

The new year and the coming issue of journal.

Another new year has arrived and the fifth volume of the NJHW is expected to appear in 2005, while volume four is delayed in publication. The Niigata Journal of Health and Welfare is unique because it publishes a variety of articles from basic science to applied technology, statistical surveys of local issues, and reports from meetings and training courses. Such a combination may cause authors to hesitate in sending in their manuscript, worried the dilution of information transfer, and, as a matter of fact, the influx of manuscripts is rather slower than anticipated. However, the circulation of the Journal is increasing due to office efforts in sending out completed copies to many universities and institutions in Asia, Europe and the U.S.A. Due to an increase in older people with disease and disabilities, both physical and mental and the fact that social welfare activities have become a serious problem for today and tomorrow, there is no doubt that this journal and its contents will make significant contribution to such fields and will stimulate international collaboration.

However, we know that most of our readers sometimes can not find what they want such as an exciting article in their own special field in every issue and they may turn to the review articles or meeting reports. Sometimes, not much scientific or technological interest will be generated. However, readers can find advancements and the evolution of health science and social welfare systems and, if one is ready and courageous enough, can appreciate such articles and incorporate their information into own field, and this may increase his/her interests. It has been said that the exchange of information and discussion, not only with specialists locally but also with scholars in quite different areas will lead to unexpected discoveries/revolution. When I was in the U.S. working on as a molecular biologist working on reproduction, I met pediatricians,

gynecologists, physiologists, chemists, microbiologists, toxicologists and plant biologists in various seminars and meetings. I enjoyed listening to their lectures and raising questions, most of them in no more than layman's terms, but often inducing interesting ideas in my field of study, reproductive/molecular biology. This was similar sometimes to find a needle in haystack and the efficiency of this practice was not high but the needle found was sometimes priceless. Today, society is absorbed in finding profit and a direct return to society, without realizing what the real contribution to society is. Great politician and managers see the future in many years ahead with world-wide scope. We, scientists and therapists, must look for interdisciplinary fields and creative applications for the future, as well as cooperation in sharing ideas between age-groups and various organizations. I hope that, this Journal, with its subscribers and contributors, shares this idea together with the editorial office, as our New Year's resolution.

(Yasuo Hotta)