

## <Preface>

### Recent topics in public health in Japan

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The “Journal of the National Institute of Public Health” is published 6 times a year to promptly cover up-to-date topics in the field of public health; including health, health care, social care and environmental health, and to transmit evidence-based accurate knowledge and information to healthcare professionals. Although the journal mainly targets the readers in Japan, previous feature articles have been utilized in the broad field of public health nationwide and this motivated us to publish a special feature issue to disseminate the information about the Japanese public health to countries all over the world.

This feature issue “Recent topics in public health in Japan” covers various topics rather than a specific detailed one because the information accessible from other countries is very limited especially in the field of public health despite the attracting interest in Japan or Japanese public health from many countries around the world. Thus, this issue is a collection of the following 7 review articles dealing with Japan’s advanced efforts of public health, to which the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) has substantially contributed.

Osawa, et al. describe a summary of past maternal and child health policies and an overview of the maternal and child health policy since 2001, especially focusing on the first and second terms of Healthy Parents and Children 21—Japan’s maternal and child health policy. Miura and Tano review the current situation of geriatric oral health care and countermeasures against oral frailty as a new concern in geriatric oral health in Japan. Bando, Inaba, and Yunokawa review the present conditions, challenges and countermeasures on environmental health for the Tokyo Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2020, focusing on passive smoking measures, securing food safety and supervising the private lodging business. Fukuda and Shiroiwa describe the current situation of the application of economic evaluation of pharmaceuticals and medical devices in Japan, and introduce “Center for Outcomes Research and Economic Evaluation for Health (CORE2-Health)” established in the NIPH to provide good evidence on cost effectiveness. Masui, et al. summarize the current status and issues concerning long-term care policies, and introduce the Comprehensive Service for Preventive Care and Daily Life Support for developing diverse care services provided by local citizens and promoting mutual aid in local communities, with the key concepts of “public participation” and “local resources.” Takemura and Sone outline the history of research and development (R&D) for intractable & rare diseases in Japan, and describe how the NIPH has been involved in and contributed to R&D and how the NIPH will address it. Taneda describes some of the recent activities including the new reporting system of death cases due to medical accidents, the reform of patient safety management at advanced treatment hospitals.

We hope that the information reviewed in this issue will help public health workers in the world to understand that Japanese health policies and related efforts by NIPH have played important roles in improving the nation’s health, and to find that the Japan’s experience will be useful for the improvement of public health in their own countries.