

Preface

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The 10th Year of the “Niigata Journal of Health and Welfare”

The Niigata Journal of Health and Welfare was first published in 2001. This year I am proud to announce its milestone Volume 10 publication.

As we know, in the year when Niigata University of Health and Welfare was founded, the Niigata Society of Health and Welfare was established as well. The society is composed of instructors from Niigata University of Health and Welfare, staff from the university-affiliated with Niigata Rehabilitation Hospital, medical care professionals, medical welfare professionals, health providers, and members from related institutions and organizations.

Dealing primarily with the fields of medicine, welfare, and health (including sports), it is an academic society that announces the results of research and exchanges information with other institutions. The records of those communications have been compiled in the society’s journal, both in Japanese and English, up to Vol. 9.

Here, I am pleased to announce that on the momentous occasion of its 10th year, the Niigata Society of Health and Welfare, has drawn up a “Plan for the Future” specifying its mid-term and long-term goals. The plan is based on the assumption that the university will cultivate personnel that support people's quality of life, meet the needs of local communities, and contribute internationally as often as possible. The plan was also to have 5,000 students and to provide the best quality of education in Japan in order to be “No. 1” in Japan and Asia in the fields of health, medicine, welfare, and sports. Now we have ten domains, and for each domain we have specified its mid-term and long-term goal and created an action plan. Now we hope to make a steady progress toward these goals.

For example, in order to promote international exchanges, the long-term goal is to cultivate personnel who can be internationally active in the fields of health, medicine, welfare, and sports. Another goal is to set up a system under which we could strive to be an Asian hub for international exchanges. Some specific mid-term goals are (1) organizational and strategic strengthening of international exchange arrangements, (2) improvement and expansion of overseas programs for our students, (3) strengthening of instructors' ability toward internationalization, (4) creating a base for cultivating personnel in Asia and beyond in the field of health, medicine, welfare and sports, and (5) promotion of international projects.

Therefore, I hope that this journal will continue to grow with the university's development and increasingly enrich its content.

The inherent function of any university is education and research. Therefore, to provide the best quality of education in Japan is an obvious goal for our university. We must strive to be “No. 1” in Japan and Asia in research and development. Consequently, as we engage in exchanges with institutions from overseas, we are sure to expand even further.

I earnestly long for both the society and the journal to be recognized ten years from now as “No. 1” in Japan and in Asia.