

ILC-Japan Activity Report (2018 to 2019)

Summary

From 2018 to 2019, ILC-Japan continued to actively engage in various initiatives in order to promote Productive Aging, the guiding principle of ILC.

- We conducted an international comparative study on older people who stayed independent in their communities as well as on systems and support to enable this. We also presented the results of this study on various occasions, such as symposia and seminars, and published a report for wider dissemination and education.
- For information and education, we actively partnered with companies and associations.
- We were able to educate a wide range of audience, from policymakers to the general public.

(1) Research

1. International Comparative Study on Productive Aging

From 2018 to 2019, we conducted interview studies on management of community-based support in the Netherlands, the UK, South Korea and Australia.

The results were truly informative for Japan as the country develops community-based integrated care systems.

2. Longitudinal study and interviews on community-based activities and health

The study aimed to examine what types of people could enjoy productive later life and continue their activities by collecting various data on contributing factors, including the respondents' socioeconomic status, social capital, availability of support network(s), and attitudes toward health.

(2) Advocacy

1. International symposium “Japan, a leading country in population aging! Communities built by everyone as a main player - Think about the elderly’s active role from the latest trends in Japan and overseas.” It was co-hosted with the Dia Foundation for Research on Ageing Societies. November 16, 2018, in Tokyo.
2. Ikigai (meaning of life) & Tasukeai (mutual help) Summit in Osaka. We organized the Parallel Session 51 “In other countries, how do people support lives of older people through mutual help activities in communities?” September 10, 2019, in Osaka.
3. A seminar series “Lifestyle Workshop” for our supporting member companies. The theme for 2018 was “dementia and roles of companies.” To sum up our 2-year research on this theme, we organized a seminar on January 15, 2019 in Tokyo, bringing together various stakeholders such as representatives from the financial industry, the apartment management industry, Japan Franchise Association, municipalities and the national government. The seminar provided an opportunity for the participants to connect with each other across the industrial boundaries and to work together to support older people with dementia.
The theme for 2019 is “community business.”
4. “Productive Aging Day” Forum. In 2018, October 1 was set as “Productive Aging Day.” To celebrate this day, in 2019, we organized an expert forum in Tokyo. The participants exchanged their ideas from the 4 perspectives of longevity (vocational, social activities, asset and health), aiming to build networks to realize the productive aging society.
5. Collaborative studies with other organizations

- ① International comparative study on care management to support older people (Institute for Health Economic and Policy). 2018-2019.
- ② International comparative study on inclusion policies in leading countries (Medical, Care and Welfare Policy Research Forum and NTT DATA INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT CONSULTING Inc.). 2019.
- ③ Data compilation on medical and long-term care in France, Germany, UK and USA (Institute for Health Economic and Policy). 2018-2019.

(3) Policy

1. We gave a lecture to policy officers of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, leading to policy recommendations.
2. In the Annual Report on the Ageing Society by the Cabinet Office, we introduced the findings from the interviews in our international study.

(4) Publications & Communication

Publications

- a) With the permission from ILC-UK, we translated the following 4 reports of ILC-UK into Japanese and disseminated them.
 - * Flexible and affordable methods of paying for long term care insurance
 - * Social Connection and Loneliness
 - * When I'm 64
 - * Towards affordable healthcare: Why effective innovation is key
- b) We published an information magazine, compiling various news stories outside Japan in FY 2018 regarding the population aging with fewer births.
- c) We are producing a booklet "Reablement: New design to create communities filled with wellbeing." (to be published in March 2020)

Communication

- a) Participated in the ILC-GA Long Term Care Project (FY 2018)
- b) Organized a meeting to exchange the latest information on medical/long-term care in the Netherlands (November 2018)
- c) Organized a meeting to exchange the latest information on medical/long-term care in Germany (May 2018)
- d) Provided information on policies related to intergenerational relationships (to the Netherlands)
- e) Contributed an article on the background of and historical trends in older people's cohabitation with children in Japan (to RSA, UK)
- f) Gave a lecture on the changing demographic structure in Japan, focusing on population aging with fewer births (to a group from Mexico, July 2019)
- g) Cooperating in the preparation for the side event of G20 Health Ministers' Meeting in Okayama (October 2019)
- h) Conducting a study tour of alternative housing options for older people in Japan (for UK, October 2019)
- i) Organizing a meeting to exchange the latest information on medical/long-term care in the UK (October 2019)
- j) Organizing a meeting to exchange opinions on the UK-Japan SWAN (Social Wellbeing in Ageing Nations) Project (November 2019)