

The History Social Welfare in Asia

40 years of international exchange/support programs



In 1979, the International Year of the Child advocated by UN, JNCSSW started its international exchange/support programs especially for Asian countries. Among them, the typical one is the Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program. To celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2019, let's look back the brief history of international exchange/support programs of JNCSSW.

Japan National Council of Social Welfare



~Looking Back 40 Years~



Looking Back 40 Years

President
Tenryu-Kohseikai

Ms. Tatsuko YAMAMOTO

We have accepted trainees of Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program from the first time, and more than 30 trainees have had training here. At the beginning, we had to overcome a lot of difficulties. For them, learning Japanese culture and social rules were more important than learning social welfare works, and for us, it was necessary to get used to being and working with non-Japanese trainees. Sometimes the language barrier created misunderstanding. I mainly tried to support them during non-working time so that they could get to know Japan well. Now our staff members become familiar with accepting non-Japanese trainees, and understand Asia in a good way. Whenever I hear the success of ex-trainees in their home countries, I reaffirm the importance of this training program.



Overseas Aid through Ex-Trainees

President
Fukushi Shinbun-sha (Welfare Newspaper)

Mr. Chikashi MATSUJU

In 1979, collaborating with Reimei-kai, Seirei Social Welfare Community, Salvation Army and Saiseikai Imperial Gift Foundation, Inc., JNCSW dispatched medical teams to a refugee camp in Thailand for the sake of Cambodian refugees. Changed every 3 months, 8 teams in total were dispatched, and the project itself was continued for 2 years.

Though it was the leading project of overseas medical aid of Japan, especially revealed was its immaturity. Comparing to the U.S. and European countries, Japan had no local connection and had to hire local helpers or collaborators using money. On the contrary, the U.S. or European countries could secure cooperators and volunteers using religious connections, and consequently, they could use small fund more efficiently and effectively for relief activities. Their local staff worked hard, and respect was with them.

We knew that for the authentic relief activity, it was indispensable to develop reliable local human resource even it took some time. It was the start of the Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program. On the occasion of 2004 Sumatran Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster in the Indian Ocean, ex-trainees played an active role in their home countries to establish community centers in Banda Ache in Indonesia, Phuket in Thailand and Galle in Sri Lanka, respectively. Through those centers, we could provide fund to make immediate relief activities possible for victims.



Continuation and Progress of
International Exchange/Support

Former Chairman
International Social Welfare Fund Committee

Mr. Kokushi TAKAOKA

After the World War II, everything was in chaos in Japan; daily supplies were in short, and public social welfare was not prepared. Under such circumstances, social welfare service was supported by overseas aid such as LARA (Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia) or CAC (Church World Service, American Friends Service Committee, Catholic War Relief Service).

Such relief activity by private organizations contributed a lot to the postwar reconstruction in Japan. Its spirit is a foundation of the international exchange/support activities including social welfare activity support or disaster welfare support activities in Asian countries. That spirit should be inherited into the future.

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary, I hope this program will be progressed more keeping the spirit or practice of pioneers deep inside.



Walking together with Trainees from
Asian Countries

Japanese Language Teacher
(1st - 27th batch)

Ms. Hisako UEDA

As a Japanese language teacher, I spent many years with trainees of the Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program. Trainees came from various Asian countries with different culture and different language, and it was my job to teach them not only Japanese language but also Japanese culture, custom, traditions, etc. to settle them in Japan before they start on-the-job training. Even now, I can clearly remember their faces as they are all my children.

As they are hard workers, they could complete Japanese language study in a short period of time, and after their returning, they play an important role in their home countries. Their visits and letters always make me happy. I hope this training program will continue to deepen the mutual understanding between Asian countries and Japan and to learn each other for the better future.

~ Social Welfare in Asia ~ 40 years of international exchange/support programs

1 Background of the Program (LARA Goods)

▶ [1946-1952] LARA (Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia) goods

After the Pacific Wars, Japan suffered from awful food and goods shortage, and saved by LARA goods. LARA was established by the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, Inc. (ACVAFS) for the relief of Japan, Okinawa and Korea. Japanese people never forget it, and have kept the feeling of appreciation since then.

People working in the social welfare field in Japan also never forget that the development of social welfare in Japan after the Pacific Wars was supported by the donation or cooperation from overseas countries, and they have sought the opportunity to give something back to the international society.

That's why they started the fund-raising activity for the development of social welfare in Asian countries to launch the international exchange/support programs.



2 Initial Stage

In 1979, the Internatinal Year of Child, JNCSW lead the fund-raising activity for the sake of developing countries in Asia, and 180 million yen was donated by social welfare organizations and workers all over Japan. Based on this fund, JNCSW implemented the following projects.

1▶ [1979-1981] Dispatch of a Non-Governmental Medical Team to Refugee Camp

For tens of thousands of Indo-China Refugees, JNCSW arranged a medical team, and it was dispatched by Japanese Government to Sa Kao Refugee Camp in Thailand in December 1979. Until August 1981, JNCSW arranged 8 medical teams composed by medical workers in social welfare institutions in Japan (84 in total), and sent them to the refugee camp. It is the first overseas aid activity that was implemented systematically by Japan. Gained experience and know-how were useful for overseas aid activities after that.



2▶ [1979-1989] Child Welfare Support in Asia

【1979-1981】Support for local project

Along with the arrangement of medical team for the refugee camp, JNCSW provided approx. 35 million yen in toto for 9 projects in 7 countries in three years for child welfare. Contents of projects were varied such as vocational training for the youth, establishment of child welfare center in a slum, a mobile education program for children with visual impairment, etc.

【1980-1989】Support for organizations working with local project

JNCSW gave financial aid to Japanese organizations working in overseas countries such as Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC) and Caring for Young Refugees (CYR) working for refugee relief, or Shapla Neer working for development aid, etc. During ten years from 1980 to 1989, JNCSW provided approx. 40million yen in toto.

3▶ [1980-1987] Life support for returned Japanese war orphans left in China

In 1972, diplomatic relations between Japan and China normalized, and consequently, many of Japanese war orphans left in China came back to Japan; however, because of the difference of language, lifestyle, etc., it was difficult for them to adapt to Japanese society. To support their smooth settlement, JNCSW conducted fact-finding study, and then, provided Japanese language classes and life consultation service for them together with Tokyo Metropolitan Council of Social Welfare. The outcome was compiled in reports, books and video materials in 1987.

3 The Launch of Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program

1▶[1984-present] Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program

For the effective use of 80 million yen, the remaining balance of fund, JNCSW started the project to develop human resources in Asian countries. That's the Asian Social Welfare Worker's Training Program, and it has been continued since 1984. This program is considered as the portal of the support activities in Asia, and in this program, social welfare workers in Asian countries are invited to Japan as trainees (usually 1 person/1 country, from several countries) and have on-the-job training in social welfare institutions in Japan as well as intensive Japanese language course. Until March 2019, during 36 years, 165 trainees from 8 countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Sri Lanka) completed the training program, and many of them are contributing to the development of social welfare in their own countries.



2▶[1986-1991] Africa-Asia Aid Fund

JNCSW gave its helping hand to Africa through Africa-Asia Aid Fund campaign led by JNCSW Liaison Meeting of Councils of Institutions. Its purposes are to save children and people in need in Africa and Asia from poverty and famine, and to support Japanese volunteer groups working in Africa and Asia. For this project, 49.5 million yen was donated mainly by social welfare institutions in Japan. Approx. 10 million yen per year was funded to 72 organizations and projects for five years.

3▶[1991] International Social Welfare Fund

In 1991, JNCSW celebrated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of both Social Welfare Services Law and the system of councils of social welfare. On this special occasion, JNCSW built up the International Social Welfare Fund aiming to support Asian countries and to promote international exchange among Asian countries including Japan. For this fund, more than 700 million yen was donated including 300 million yen from JNCSW. This fund is managed and run by the International Social Welfare Fund Committee, and is used for the Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program and other activities for the development and cooperation in the field of social welfare in Asia.

4 International Exchange among Asian Countries Including Japan

1▶[1996-present] Japan-Korea-Taiwan Conference of Non-Governmental Social Welfare Organization (Trilateral Conference)

In 1996, JNCSW called both Korea and Taiwan for the opening of Japan-Korea-Taiwan Conference of Non-Governmental Social Welfare Organization (Trilateral Conference) as those three had similar social welfare circumstances. Its purposes are to share social welfare issues, to exchange opinions, and to deepen mutual understanding. The First Trilateral Conference was held in Japan in October 1996, and after that, it has been held every year hosted by rotation of the three. By 2018, it was held 23 times, and after 2018, it is held biennially.



2▶[1989-present] Study Tour

Since 1989, JNCSW have organized Study Tour to overseas countries for the following purposes:

- ◆ To visit ex-trainees of Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program and see their social welfare activities in their home countries
- ◆ To participate in international conferences related to social welfare
- ◆ To learn social welfare challenges, practices and situations of other countries

In home countries of ex-trainees, new partnership has been established through exchanges with Japanese social welfare organizations.



5 With Ex-Trainees of Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program

1▶[2005-present] Follow-up Training for Ex-Trainees

Ex-trainees are invited to Japan again for the follow-up training as well as for the reinforcement of relationship with social welfare workers in Japan. By 2018, 18 ex-trainees from 7 countries participated in this program.



2▶[1997-present] Grant Program for the Ex-Trainees of Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program

This program is to support social welfare activities of ex-trainees in their home country. Until 2019, the total amount of grant for various programs in 8 countries reached 49.33 million yen. Aided programs are in a wide range such as:

- @ life/education support for street children
- @ independence support for families in poor areas
- @ improvement of group home for people with disabilities
- @ support for abused children
- @ vocational/skill-for-life training for Children in-Conflict with the Law (CICL)
- @ infectious disease prevention activities
- @ community emergency drill, etc.



3▶[Quinquennial] Asian Social Welfare Seminar

Every five years, Asian Social Welfare Seminar is held in Japan. Its purposes are mutual learning and mutual exchange between ex-trainees and Japanese social welfare workers. Exchange and sharing of experiences or know-how are proceeded through reports from each country about status quo and challenges of social welfare activities, table discussions by different themes, study tour to social welfare institutions, etc. In December 2019, the 7th Asian Social Welfare Seminar was held.



4▶[Temporary] Regional Seminar of Ex-Trainees

It is a seminar organized and implemented by ex-trainees themselves. Its purposes are information sharing, exchange and strengthening of partnership.



6 Disaster Relief

【July 1990】 Earthquake in Baguio

On July 16, 1990, a great earthquake of magnitude 7.0 on Richter scale struck Luzon in the Philippines, and more than 5,000 people were killed. JNCSW donated medical supplies equivalent to 4.5 million yen to ex-trainees working for victims in Baguio City in cooperation with Japanese pharmaceutical companies. Also, collaborating with CCWA (Christian Child Welfare Association, now Child Fund Japan), a Japanese NGO working in the Philippines, and other local organizations, JNCSW provided long-term reconstruction support including livelihood support by small loan, etc.

【September 1999】 Earthquake in Taiwan

On September 21, 1990, a great earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on Richter scale was occurred in Taiwan. Its epicenter was Ji-Ji in Nan-Tou County, and its damage was enormous. More than 10,000 people were killed, houses and buildings were collapsed, and landslide was occurred. JNCSW immediately dispatched its staff members to Taiwan to observe how much the damage was. Local social welfare organizations where ex-trainees were working struggled to help victims, and to support them, JNCSW established Taiwan Earthquake Disaster Support Project, and called for donation in Japan. Approx. 48 million yen was raised, and that fund supported various activities of social welfare organizations working for children/elderlies/disabled in the damaged area for few years.



【December 2004】 Sumatran Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster in the Indian Ocean

On December 26, 2004, a great earthquake of magnitude 9.0 on Richter scale was occurred in the Indian Ocean, and brought a serious damage on the epicenter and neighbor countries. For the sake of victims, more than 130 million yen was donated by 7,647 organizations and individuals. JNCSSW made a 5-year support project, and conducted it in three countries, i.e., Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand in cooperation with local social welfare organizations where ex-trainees were working.



[November 2013] Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines

A super typhoon, Haiyan (named Yolanda in the Philippines) attacked the Philippines, and caused an immense damage. More than 7,900 people were killed or missing. JNCSSW called for a donation, and more than 92 million yen was donated by 5,374 organizations and individuals in Japan. JNCSSW dispatched its staff members to the Philippines in 2014 for the survey, and after that, continued support for several local organizations working in the damaged areas until 2018, for 5 years.



【April 2015】 Earthquake in Nepal

On April 25, 2015, a great earthquake of magnitude 7.8 on Richter scale was occurred in Nepal. 8,000 people were killed, and more than 20,000 people were injured. JNCSSW, together with Central Community Chest of Japan, called for a donation, and more than 45 million yen was donated by 3,376 organizations and individuals in Japan. In June 2016, JNCSSW provided financial support for six Japanese NGOs working in damaged areas in Nepal.

Chronological Table				
Year	Month	Topical events	Activities of JNCSSW	Outcome
1928	July	The 1st International Conference of Social Work (Paris, France)	Japanese delegates attended the 1st International Conference of Social Work (Paris, France)	In 1936, Japanese National Committee of the International Conference of Social Work was established as a private organization neither controlled nor protected by law.
1946	November	The first shipment of LARA goods reached at Yokohama Port.		
1952	June	LARA goods were terminated.		
1969	December		Japanese National Committee of the International Conference of Social Work was dissolved, and a corporation with the name of Japanese National Committee of the International Council on Social Welfare (JNC/ICSW) was newly established (Secretariat: JNCSSW).	In 2012, it was changed into a general incorporated association, and in 2016, it was dissolved and inherited by JNCSSW.
1979	January	The International Year of the Child (IYC)		
	February	Sino-Vietnamese War caused Indo-China Refugees		
	April		IYC Contribution Operation Committee (changed to IYC Operation Committee in November) was established.	Raised approx. 180 million yen.
	December		Guideline for Asian Child Welfare Support Project Promotion was established.	Provided approx. 35 million yen in toto for 9 projects in 7 countries in three years. Asian Refugee Children Support Project was conducted.
	December		JNCSSW dispatched the first medical team to Sa Kaeo Refugee Camp in Thailand for the sake of Cambodian refugees.	
1981	January	International Year for Disabled Persons (IYDP)		
	May		National Caravan Campaigns	
1983	April		The 1st Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program was launched.	By 2019 (36th), 171 trainees from 8 countries completed the training program.
1985	March		Africa-Asia Aid Fund	
1986	August	The 23rd International Conference on Social Welfare (Tokyo, Japan)	Japanese National Committee of the International Council on Social Welfare (JNC/ICSW) hosted the Conference.	2,528 participants from 82 countries and several international organizations joined the Conference (domestic: 1,211, overseas: 1,317).
1988	October		The 1st Asian Social Welfare Seminar (Tokyo, Japan)	16 trainees/ex-trainees (including 5 trainees) from 6 countries participated in the Seminar.
1990	July	The earthquake in Baguio (magnitude 7.0 on Richter scale)	Support for the victims in damaged areas	
1991			Building of the International Social Welfare Fund	760 million yen was donated (including the contribution from JNCSSW, 300 million yen).
1993	April		The 2nd Asian Social Welfare Seminar	44 trainees/ex-trainees (including 6 trainees) from 7 countries participated in the Seminar.
1994	January	The International Year of the Family (IYF)		
1996	October		The 1st Japan-Korea-Taiwan Conference of Non-Governmental Social Welfare Organization (Tri-Lateral Conference)	Until 2018, it was held for 23 times.
	November		Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of LARA goods	
1997			The Grant Program for the Ex-Trainees of Asian Social Welfare Workers' Training Program was launched.	By 2019, 51.7 million yen in toto was granted to 50 organizations of 8 countries.
1998	August		The 3rd Asian Social Welfare Seminar	58 trainees/ex-trainees (including 4 trainees) from 8 countries participated in the Seminar.
1999	September	Earthquake in Taiwan (magnitude 7.6 on Richter scale)	Taiwan Earthquake Disaster Support Project	43.7 million yen in toto was remitted to 10 organizations in Taiwan.
2004	August		The 4th Asian Social Welfare Seminar	60 trainees/ex-trainees (including 5 trainees) from 8 countries participated in the Seminar.
	December	Sumatran Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster in the Indian Ocean (magnitude 9.0 on Richter scale)		
2005	February		Fund-raising for the sake of Sumatran Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster in the Indian Ocean started.	85.85 million yen was donated to 5 organizations working in 3 countries.
			Follow-up Training for Ex-Trainees program started.	By 2018, 18 ex-trainees from 7 countries participated in this program.
2008	July	Care workers and nurses came to Japan (from Indonesia) on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)		
2009	August		The 5th Asian Social Welfare Seminar	63 trainees/ex-trainees (including 5 trainees) from 7 countries participated in the Seminar.
2011	March	Great East Japan Earthquake (magnitude 9.3 on Richter scale)		
	December		Regional Seminar of Ex-Trainees (Malaysia)	18 ex-trainees from 5 countries and 2 staff members of JNCSSW participated.
2013	November	Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines	Fund-raising for the sake of Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines started.	79.79 million yen was donated to 10 organizations (until 2017).
2014	September		The 6th Asian Social Welfare Seminar	59 trainees/ex-trainees (including 5 trainees) from 7 countries participated in the Seminar.
2015	April	Earthquake in Nepal		
	June		Fund-raising for the sake of the earthquake in Nepal started.	With Central Community Chest of Japan, JNCSSW provided financial support of 36 million yen for 6 Japanese NGOs working in damaged areas in Nepal in cooperating with Embassy of Japan in Nepal.
	July		Regional Seminar of Ex-Trainees (Thailand)	29 ex-trainees from 5 countries and 2 staff members of JNCSSW participated.
2017	September		Regional Seminar of Ex-Trainees (Indonesia)	24 ex-trainees from 7 countries and 15 members of JNCSSW Study Tour participated.
2019	December		The 7th Asian Social Welfare Seminar	63 trainees/ex-trainees (including 6 trainees) from 7 countries participated in the Seminar.