

Conclusive report forum of TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Program (2016/11/27)

Topics: Capacity building of disaster nursing profession
Venue: International Research Institute of Disaster Science (Sendai, JAPAN)

On Nov. 27, 2016 (Sun), the conclusive report forum of TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Program was held in IRIDeS by co-organization with Prof. Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science Division). This program invites the student nurses from Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake to United States to learn about disaster nursing, and through the pre- and post-visiting seminars and activities. This program is organized by U.S.-Japan Council supported by Johnson & Johnson as one of the TOMODACHI Initiative Programs to promote exchange between Japan and U.S.A.

The pre-visiting seminar was held in Sendai in June. Prof. Egawa lectured about disaster nursing, and the concept of disaster risk reduction and the students visited Minami Sanriku Town to explore the real situation of disaster affected area. Another pre-visit seminar was in Tokyo, July and Prof. Yasuhiro Otomo lectured about disaster resilience. The students also learned to improve their presentation skills and built up the mind to communicate with global people about disaster and to convey their passion and thoughts about disaster and nursing.

The students, mentors, and supporting staff visited New York and Washington D.C. for two weeks in August as the following study tour schedule.

Aug. 6	Arriving in New York
Aug. 7	New York
Aug. 8	Goldman Sachs, 911 Tribute Center, 911 Memorial Museum, Reception by New York Japanese Society
Aug. 9	New York University Langone Medical Center, Nursing School
Aug. 10	United Nations, Mount Sinai Hospital
Aug. 11	New Jersey Coast Line affected by Hurricane Sandy
Aug. 12	Rutgers Nursing College, Johnson and Johnson. Heading to Washington D.C.
Aug. 13	Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Natural History Museum, American History Museum, National Zoo
Aug. 14	White House, Martin Luther King Museum, Lincoln Memorial Museum
Aug. 15	National Children's Medical Center
Aug. 16	American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Aug. 17	Uniformed University Health Service/Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance
Aug. 18	State of Virginia Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue, National Institute of Health
Aug. 19	Presentation Workshop in National Children's Medical Center
Aug. 20	Departure (Aug. 21 Arrival in Japan)

(continues on the next page)

After coming back to Japan, the students organized various activities by themselves to implement what they learned in the program. In the post seminar, the students proposed various plans of their own activity in various location and situations. Some of them organized workshops about how to make “Go “, some initiated student disaster committee in the nursing school, and some visited the temporary houses in the coastal area. In the November post seminar, the students refined the presentation skills again.

Through the meeting with 911 survivors or families that “telling” itself becomes the “healing” of story teller, students recognized the importance of telling their own experience in disaster sincerely to the others.

The final Sendai Seminar composed of the summary of this second year program, individual presentation from the students, mentor’s summary and discussion. The students made their individual experience as the life-changing event with their refined presentation skills and showed their remarkable progress as student nurse and young leaders. Variety of view point and their own mind of commitment for the local society moved every audience strongly.

Prof. Egawa made conclusive remarks about bright future of the students not only as disaster nurse profession, but also as global leaders through TOMODACHI Initiatives to promote the physical and mental health of the people of community.

Disaster medicine tends to be considered as emergency medicine, but the students have learned to protect their own physical and mental health to help people, nurse can play significant role in every phase of onset, response, recovery, reconstruction and anticipation phase of disaster, difference between Japan and U.S. medical system, the significance of expression of their own idea about disaster. We are sure that they will create bright future of community resilient against disaster.



Students presenting their achievement in
Disaster Nursing Program



Greeting from U.S.-Japan Council



Greeting from Johnson & Jonson



Mentor from Miyagi



Mentor from Fukushima



Mentor from Iwate



Joint picture



Briefing about TOMODACHI Alumni