

The 2nd World Veterinary Association-World Medical Association Global Conference on One Health*1

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Japan Medical Association



Opening Ceremony

The 2nd World Veterinary Association (WVA)-World Medical Association (WMA) Global Conference on One Health—Moving forward from “One Health” Concept to “One Health” Approach—was held on November 10 and 11 2016 in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka, Japan, hosted by the Japan Medical Association (JMA), WVA, WMA, and the Japan Veterinary Association (JVA).

About 30 lectures were presented over the 2 days of this international conference, and the Fukuoka Memorandum (See p153), which set forth the determination to proceed to the practical implementation stage of the One Health

Concept, was unanimously approved.

The 1st global conference was held in May 2016 in Madrid, Spain, upon conclusion in October 2012 of the memorandum of understanding that aims to foster cooperation between physicians and veterinarians under the One Health Concept to improve global health; the collaboration and partnership between JMA President Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura and JVA President Dr. Isao Kurauchi, recognized through their lectures, were highly appreciated, which led to holding the 2nd global conference in Japan. There were 639 participants from 31 countries.

*1 This is an extracted and English-translated version of an article in the JMA News (December 5 2016 Issue) about the 2nd Global Conference on One Health with the theme: Moving forward from One Health Concept to One Health Approach, held in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan on November 10-11th 2016.



Their Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Akishino



Mr. Koichi Tanaka

Day 1

The opening ceremony was held on November 10 with the honorary presence of their Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Akishino.

JMA Executive Board Member Dr. Mari Michinaga and WVA Veterinary Policy Officer Dr. Zeev Noga officiated the ceremony. First, the representatives of the 4 host organizations made opening remarks.

Dr. Yokokura stated, “Until now, physicians and veterinarians have each been making steady efforts from their respective standpoints. In the future, I am certain that physicians and veterinarians sharing the principal of One Health and consolidating their knowledge will lead to the further promotion of countermeasures against infectious diseases, and especially to the advancement of both medical science and veterinary science.” He continued, “I regard the holding of this international conference as having great significance in terms of not only the international contribution it is making to the medical field, but also its role in furthering regional revitalization.”

Prince Akishino graced the audience with his comment that “there is a concern about a global outbreak of infectious disease, and it is very significant to have researchers from many different fields of science gather at one venue to discuss infectious disease control. I would hope that this will serve as an opportunity to attract attention from many people for human and animal health and to deepen their understanding.”

The opening ceremony was followed by a keynote lecture by Mr. Koichi Tanaka, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2002 and Senior fellow/General Manager of Koichi Tanaka Mass Spectrometry Research Laboratory, Shimadzu Corporation, titled “Analytical Instruments for

Further Contribution to Measures against Infections.”

Mr. Tanaka stated that the roles played by analytical instruments have recently been expanding year by year, and he presented a lecture on 3 points, namely: 1) existing analytical instruments for contribution to measures against infection, 2) technologies aimed at next-generation medicine and drug discovery, and 3) ideas about further contributions to the future of medical testing and “One Health.”

He introduced that a mass spectrometer (MALDI-MS) is contributing to early diagnosis and determination of appropriate drugs, and that analytical instruments have the capacity to identify already-known substances as well as to discover previously unknown compounds or phenomena.

He emphasized that “One Health is about the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment, and this conference aims to strengthen the links and communications among these different fields. In that sense, planning and holding such a conference is epoch-making.” He also commented, “I am certain that unconventional ideas will be inspired and presented through the cooperation of many different fields, and I hope to contribute further as a person involved in the research and development of analytical instruments.”

In the afternoon, 2 sessions were held under the theme of “Zoonotic Diseases.”

In Session 1, Dr. Ichiro Kurane, Director General of National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan, pointed out that wildlife-born zoonotic viral diseases such as Ebola virus disease (EVD), severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and severe fever with thrombocytopenia



Dr. Ichiro Kurane



Dr. Toru Takahashi

nia syndrome (SFTS) have occurred often in recent years, likely caused by “the expansion of infectious disease at a global scale accompanied by the increased movements of humans and animals” and “advance in surveillance systems and diagnostic techniques.”

He also stated that the management of sub-clinical and asymptomatic infection is an urgent issue that requires various efforts, including rapid identification of the causative agent and continuous surveillance as well as the elucidation of the infection cycles of pathogens in nature and the development of protective and treatment measures against infection. He also said that “establishing and maintaining information exchange systems and research collaborations in advance between medical and veterinary sectors are essential as the basis for rapid countermeasures against zoonosis.”

Dr. Toru Takahashi, Director of Department of Hematology, Yamaguchi Grand Medical Center, introduced the collaboration scheme of physicians and veterinarians in Yamaguchi Prefecture in 2012 when responding to the first SFTS patient in Japan. He stated that “the first SFTS case in Japan was successfully diagnosed, even though SFTS was hardly known in clinical practice at that time, thanks to the cooperation of Yamaguchi University Joint Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, and the National Institute of Infectious Diseases,” and that “this was indeed the practical implementation of the One Health Concept through the united effort of human medicine and veterinary medicine, which could serve as a model case when dealing with upcoming emerging infectious diseases and zoonoses.”

Dr. Haruo Kusaba, President of the Fukuoka Veterinary Medical Association then introduced a



Dr. Takeshi Inamitsu

framework for cooperation between physicians and veterinarians—case examples from the Fukuoka Prefecture, where an academic cooperation agreement at a local level was concluded for the first time in December 2013 between the Fukuoka Prefecture Medical Association and the Fukuoka Veterinary Medical Association. He stated that “55 local veterinary associations and the corresponding medical associations in Japan also signed academic agreements after us, and it created a basis for zoonosis countermeasures in Japan and will allow us to build a safe and secure society.”

Dr. Takeshi Inamitsu, Board Member of the Fukuoka Prefecture Medical Association introduced the results of the zoonosis occurrence status survey that was carried out as the joint project of Fukuoka Veterinary Medical Association and Fukuoka Prefecture Medical Association, and pointed out that zoonotic infection from family pets is common, and that infants, elderly people, pregnant women, and people with decreased immunity due to primary disease need to stay more alert to the health of their pets. He commented, “I hope to strengthen the physician-veterinarian collaboration and promote more information exchange to help healthy



Dr. Mamoru Mohri

humans and animals to live together.”

In the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Session (Session 2), some international studies were introduced, including “Surveillance of Viral Zoonosis in Africa” from Zambia, “Ecological Studies on Flying Foxes and Their Involvement in the Rabies-Related and Other Viral Infectious Diseases” from Indonesia, and “Three Dimensions of One Health and Community Intervention Model for MDR Bacteria in Vietnam” from Vietnam.

Day 2

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) Session “Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)” on Day 2 established that AMR is an emerging public health threat at global, regional, and national levels, and that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is strengthening measures against AMR to ensure global food safety and public health. The lectures discussed the importance of prudent use of antimicrobials and domestic and international trends in the veterinary medicine.

Dr. Norio Ohmagari, Director of Disease Control and Prevention Center, National Center for Global Health and Medicine Hospital, cited the challenges for promoting AMR control in Japan, namely: 1) strengthening efforts to address the use of antimicrobials in outpatient care, 2) improving public awareness, and 3) organizing a comprehensive regional network for infection control involving medical associations.

In Fukuoka Prefecture Session, Dr. Mamoru Mohri, an astronaut and Chief Executive Director of the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, gave a speech titled “Planet of Life Observed from Space.”



From Left: Drs. Kurauchi, Chiang, Deau, and Yokokura

Dr. Mohri emphasized the importance of protecting the Earth’s environment based on his experience of having been in space twice. He appealed to the audience to understand that humans are not uniquely special as living beings, and that we should renew our awareness that humans can never control nature.

He continued to say that each person needs to individually become aware of his/her connection to the global environment in the future, and noted that people will live more easily in a society that succeeds in mastering “wisdom for the future,” or the sagacity to survive. Japan is, in a sense, an advanced country for already having a culture of “compassion,” and he urged that Japan should lead the world as a role model.

Mohri’s lecture was followed by 2 sessions titled “Other Aspects of One Health” and “Considerations for the Future of One Health Concept.”

Summarization Session provided the lecture titled “Practical Operationalization of the One Health Approach,” and a recap of the conference by WVA President-elect Dr. Johnson Chiang. Dr. Chiang commented that “about 30 lectures and discussions were successfully held over the 2 days, and we were able to share many achievements,” and emphasized that “what we achieved this time will surely lead the next conference.”

Lastly, Dr. Yokokura, JMA President, Dr. Kurauchi, JVA President, Dr. Deau, Past President of WMA, and Dr. Chiang, President-elect of WVA appeared on the stage. Dr. Kurauchi declared that “we shall step up from the verification stage of the One Health Concept and pro-

ceed to the stage of action and practical implementation based on the One Health Concept,” and he read aloud the draft version of the

Fukuoka Memorandum, which was unanimously approved with the applause of the whole audience.

Fukuoka Memorandum

Humankind has a responsibility to show respect for all forms of life on Earth as well as for the environment. Physicians and veterinarians have the scientific knowledge, medical training, the statutory accountability, as well as the opportunity and the responsibility to engage in a wide range of employment fields that deliver services to the benefit of people, animals and the environment.

In October 2012, the World Veterinary Association and World Medical Association signed a memorandum to collaborate in a unified approach to tackle common health issues to improve Global Health, and to focus on zoonotic diseases, responsible use of antimicrobials and enhancing collaboration on education, clinical care and public health.

In November 2013, the Japan Medical Association and Japan Veterinary Medical Association signed a written agreement to share academic research information related to the development of human and veterinary medicine as well as to collaborate together to build a safe and healthy society. In addition, JMA and JVMA agreed to reinforce collaborations on infectious diseases, disaster preparedness and management according to the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in 2011. The conclusion of this agreement was also achieved by regional medical associations and regional veterinary medical associations throughout Japan.

In November 2016, the World Veterinary Association (WVA), World Medical Association (WMA), Japan Medical Association (JMA), and Japan Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA) jointly held the Second WVA-WMA Global Conference (GCOH) on One Health in Japan following the inaugural GCOH held in Madrid, Spain, in 2015.

Physicians and veterinarians from around the world gathered together in Fukuoka, Japan to exchange information and consider effective countermeasures to important global threats related to “One Health”, including zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance and laudable results were achieved.

Based on the outcomes of this conference, WVA, WMA, JMA and JMVA agree to move from the validation and recognition stage of the “One Health Concept,” to the practical implementation stage.

We hereby declare the following:

1. Physicians and veterinarians shall promote the exchange of information aimed at preventing zoonotic diseases and strengthening cooperative relationships, as well as to undertake further collaboration and cooperation aimed at creating a system for zoonosis research.
2. Physicians and veterinarians shall strengthen their cooperative relationships to ensure the responsible use of important antimicrobials in human and animal healthcare.
3. Physicians and veterinarians shall support activities for developing and improving human and veterinary medical education, including understanding the One Health concept and approach to One Health challenges.
4. Physicians and veterinarians shall promote mutual exchange and strengthen their cooperative relationships in order to resolve all issues related to the creation of a healthy and safe society.

November 11, 2016