and the budget for the FY 2012.

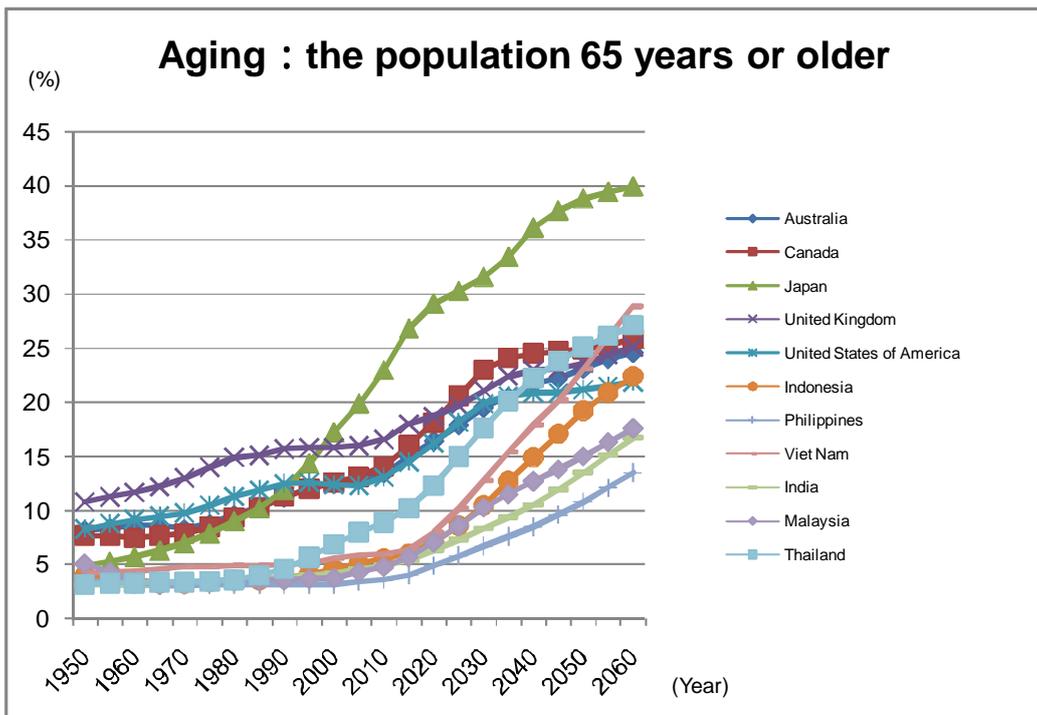
In her opening address, JNA President Suga Sakamoto set the goal of establishing a professional organization that would be able to make policy

proposals to overcome the challenge of the “Year 2025 Problem.” This “Problem” concerns the time when the baby-boomers born after World War II will become 75 years or older, and the elderly population will reach 35 million in the year 2025.

At the Board member election, Vice President Reiko Kikuchi (former Executive Director), Executive Director Kumiko Ii (former Executive Officer) and Executive Officer Ikumi Nakaita were elected to establish a new regime. ■

Establishing a Health Care Delivery System for Super-Aged Society

Japan is a super-aged society with a population aging rate of 23.1% (as of October 1, 2010). According to the future population estimate for up to 2060, which was released in January by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research under the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the nation’s population, which stood at 128.06 million in 2010, will fall to 86.74 million in 2060, while the aging rate will be as high as 39.9% .

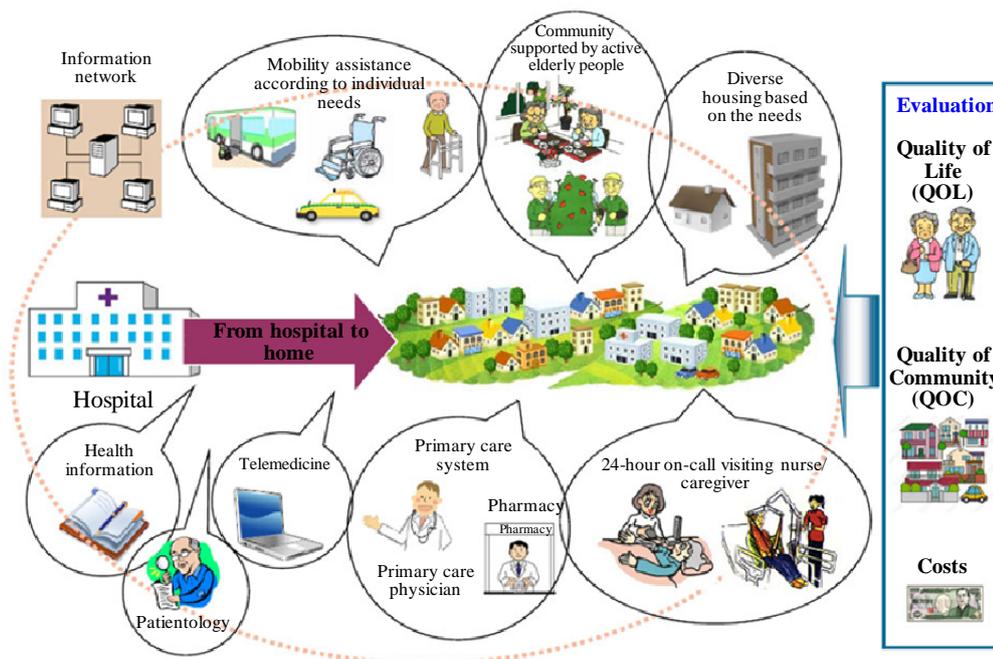


Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision, <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm> Japanese data after 2010 is from the projected population in Japan published on January 2012, the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research

In anticipation of this rapid aging of the society, comprehensive reform of the social security and tax systems is now under discussion, and will involve restructuring and reform of the health care system. The Japanese government plans to resolve the identified key issues concerning the delivery of health care and long-term care services in fifteen years (i.e. by 2025), and to establish a service system that can support community residents in a multilayered and integrated manner through

functional differentiation and collaboration among health professionals and health service providers. In other words, Japan aims to achieve a system whereby health care, long-term care, preventive care and housing are all provided comprehensively within the daily living area, while reference hospitals will be set in the greater local area and advanced medical centers including emergency and cancer treatment will function on a prefectural level.

Aging in Place: Community development in an aging society



Hiroko Akiyama (Executive Committee Professor, Institute of Gerontology, The University of Tokyo)
 186th General Assembly of the Central Social Insurance Medical Council: Reference material for discussions with experts.

In the super-aged society, the focus is on health care and long-term care services in community areas, as many people wish to keep living in their familiar environment. JNA will further promote nursing in home based care and in long-term care settings, with the promotion of home visit nursing and multifunctional services to support extended care and the strengthening the nursing function in long-term care settings as one of the main projects in FY 2012.

It is currently estimated that a nursing workforce of 1.95 to 2.05 million will be needed in 2025,

depending on the reform scenarios of the government, while the estimated supply will remain around 1.8 million in actual numbers. The measure for securing and retention of a nursing workforce is essential, through JNA's current promotion of a work environment where nurses can continue to work. JNA is also examining the future vision of nursing in order to present a full picture of nursing in the changing health care delivery system by clarifying nursing functions, and at the same time, visualize the allocation of the available human resources. ■

What is the Comprehensive Reform of Social Security and Tax?

Social welfare must be sustainable. Due to the fastest aging population in the world, however, the costs associated with social security, including pensions, health care and long-term care have been increasing by more than 1 trillion yen (about US\$ 12.6 billion) every year.

The Japanese Government is considering gradual increases in the consumption tax, aiming at functional enhancement of social welfare in response to social economic changes, and at achieving both a stable source of revenue for social welfare and a sound fiscal condition at once.

A possible new system is also being reviewed to address emerging issues and unmet needs, such as support for child-rearing, health care and long-term care services, unemployment, poverty and widening economic disparity, to share the burden of growing social security benefits among working people, elderly people and employers, and to avoid relying on the next generation to repay heavy debts.

JNA Report on the Great East Japan Earthquake

One year after the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011 the report on the JNA activities has been completed. This report is significant, not only as JNA's activity record, but also as a model

for future disaster preparedness. A summary of the report in English is now being prepared, and will be up on the JNA's English website around September. ■

Nursing in Japan

Q What proportion of nurses is engaged in the support of elderly people in the community?

With the rapid aging of society, the number of people who need intensive long-term care and those with dementia is expected to increase. The role of nursing in the fields of home based care and long-term care is becoming more important.

Of all the nurses working nationwide, only 2% are employed at the visiting nursing station. Combining this number with those working at facilities providing health facilities for elderly, intensive care home for elderly, social welfare facilities and those providing home based services, the proportion is still around 11%. In spite of this situation, expectations for "nursing that supports people's livelihood" in a community are rising even more, as the demands for home based care and visiting nursing increase.

News Topics in Japan

Average Life Expectancy of the Japanese

On May 31, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare released the average life expectancy of Japanese in 2010, based on the national population statistics and the numbers of deaths and births. Life expectancy was 79.55 years for male and 86.30 years for female, which was an average increase of 0.99 years for male and 0.78 years for female compared to 2005.