

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

Niigata University of Health and Welfare,  
University of Pittsburgh • Hisaichi Ohnabe,

### 【Background】

“The World Report on Disability by WHO & World Bank” was launched on June 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

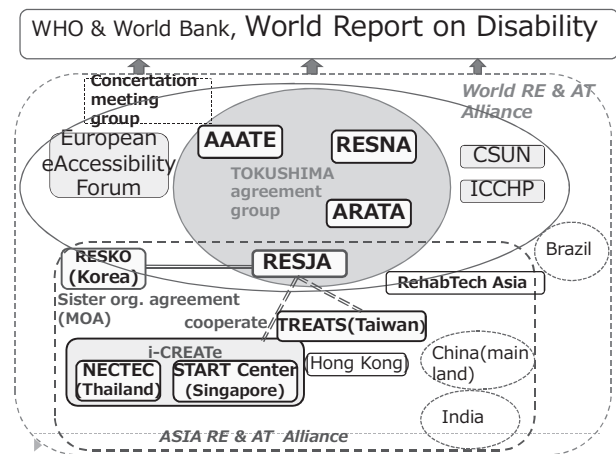


Figure 1. World Report on Disability<sup>1)</sup> and World Alliance of Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Related Societies.

#### Concertation meeting group<sup>2),3)</sup>:

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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 6<sup>th</sup> 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:

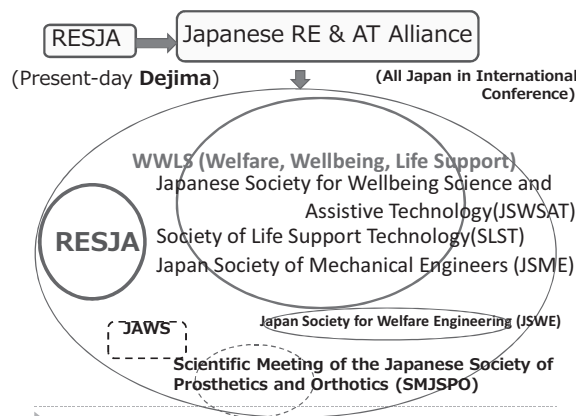


Figure 2. Japanese RE & AT Alliance.

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).