Nursing Now Forum in Japan held with great success!

The Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) co-hosted the Nursing Now Forum in Japan with the Sasakawa Health Foundation on January 21, 2021. This event was held in collaboration with the Nursing Now Campaign in Japan made up of 30 nursing organizations, with the theme of "Nursing Now: Creating the Future by Power of Nursing". The aim of this Forum was to highlight the social value of nursing by facilitating the evidence-based discussion on nursing to promote people’s healthy lives and contribute to efficient delivery of healthcare services. The forum promoted understandings of the Nursing Now through presentations given by experts from Japan and global, facilitated the discussions based on the experiences, and announced the Nursing Now Nippon Declaration in order to promote further efforts in Japan. Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the event had been postponed from its original date of May 2020 and was held virtually as webinars. All the contents including the opening session, three concurrent sessions and closing session were distributed on-line. The event attracted about 5,300 registers from Japan and overseas. The video recordings of the forum has been released in English and Japanese on JNA's YouTube Channel for a wide range of viewers.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvJW_VJ0vcStHRM0Buys9xw/videos
At the opening session, the JNA President Toshiko Fukui expressed gratitude to the nurses corresponding to COVID-19 and stated that it would be the first step "to create the future by power of nursing". Lord Nigel Crisp, Co-Chair of the global Nursing Now, Ms. Elizabeth Iro, Chief Nursing Officer of WHO, and Ms. Annette Kennedy, ICN President, delivered powerful video messages to support the nurse's work. Subsequently, Dr. Barbara Stilwell, Executive Director of Nursing Now, gave a keynote speech, and Dr. Nina Hahtela, President of Finnish Nurses Association, introduced collaborative activities across regions and countries. Prof. Megumi Teshima, Professor of Graduate School of Nursing, Chiba University, gave a presentation on the importance of dialogue and cooperation using the data, entitled "Utilizing Evidence for Nursing Practice in Japan: From Invisible to Visible". Prof. Swee Hia Lim, Senior Director of Special Projects, Executive Office, SingHealth, shared information on community nursing in Singapore which, like Japan, has been focusing on community care to achieve sustainable healthcare with increasing aging population. Ms. Nahoko Uchida, Manager of Japan Community Impact, Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies in Japan, introduced the TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Training Program, which is a social contribution activity based on corporate social responsibility. Through the session, it was confirmed that the activities and practices of nurses should be central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that the power of nurses should be utilized more actively.
● Concurrent Session 1: Triple Impact and Policy

Concurrent Session 1, hosted by JNA, aimed to facilitate discussions about the importance of evidence that influences policymaking through the nursing contribution to society and the SDGs and successful cases of evidence-informed policy promotion, and clarify the significance of "providing evidence to policy and decision-makers for policy realization," which is one of the aims of the Nursing Now Campaign. Following an explanation on the relationship between the triple impact and nursing in Japan by Dr. Akiko Araki, Executive Officer of JNA, Dr. Hiromi Sanada, Professor of Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Tokyo, gave a presentation on the importance of policy research with example of her research efforts on pressure ulcer treatment and Training System for Nurses to Perform Specific Medical Interventions. Presidents of Nurses’ Associations of Canada, Ireland, Korea, Chile, Lebanon and Australia introduced their experiences in each country. Then, the presenters and Forum participants exchanged opinions about leadership and evidence accumulation.

Prof. Megumi Teshima(left), Dr. Akiko Araki, Executive Officer of JNA(middle) and Dr. Hiromi Sanada, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo (right), discussed about the importance of evidence in policy.

Mr. Tim Guest, President of Canadian Nurses Association (left) presented Canadian experience about evidence and policy and Dr. Myrna Abi Abdallah Doumit, President of Order of Nurses in Lebanon(right) joined the forum online.

● Concurrent Session 2: Home-care Nursing and SDGs - Social Innovation by Nurses -

Nurses have been strongly counted on to engage in maintaining and promoting the health of local communities and residents around the world, as the aging population grows rapidly. In particular, it is necessary for nurses to expand their activities further in the future in order to change people’s health awareness based on
the principle of Primary Health Care (PHC), in which people should consider their own health, and in order to realize a sustainable society and achieve the SDGs through the effective use of appropriate medical resources. The session invited three nursing experts; Dr. Judith Shamian, a clinical expert of home nursing in Canada, which has a long history of home nursing; Dr. Marla Salmon, an educator who has been encouraging nursing and midwifery enterprise in developing countries, and; Dr. Andrea Baumann, a researcher who has been pursuing nursing roles in terms of global health. Also, there were three nurses from Japan made presentations, who are running their own home nursing centers in Japan, after they completed the program called “The Nippon Foundation Home Nurse Entrepreneur Training Program”, run by the Sasakawa Health Foundation. They discussed the role and potential of nursing/nurses in the community in the future.

Concurrent Session 3: The Contribution of Nursing to the Construction of a Disaster-Resistant Community and a Safe and Secure Society

Disasters seem to be increasing in severity, both in frequency and scale, worldwide due to climate change, rapid population growth, urbanization and social and religious conflicts. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, highlighting the importance of efforts in the healthcare sector. In its Position Statement, the ICN states that the involvement of nurses is essential in disaster risk prevention and reduction, and expresses its support for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Japan is a country prone to natural disasters and leads the world in disaster preparedness. In the experiences of large-scale disasters, such as Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Great East Japan Earthquake and others, Japanese nurses demonstrated at home and abroad their integrated practice in protecting people’s lives and supporting a healthy lifestyle at every stage of disaster risk reduction, response, and recovery. Nurses are also at the forefront of the world’s response to COVID-19, and are committed to protecting people's lives and livelihoods. With these backgrounds, the panelists discussed on what is needed to build a disaster-resilient community and how

Dr. Judith Shamian, ICN President Emerita(left), Dr. Marla Salmon, Professor of Nursing and Global Health and Adjunct Professor of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington (top right), and Dr. Etsuko Kita, Chair of Sasakawa Health Foundation (bottom right).

Dr. Walter de Caro, President of Italian Nurses Association presented their lessons from COVID-19 response.
nursing can contribute to building a safe and secure society, following presentations by leading experts in disaster mitigation and recovery, an introduction of activities overseas, and a review of disaster nursing initiatives in Japan to date.

Panelists discussed on building a disaster-resistant community and nursing contribution to a safe and secure society. From top left Dr. Kumiko Ii, JNA Vice President, Dr. Mariko Ohara, Professor of Seisen Jogakuin College, Dr. Sonoe Mashino, Executive Director of Research Institute of Nursing Care for People and Community, University of Hyogo. From bottom left, Ms. Noriko Ikeda, Chief of the International Medical Relief Section, Osaka Red Cross Hospital International Medical Relief Dep., Dr. Yukari Igarashi, Professor of Women’s Health/Midwifery, St. Luke’s International University and Dr. Yoko Hamadate, JICA-Japan International Cooperation Agency.

○ Closing session

As a review by the moderators of the Concurrent Sessions, Prof. Megumi Teshima, spoke from Concurrent Session 1 about the need for each nurse to speak up and deliver the necessary evidence where it is needed, and the need to accumulate evidence for this purpose. From Concurrent Session 2, Dr. Etsuko Kita, Chair of Sasakawa Health Foundation, reported and expressed that local residents and nurses to talk to each other thoroughly in order to devote their efforts to thinking about their own health in community care settings. From Concurrent Session 3, Dr. Sonoe Mashino, Executive Director, Research Institute of Nursing Care for People and Community, University of Hyogo, reported that nurses themselves, who are indispensable in times of disaster as well as normal, should be protected, and that
the importance of nurses working as members of the community on a daily basis to prepare for disasters was confirmed.

Toshiko Fukui, JNA President announced the Nursing Now Nippon Declaration and closed the forum.

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**Nursing Now Nippon Declaration**

The Nursing Now Forum in Japan examined the importance of evidence in policymaking, community activities, and disaster preparedness, response and recovery. It reaffirmed that, regardless of social circumstances, nurses have the power to contribute not only to the health of individual people but also to the fostering of community health culture and to the development of society in general. The activities and practices of nurses are key to the achievement of the global targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognizing that nurses need to make more active use of their skills and expertise, we hereby declare that we will continue to work together as follows:

- We will contribute even more than ever to the creation of healthy communities and societies, and to the realization of safe, secure, and healthy lifestyles for all people throughout the lifespan;
- We will participate in the decision-making process to promote the respective transformations from policy to practice to enable nurses to meet social needs and maximize their abilities in all settings;
- We will endeavour to accumulate a broad spectrum of evidence to contribute to better decision-making based on the best available evidence, and;
- We will share Japan’s efforts and achievements with the world, striving to achieve the global SDG targets and the improvement of the health of people around the world.

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**Program book of the Forum**

[https://www.nurse.or.jp/nursing/practice/nursing_now/nncj/assets/pdf/event/nn2020forum_program.pdf](https://www.nurse.or.jp/nursing/practice/nursing_now/nncj/assets/pdf/event/nn2020forum_program.pdf)