

The 7th ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies

“Towards an Inclusive Society”

*Strengthening the collaboration between social welfare, health and medical systems
for Children with Disabilities*

31 August - 3 September 2009, Tokyo

Agreements and Recommendations

< Agreements >

The participants agree the following;

- ✧ The proceedings and outcomes of this meeting on health and social welfare services for children with disabilities should report to the respective Ministers and other senior officials in each country.
- ✧ Japan with the support by ASEAN secretariat should report the proceedings and outcomes of this meeting to the ASEAN+3 Ministers meetings and SOMHD+3 and SOMSWD+3.
- ✧ This Meeting serves as a platform to follow-up decisions made by ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meetings and Senior Officials Meetings on health and social welfare sectors.
- ✧ Participation of children with disabilities in all relevant activities (eg. ASEAN Children Forum) should be ensured.
- ✧ It is ensured to focus on social model into implementation.
- ✧ Diversity of disabilities should be recognized /respected.
- ✧ International, regional instruments related to disabilities as well as children with disabilities should be complied.
- ✧ Face to face meetings with ASEAN member country and Japan to share information, knowledge and view of the matter are very effective to solve the problem on health and social welfare for children with disabilities.
- ✧ To realize the “inclusive society”, especially including children with disabilities, it is very important to understand the concept of “caring society.”

The participants also reaffirmed the themes for 2010 and 2011 as follows;

- 2010: Health and Welfare Services for Vulnerable People
- 2011: Human Resource Development in Welfare and Health

< Recommendations >

For future improvement of health and welfare services for children with disabilities (CWDs), the participants recommend;

Regional

- ✧ To promote sharing of best practices on CWDs and capacity building for practitioners and professionals in the technical, programmatic and financial management aspects (e.g. regional conferences, seminars and study visits);
- ✧ To use ASEAN Children's Forum as platform to advocate and promote the direct participation of CWDs and organizations working on CWDs;
- ✧ To compile good practices/success stories on CWDs interventions, with implementation guidelines and checklist;
- ✧ To hold a capacity building workshop, using MCH handbook as one of the possible references, for senior officials to strengthen the data collection system (i.e. method, analysis and utilisation) on CWDs towards the development of national and regional databases on CWDs;
- ✧ To encourage more researches on CWDs including issues on causes and empowerment;

National

- ✧ To promote technical assistance as needed by specific Member States from other countries with more advanced experiences in addressing CWDs issues;
- ✧ To promote closer cross sectoral cooperation between ministries of health and of social welfare and other related lined ministries and to identify the focal point, through development of a national mechanism and framework;
- ✧ To incorporate CWDs in the national plan of action for children over a 5-year period;
- ✧ To promote preventive measures and early detection and intervention, especially the use of MCH handbook;
- ✧ To promote comprehensive approach in integrated trainings, bringing together doctors, medical specialist and social workers / welfare officers;
- ✧ To strengthen community-based approach of rehabilitation including by mobilizing volunteers, volunteer management and training programmes to ensure accessibility and encompassing services provided.