

JAPAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



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In March of this year, the one year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster, the JMA held a “JMA Training Course on Japan Medical Association Team (JMAT) Activities in Disaster Medicine,” with Harvard University providing support regarding radiological emergency medicine and special disasters. This event was followed the next day by a symposium entitled “2012 JMA Symposium on Healthcare Policy: Disaster Medicine and Medical Associations.”

When we think about the standardization of disaster training programs for physicians and medical support activities, national medical associations are not necessarily prepared to provide direct medical assistance because of large differences among National Medical Associations (NMAs) in legal status, functions, and relationship with their national government. Therefore, in order to work with the government in collaborative disaster medical support activities, it is important for NMAs to share information about local areas in relief activities, create training programs, and improve clinical capacity through the standardization and sharing of programs.

With regard to reciprocal support activities in the Asian region, it is also necessary to review the cooperative frameworks for medical associations and medical resources as well as the utilization of hospital ships.

We have learned that unexpected situations always arise, no matter how well-prepared we think we are. What is most important is accurate and prompt provision of information.

Many people living in disaster-afflicted areas tend to seek medical consultation out of fear, even though there is no need for concern over radiation exposure. Therefore, when nuclear

facilities are struck by disaster, it is essential to measure and detect the presence of radioactive contamination and disseminate information to local residents. In particular, physicians should be given accurate and prompt information.

In various fields, physicians have pursued the peaceful usage of radiation through the advancement and diffusion of diagnostic techniques and innovations in treatments for difficult diseases such as cancer.

In terms of the relationship between the use of radiation and public health policies also, there is a need for more positive involvement by the medical community in the fundamental revision of energy policies.

Japan is responsible for disseminating the results of the post-accident inspections of the nuclear power plant and experiences learned from the disaster to the international community. As the largest NGO in Japan, the JMA also has an important role to fulfill in supporting the nation's health because of its long-time involvement in community health care. The JMA will endeavor to promote the creation of a system linking JMAT activities at times of disaster and continuing education for every physician, proactively strengthening the JMA's responsiveness to disasters that may befall Japanese society.

I am a resident of Fukushima Prefecture and a physician who is involved on a daily basis in the peaceful use of radiation for treating patients.

For this reason, in the future, I believe that it is desirable that discussion continue on the ideal usage of nuclear power from the dual standpoints of protecting the health of the general public and utilizing radiation for peaceful purposes for humankind.

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This article is based on a presentation made as the Report of Activities by each NMA at the 48th CMAAO Mid-term Council, Macau, China, on November 9, 2012.

Country Report

**International Medical Support
for Major Disasters**

-From the Perspective of the Japan Medical Association-

The 48th CMAAO Midterm Council Meeting
Hotel Royal Macau, Macau
9th November, 2012

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Vice-Chair of Council, WMA

March 10, 2012

**JMA Training Course on JMAT
Activities in Disaster Medicine**

March 11, 2012

**2012 JMA Symposium on Healthcare
Policy -Disaster Medicine and Medical
Associations-**

The 48th CMAAO Midterm Council Meeting, November 9, 2012, Macau


1

- **Standardization of the Disaster Training Program**
- **Share Information**
- **Create Training Programs**
- **Improve the Clinical Capacity**

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2

**It is necessary to review the
Cooperative Framework between
the Medical Associations and
Medical Resources and
utilization of
Hospital Ships.**



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3

- **Unexpected circumstances always happen however well-prepared we think we are.**
- **Accurate and prompt supply of information is necessary, especially for the physicians.**

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4


- **The Greatest Discovery of the 20th Century**
- **JMA's Responsibility for Nation's Health**

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5

**Ideal Utilization of Nuclear Power
from the Dual Stand Points**

- **Protecting the Health of General Public**
- **Utilizing Radiation for Peaceful Purposes of Well-being of the People**



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6



*Thank you
for your attention!*

Japan Medical Association

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7