

<Preface>

Recent topics in public health in Japan 2022

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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, a special feature issue to disseminate the information about the Japanese public health to countries all over the world has been published once a year since 2019.

This feature issue “Recent topics in public health in Japan 2022” 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 6 review articles and 2 practical reports dealing with Japan’s advanced efforts of public health, to which the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) has substantially contributed.

USHIYAMA gave an overview of the history of training course for the development of public health center directors implemented by the NIPH, and outlined its prospects. SATO et al. reviewed the historical changes of basic education and continuous training at the NIPH for public health nurses employed at the administration to gain suggestions for the future human resource development. MARUTANI et al. described the roles and education system of public health nurses in Japan and introduced social workers as their collaborators. TANEDA reviewed the health policies, mechanisms, systems, and ongoing efforts for promoting healthcare teamwork in Japan. YAMAGUCHI et al. overviewed the history of rehabilitation in Japan, especially focused on an aspect of the aging society. KODAMA et al. described the recent status and challenges of non-communicable diseases in Japan, referring to the sustainable development goals. MIYOSHI et al. reviewed the current drinking water quality management in Japan focusing on drinking water quality standards, control of pathogenic microorganisms, and water safety plans. TAKEMURA outlined the public health practices related to natural disasters in Japan, focusing on the legislation for disaster management systems and relevant organizations to address the response to natural disasters, and described how the NIPH contributed to the improvement of the public health practices that addressed natural disasters.

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 the 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. For additional information, readers are advised to also see the past feature issues of “Recent topics in public health in Japan” published since 2019.