

## ILC-Japan Activity Report (2021)

### Summary

ILC-Japan has actively organized a variety of initiatives in order to promote ILC's philosophy: productive aging.

- In 2021, we conducted studies aiming for community development through collaboration with various businesses based on the development of community-based integrated care systems. We widely disseminated their results through presentations at seminars and publication of a report.
- The 16th Conference of the Society for Applied Gerontology-Japan was held under the theme, "To live productively for a lifetime: revisiting productive aging." Around 500 people participated in this two-day conference, consisting of three public symposia, 18 oral presentations, and 18 poster presentations.
- In the "Older adults' experiences in the COVID-19 pandemic" project, we conducted interviews with 35 older adults in urban and rural areas of Japan twice, regarding changes in their physical and mental conditions as well as their resilience.
- In PR & communication, we actively collaborated with businesses and organizations.
- We provided information to a wide range of people, from government officials to the public.

### (1) Research

#### 1. **Studies aiming for community development through collaboration with various businesses based on the development of community-based integrated care systems**

In addition to self-help, public assistance, and mutual support in the community, the private sector (businesses) should also play a vital role in supporting the everyday lives of older adults who need assistance, in order to help them live in the community as long as possible. We conducted a study on collaboration between municipalities and businesses in different regions of Japan as well as in other countries. We also conducted a study on community support coordinators, who are tasked with coordinating collaboration with various industries, asking such questions as how the activities of these coordinators are supported and what training systems are available to them.

- i) Creating services through collaboration between businesses and municipalities
- ii) Organizing a series of seminars on industry-government-academia collaboration
- iii) Organizing community support coordinator café and conducting a survey with its participants
- iv) Conducting an international comparative study on link workers in the UK, the Netherlands, and Australia

#### 2. **"Older adults' experiences in the COVID-19 pandemic" project**

We conducted interviews with older adults twice (in July 2020 and February 2021) regarding changes in their physical and mental conditions as well as their resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The results of the first interviews were published in Japanese Journal of Gerontology and were well received.

The results of the first and second interviews are being compiled as a booklet for the public, which will be published in January 2022.

We have also submitted the summary of our interviews to the ILC-GA COVID-19 Working Group. This will be incorporated as part of the international comparative study.

Professor Watanabe, the research committee chair for the project, will attend a webinar

hosted by ILC-Australia on December 10 as a panelist.

## **(2) Advocacy**

### **1. Hosting the 16th Conference of the Society for Applied Gerontology-Japan (November 6 to 7, 2021)**

Shinichi Ogami (Advisor, ILC-Japan) had been appointed as the chair of the 16th Conference of the Society for Applied Gerontology-Japan, and ILC-Japan served as the conference secretariat. The two-day conference was held online under the theme, "To live productively for a lifetime: revisiting productive aging." The conference consisted of three public symposia, 18 oral presentations, and 18 poster presentations.

On Day 1 of the conference, Ogami gave an address as the chair, highlighting the significant role of ILC-Japan by informing the audience that ILC-Japan's research in gerontology had served as a foundation when establishing the Society.

One of the three public symposia was international, in which concrete examples of research on the transformation from a welfare state to a participatory society were introduced via video, thanks to the cooperation of ILC-Netherlands.

Moreover, this year's conference was particularly well received as being more interdisciplinary and international than ever, attracting not only researchers but also a wide range of presenters and participants from the private, public, and academic fields.

### **2. Organizing an international symposium at Ikigai (meaning of life) & Tasukeai (mutual support) Summit in Kanagawa (September 1 to 2, 2021)**

The event was hosted by Sawayaka Welfare Foundation, one of the largest intermediary organizations in Japan. ILC-Japan, being in charge of organizing an international symposium in this event, hosted a session titled, "How do other countries support lives of older people through mutual support in communities?" In the symposium, speakers reported how older adults in other leading countries maintain local resources, expand/create mutual support, and contribute to community revitalization. They also introduced how these older adults take innovative measures to maintain their networks even under the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had an international guest speaker from Australia, Ms. Sharron Olivier from the Waverton Hub, via Zoom to share the experience of the Hub, such as its activities and roles in the community.

### **3. Collaborative studies with other organizations**

- Data compilation on medical and long-term care in France, Germany, UK, and USA (Institute for Health Economic and Policy) <2021-2022>
- Partial commissioning of the project to support enhancement of the short-term, intensive, and preventive services in Tokyo  
We helped three districts of Tokyo in the development of short-term, intensive, and preventive services (reablement), by planning, operating, and providing advice on training programs for municipalities, professionals, and providers.

## **(3) Policy**

- We gave lectures to officers responsible for policies in the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare, leading to policy recommendations.
- We created a booklet to help communities develop a system to support older adults through collaboration among various local actors. We sent the booklet to prefectures and local municipalities so that it can be widely used.

#### **(4) Publications & Communication**

##### **<Publication>**

- We collect a wide range of information and news related to population aging in other countries, summarize it, and post it on our website.
- We published a report “Elder care and community support in other countries.” (in Japanese)

##### **<Communication>**

- We helped the planning of the online seminar, “Thinking about the sustainability of elderly care,” jointly hosted by National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies and Leyden Academy (commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan).