

International Cooperation of "Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Societies" in the World to support WHO "World Report on Disability"

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[Background]

“The World Report on Disability by WHO & World Bank” was launched on June 9th of 2011 at the United Nations in New York. The World Alliance of Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology (RE & AT) Related Societies is supporting it in the field of RE & AT (Fig. 1).

[World RE & AT Alliance]

TOKUSHIMA agreement group:

It consists of the Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE), the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA), the Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association (ARATA) and the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of JAPAN (RESJA). It is a core group.

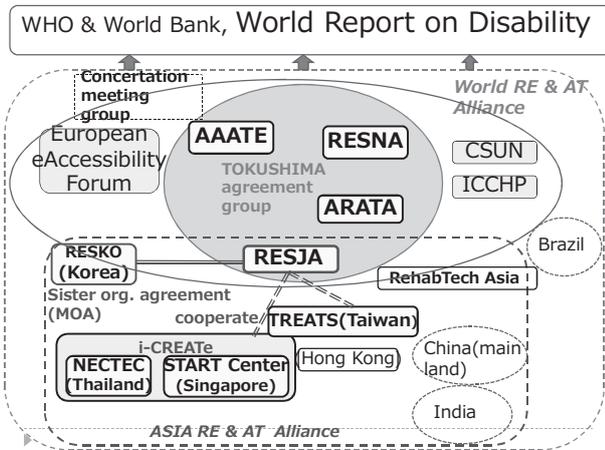


Figure 1. World Report on Disability¹⁾ and World Alliance of Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Related Societies.

Concertation meeting group^{2),3)}:

The idea is simply to provide a platform for exchange, cooperation and cross-marketing for leading conferences in the field of RE&AT and eAccessibility at global level. It consists of eAccessibility Forum, International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs (ICCHP Conference), California State University, Northridge Annual International Technology & People with Disability Conference (CSUN) in addition to TOKUSHIMA agreement group.

Other Sister Organization (MOA) Group of RESJA:

A memorandum of agreement was reached between RESJA and Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of Korea (RESKO) on November 4th, 2011 at 6th RESKO Conference based on TOKUSHIMA agreements. The other potential organizations for MOA are as follows;

Taiwan Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society (TREATS) and International Convention on Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology (iCREATE) (Fig. 1) with Singapore Therapeutic, Assistive & rehabilitative Technologies (START) Centre in Singapore and National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) in Thailand.

Japanese RE & AT Alliance:

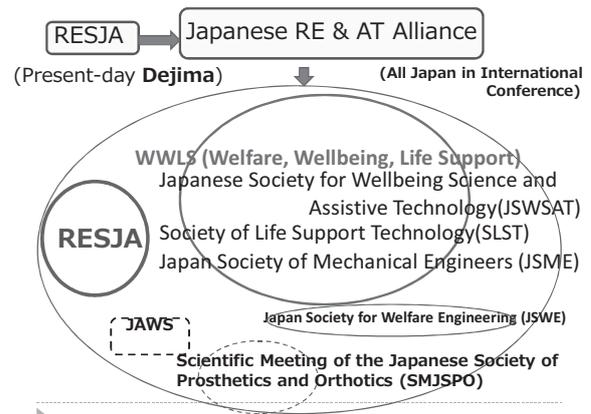


Figure 2. Japanese RE & AT Alliance.

RESJA is now like present-day “Dejima”, the single organization of direct information exchange between Japan and the outside world in the field of RE & AT (Fig.1). But RESJA does not unfortunately collaborate with other organizations in the field of RE & AT in Japan.

[Discussion & Conclusion]

- i) The most important thing is that these collaborations are in the regions, not in the nations (regionalism).
- ii) RE & AT of Japanese Alliance will contribute to people with disabilities and elderly in Japan and in the world as well.
- iii) Japanese organizations positively should contribute to organize the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of Asia (or similar organization).

[References]

- 1) World Report on Disability, WHO & World Bank, 2011, 6, 9.
- 2) Ohnabe H : Report of MOA Between RESJA and RESKO, Rehabilitation Engineering, Vol.27, No. 2, 2012, pp.105-108 .
- 3) Ohnabe H: Report of CSUN-International Conference Organizers Meeting, Rehabilitation Engineering, Vol.27, No. 3, 2012, pp.157-158 (Japanese).