Activity Report of ILC Japan 2010-2011

ILC-Japan has been carrying out the following activities centered around the improvement of longevity literacy.

1. International comparison on aging society and older people's life

   We conduct a wide-ranging analysis of population aging and older people's life in Japan. Also, we explore global issues and approaches of aging societies by using international networks, mainly ILC Global Alliance.

   At the same time, as a field work, we carry out an interview research on daily activities of older people in different countries to grasp actual conditions and to sort out the problems in each culture and institution.

1) Publication of 'A Profile of Older Japanese' (for overseas readers)

   This is a booklet with a variety of data introducing precisely the state of Japanese older people, which drew international attention.

   <Annual publication>

   Chapter 1. The Aging Population and Aged Society
   Chapter 2. Living Arrangement
   Chapter 3. Housing
   Chapter 4. Health Status
   Chapter 5. Frailty and Long-Term Care
   Chapter 6. Economic Status
   Chapter 7. The New-Old and Social Participation
2) Publication of ‘Aging: Our Global Relations’ (for domestic readers)
   <2010>
   Part 1. Profile of Older Japanese
   Part 2. Global Aging Report (US, UK and France)
   Part 3. Daily Activities of Older People in US, UK, France and Japan (Interview on Healthcare)

   <2011>
   Part 1. Profile of Older Japanese
   Part 2. Global Aging Report (US, UK, France and Netherlands)
       (1) Pension
       (2) Healthcare and long-term care
       (3) Dementia
       (4) Special Topic
   Part 3. Daily Activities of Older People in US, UK, France and Japan (Interview on Employment and household budget)
   Part 4. Longevity Literacy IQ Test, Q&A

※ English version of 2011 edition is planned to be produced.

3) Publication of ‘Healthy life expectancy 90 years old’
   (for domestic readers)

   In 2010, we developed an introductory textbook in the form of electronic book to improve longevity literacy especially among younger generation.
   ※ We will develop the English version as well in the year 2011.
4) Global Information Journal on Longevity and Society
No. 15 Productive Aging — Robert N. Butler Memorial Issue
(Japanese / English)
No. 16 Nursing, medical and end-of-life care at home
(for domestic readers)
No. 17 Life and Death — from the bioethical view
(for domestic readers)
No. 18 International Comparison on Death and Dying in Place
(for domestic readers)

2. International Comparative Study on Death and Dying in Place (2009-2011)

An international comparative study on latest trends of policies, researches, and status related to home nursing and end-of-life care

<2010>

1) International Comparative Study on Ideal Terminal Care and Death
We sent out a questionnaire to a total of 532 persons including 221 specialists in 12 Japanese institutions and 331 specialists in 7 countries (France, UK, Netherlands, Korea, Israel, Australia and Czech) and analyzed the results.

2) International Comparative Study on Terminal Care System
We sent out a questionnaire to 7 countries (ditto) to study institutions and guidelines regarding end-of-life care.

National programs and strategies on palliative care and end-of-life care have been mapped out and positive efforts have been made in France, UK, and Australia. Japan however, has not reached that point yet and has barely established some guidelines.
Under this situation, there is no national consensus concerning this topic in Japan. Therefore, the results of the questionnaire research revealed a big gap between ideal and actual status on issues such as 'end-of-life locations', 'artificial feeding', and 'discussion leadership', indicating a great deal of confusion among patients, family members, and specialists.

<2011>

1) International Comparative Study on Ideal Terminal Care and Death

We will add USA to the 8 countries focused in the previous year. Also, we plan to conduct quantitative survey with France and Korea.

2) Workshop and Seminar

(1) Discussion on life and death from the bioethical aspects
(2) Report on results of the survey regarding 'Ideal Terminal Care and Death' in Japan, France, and Korea

3) Conference Presentation

Presentation of our study outcome at IAGG-Asia/Oceania Region and at other academic societies

3. Information Transmission and International Interaction

As an advanced aging country, we transmit various information on aging in Japan. Also, we try to serve as a hub transmitting to the world the information on current status and problems surrounding older victims of Tohoku Earthquake Disaster.