



## News from the International HPH Network

# The Japanese national HPH Network is now the second largest N/R HPH Network

Since Chidoribashi Hospital joined the international HPH Network in 2008 as the first Japanese HPH member and with the establishment of the Japanese national HPH Network (J-HPH) in 2015, the network have today grown to consist of 119 members.

### About the National HPH Network of Japan

The Japanese HPH Network consists of 119 HPH member Hospitals and Health Services.

The Network was established on October, 2015 with 36 members.

Prof. Norio Shimauchi acys as the CEO and Dr. Mitsuhiro Funakoshi is the National Coordinator of the Japanese HPH Network.

Visit the website of the Japanese HPH Network:  
<https://www.hphnet.jp/>

Japan Network of Health Promoting Hospitals



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We have talked to Dr. Mitsuhiro Funakoshi, the Japanese HPH coordinator about the member growth and work done to promote health promotion in Japan.

First of all, congratulation with the continued growth in membership. Today, you have impressive 119 member hospitals, health services and affiliated members. What have you done to increase the number of members?

“We try to increase the number of members by communicating the work and activities of the Japan HPH Network through events and our regular newsletter. Every year, we organize the J-HPH Conference, this year in November with 400 participants, and in March we organized the national HPH Spring Seminar with 200 participants.”

“Our J-HPH Newsletter is published three times a year, with articles on J-HPH Network events, activities of HPH members, and reports from the annual International HPH Conference.”

Also, we emphasize taking actions based on evidence and we support joint studies carried out by the our members. Reports from such activity are presented at different conferences outside of network, and these will likely also have contributed to the increase in members.”

#### **Involvement of patient groups**

Your work in involving patient groups and community groups into J-HPH is admirable, can you share some input on how this has been prioritized from your end?



The 36 members are spread out in most regions of Japan and cover a strong group of hospitals, health facilities, cooperatives, pharmacies, research centers and schools.

“As stressed in the Ottawa Charter, we believe that reorientation of health services is necessary in order to improve the health of patients and population. The health services members of J-HPH are all aware that it is essential to work in collaboration with patient and community who are the subject of our services.”

“The health services also have a strong focus on improving the Social Determinants of Health. For instance, as an effort to prevent social isolation of lonely elders, our health services members in collaboration with community groups created a “meeting place” in the local neighborhood as an effort to encourage relationship-building among local residents. As the aging society and economical gap are expected to be enhanced globally, it is important for health services to outreach and join the efforts together with community groups in order to sup-



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port the health of socially marginalized people.

What are your hope and vision for the future for J-HPH?

“Currently, we are preparing a 4-year plan for the 2020-2023 period. Among many tasks such as annual events, joint studies and human resource development, our special ambition is to play an important role in Japan to improve health equity nationally. Also, it is our hope to host the International HPH Conference in Japan in the future.”

Do you have any recommendations to other National/Regional HPH Networks?

“In order to increase numbers of members for a network, organizing a regular event is effective to appeal the existence of HPH network.



The Japanese HPH Network organizes events such as the annual J-HPH Conference and an HPH Seminar.

Also, it is recommended to take actions that is appreciated locally, i.e. efforts to improve the health promotion issues of local community or the nation/region.”

### The history of HPH in Japan

Chidoribashi Hospital was the first Japanese hospital to join the International HPH Network in 2008. The initial encounter with the HPH network and Chidoribashi Hospital happened when Dr. Funakoshi were doing an online search for “Healthy City”. He found the HPH website and an interest in the scope and activities of the international HPH network was aroused.

Chidoribashi Hospital soon joined the international HPH Network and at the 18<sup>th</sup> international HPH Conference in Manchester in 2010, Dr. Funakoshi became aware of the international HPH community. He was so impressed by the HPH principle and the lectures and presentations in Manchester that he decided to bring the ideas back to Japan.

### Health Promotion in Japan

Dr. Funakoshi found that HPH concept and the roles of health services as proposed by the WHO Ottawa Charter, was not so different from the practice in some Japanese hospitals. Dr. Funakoshi decided to introduce the HPH Network and some of the health promotion activities to Japanese Hospitals.

One of the first Japanese hospitals to join the HPH Network was Saku Central Hospital who have long history of health activities aimed at the community and environment. Saku Central Hospital has been a first mover on matters that today is considered to be common

health promoting, including a strong involvement of community in the reach and focus of the hospitals’ role and practice.

The Saitama Co-operative with 240,000 members is another example on a successful collaboration between the clinical field and the community. The Saitama Co-operation, which includes HPH member Saitama Kyodo Hospital, facilitates a variety of health promotion activities in local communities such as community-based classes on health and childcare and visits by hospital staffs at learning facilities.

Many of the members of the J-HPH comes from the The Japanese Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (Min-IREN), which has a strong tradition of community-based health promotion activities. Min-Iren has played an important role in the establishment and growth of the Japanese HPH Network.



Founders, invited speakers and selected participants from the inauguration ceremony in 2015.