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Development of Nursing Scholarship in Japan

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This presentation gives you an account of nursing scholarship in Japan, after the second world war. It is classified on the basis of four distinct objectives: First, establishment of college/university level nursing education; second, development of academic organizations; third, attainment of Academic Status within the national science community; and fourth, expansion of worldwide academia. These overlapping objectives were implemented by farsighted, and committed leaders of the nursing community.

The first objective: nursing programs offered at the formal education systems are increased to 283 Baccalaureate programs, 183 Master programs, and 101 Doctorate programs. Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities (JANPU) is representing the voice of those programs. In 2018, the Japan Accreditation Board for Nursing Education (JABNE) was instituted to monitor the quality of nursing education. On the second account, the number of academic organizations rose to 48, and those organizations are members of the Japan Association of Nursing Academies(JANA). The third objective; around the same time of developing JANPU & JANA, the Nursing Science was recognized as a scientific discipline by the Japan Scientific Council (JSC) and having Nurse members in the JSC. The fourth objectives: we are now gathering for the 6th International Nursing Research Conference of World Academy of Nursing Science.

Each organization of the nursing scholarship independently develops their functionality. The four objectives of nursing scholarship are closely intertwined, complement each other, and combine to achieve sustainable academic growth in the nursing arena.

However, we anticipate rapid demographic changes in the future. There is already considerable diversity in the life style, health, habits, culture, religion, and nationality of people. Population projections predict a rise in aging population, and a sharp fall in overall population by 2040 or earlier. Hence, the demands on nursing education, practice, and research will change and should be accordingly addressed. Nursing is a vital discipline which facilitates a comfortable, secure, and safe environment for individual and community; by practice, research, and education, it is directed toward the betterment of society.