

ILC Japan

Basic Policy

ILC-Japan was established in November 1990, aiming to realize bright and prosperous aging societies. Under the idea of productive aging, ILC-Japan has studied various problems caused by acceleration of demographic aging from the international and interdisciplinary perspectives, and shared the center's findings and educated the public.

As a member of ILC Global Alliance, ILC-Japan has conducted a variety of activities at home and abroad with the cooperation and friendship of 11 member countries namely the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Dominican Republic, India, South Africa, Argentina, Netherlands, Israel, Singapore and Czech Republic.

As one of the activities of the Alliance, France, the host country in this year, held the annual board meeting. ILC-Czech Republic was approved as the 12th member of the alliance through discussion in the meeting. At the time of IAGG (International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics), ILC global alliance held a symposium in which each president of ILC center made a presentation attracting a large audience.

Domestically, longing for our further development, we have made further effort in enhancing the contents of research projects as well as education to the public from our distinctive perspectives.

Activities in 2009

A. Research projects, information analysis, public relations/ education through international network

1. Publication of "Global Information Journal on Longevity and Society"

We published journals offering international information with our analysis and comments by utilizing the international network centering ILC global alliance.

This year we published 3 journals, which focused on the issues of 'Japanese Older Persons from International Perspectives', 'Hope and Security in

an Aged Society with Fewer Children’, ‘Current State and Issues of Home Care and End of Life Care’.

Also, we compiled TALKS carried in the beginning of each journal of back issues and published it for foreign readers in English. Diverse questions raised by Japanese eminent experts have drawn a lot of attentions. Information is provided at WEB site both in Japanese and English.

2. Profile of Older Japanese 2010

We published a booklet titled ‘Profile of Older Japanese 2010’ in English in order to introduce precisely the state of Japanese older people, which drew international attention. The booklet containing a variety of data with our analysis on them was organized into seven sections: “The Aging Population and Aged Society,” “Living Arrangements,” “Housing,” “Health Status,” “Frailty and Long-Term Care,” “Economic Status,” and “The New-Old and Social Participation.” We were able to collect data and make expository writings through interdisciplinary collaboration of experts. As for the distribution and usage of the booklet, we maximized Alliance network and also we were able to gain the cooperation from Japanese embassies overseas as well.

Foreign governments, researchers and media have shown strong interest in the booklet.

3. Compilation of “Global Aging Report” (Japanese Version)

We revised “Global Aging Reports,” the first publication ILC Global Alliance issued as a result of a joint project, for the Japanese readers. We presented international comparative statistics and commentaries introducing the status quo of aging societies in the ILC member countries to the Japanese readers.

B. International comparison study on death and dying in place

With a growing number of the latter-stage elderly people (age 75 and over), it has become an urgent task to find out the way to ensure the QOL at the end of life. The task is related to the issues how we can make longevity, the common wish of human being enjoyable to everyone and how we can make a society in which older people can live a life with dignity.

International and interdisciplinary research committee was indispensable for International comparison study on death and dying in place. By setting up the committee, we identified the challenges as well as the prospects of home care

and end of life care.

1. Research / Study Committee

Kazuo Hasegawa (Professor Emeritus, St. Marianna University of Medicine)

Rihito Kimura (President, Keisen University)

Robert Butler (President, ILC-USA)

Sara Carmel (President, ILC-Israel)

Yukimi Uchide (General Director, Social Welfare Foundation Tenjin-kai)

Mari Tsuruwaka (Associate Professor, St. Ruka's college of Nursing)

John Campbell (Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan)

Kanao Tsuji (President, Life care system)

Daisuke Watanabe (Assistant Research Fellow, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, Seikei University)

Taeko Nakashima (Senior Researcher, Institute for Health Economics and Policy)

2. Research and Studies

1) Analysis of home care and end of life care

We identified the issues and prospects from the following perspectives.

- Medical care for people suffering from dementia
- Bioethics
- Analysis and reality of the end of life care in the U.S.
- Care of the dying in the terminal phase in Australia and other countries
- Advance Directive in Asia

2) Preparation for international comparative survey and study

- Setting objectives and methods for the survey
- Checking and establishing the analysis
- Making questionnaires

3) Literature reviewing

Reviewing the publication on home care and end of life care in Japan and abroad in order to organize the findings and extract important issues.

4) Publication of research and study reports

5) Future prospects

This research and study is a 3-year project. International comparison study on death and dying in place is scheduled for the second year. In the third year,

we will summarize the findings of the research and study.

C. Promotion of international exchanges

We have been receiving a growing number of inquiries and requests for arrangements in visits from government staff, journalists and researchers from abroad.

What we dealt with in the year 2009 are as follows.

2009 July

Group of French people involved in health insurance visited Japan. We explained "Status and issues of aging society in Japan."

2009 September

Dr. Hasegawa, advisory board, attended "The first meeting on Aging and Alzheimer's" hosted by ILC-USA and Colombia University.

2009 October

Mr. Joe Oldman, in charge of housing in the British organization on ageing called Age Concern and Help the Aged visited Japan. We made arrangements for him to visit homes and facilities for older people and set up discussion with experts.

2009 November

Dr. Shibata, advisory board, attended symposium titled "the Stagnation of Dutch Life Expectancies in International Perspective" hosted by ILC-Netherlands and University of Leiden.

2009 November

We received a request from APO (Asian Productivity Organization), affiliated organization of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan to send a lecturer for a symposium on longevity held in Seoul.

2010 January

We cooperated with Japanese embassy in Thai in planning a symposium titled "The Middle Class and a Social Safety Network." Also, we introduced panelists for the symposium.

2010 March

We offered a support to a news reporter of THE TIMES UK in collecting materials on issues of aging society in Japan.

Activity plan in 2010

1. Publication “Profile of Older Japanese 2011”, the data book on Japanese elderly

“Profile of Older Japanese2011” illustrates various aspects of daily life and social systems of older Japanese people with sufficient data and interpretation on them. In this revised one, we will introduce comparative data of various aspects of aging in the world.

2. Publication” Aging – Global Relations”

We will compile data on “Social security in the world” collected mainly from Alliance member countries. Also, we will convey our ‘Message to the aging society with fewer children’ by publishing which summarizes research and educational activities that ILC have carried out for the past 20 years focusing on problems facing an aging society with a falling birthrate from diversified perspectives.

3. International Comparison Study on Death and Dying in Place

We will continue the analytic study we started last year in order to draw a clear guideline for Japanese home care and end of life care by identifying the actual state, latest policies and findings of researches on home care and end of life care overseas.

4. International exchanges and collaboration with foreign organizations

As a front runner of the world, we have an obligation to introduce how Japan deal with aging issue. We will provide precise and balanced information to the world by various way and tool.