

## Publication

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Information supply and exchange through computer networks are enormous as everything can be handled without using printed materials, if one wishes. Yet, the number of scientific publications (original paper, short communication, review and opinion) in printing form are increasing and more people using the print out material from computer screen. The number of scientific publication per million people are highest in Scandinavian countries (1267) followed by other European countries (average 791) except Mediterranean countries (average 379), united States (708) and Japan (498). The rate of increase are also the highest in Scandinavian (3.84%), followed by EU (2.93%) and Japan (4.26%). Although the rate of US is decreasing (-0.08%), it has been considered that US scientists are applying for patents before publication to academic journals. Nevertheless, the publication of academic journals still has a social roll. Particularly, the publication of journals in printed form in Japan are definitely needed to stimulate her scientific and technical level up to Europe and USA.

Scientists must move from the laboratory into public service including education and from the foreground to background even though they will experience culture shock. An outstanding speech or position paper on which the scientist's name does not appear may replaces the article published in a peer-reviewed journals. Scientists need to think that satisfaction comes from being part of process and seeing it succeeds, through speaking to someone else, in someone else's voice to someone else's credit. Scientists should not be driven into unnecessary competition but should create own progressive work in research, teaching and policy making. It is dangerous to follow one direction without expressing and ac-

cepting various evidences and opinions.

Niigata journal of health and welfare, an academic as well as technical publication, intends to serve for the health promotion and education in Niigata area, maintaining an international standard by critical review. The contents of journal extend to various fields, because we intend to cover multidisciplinary area related to health and welfare by accepting various papers and opinions. This may dilute out the focus of each profession but contribute for the exchange of professional and personal information needed for the Niigata area where health organizations and institutions are scattered in wide area although several universities and colleges are located in urban centers. Also, the journal intend to share those with world health and social welfare professionals through the publication of English version and welcome the submission of various manuscripts.

As Japanese economy cutback since mid 1980s and the government moved toward the efficiency and profit seeking operation through competition between each other, the job markets for students and graduates and the availability of research funds to the young became extremely limited. Supply has outstripped demand even though in health oriented field. Restrictions do not apply to high-flying students. Those who will get the position are the one with excellent credentials or with connection to the powers. The students from average universities with average scores must have some sales points. Since many openings appear to be in cross-disciplinary area, such as home-doctors, paramedics, therapists, dieticians and various QOL (Quality of Life) helpers, the students with multi disciplinary training have higher opportunity. The same is true for

young researchers who can collaborate with others in different fields and even other professions like business and policy makers. Students and young researchers should have the opportunity to be exposed to a variety of institutions. This journal may contribute to establish such cross-disciplinary interactions.

International interaction is indispensable for general public in every country not only through introduction of cultures and new ideas but also eliminating certain establishments that carrying fat bellies. While the total sum of research fund is slightly increasing, the funds for the young and local universities are diminishing. The fund distributed for the scientists younger than 35 in US. is also decreasing but this partly the time to spend as postdoctoral training is getting longer in biological sciences and thus the number of grant-application has decreased. However, demographic difference and the segregation by size of universities for grant distribution has not been altered. In Japan, a large grants are given to only to the establishments on sacrificing the small or mid size grants to the young. The rich gets the richer but less investment to the future. This means that the faculties of local universities loose their willingness and satisfaction towards research and teaching. The Society of Niigata Health and Welfare, which has started locally and publishes this journal, deeply concerned with such situation and organizing a few international mini symposium a year and intends to carry out various activities to help the young. These are the best we can do, due to the lack of money, and thus we are looking for the support of all kinds from all organizations, especially from business groups, to our publication.