



Title	GLOCOLブックレット15 Preface
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Citation	GLOCOLブックレット. 2014, 15, p. 3-4
Version Type	VoR
URL	https://hdl.handle.net/11094/50042
rights	
Note	

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Preface

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Global Collaboration Center (GLOCOL) is pleased to present the Proceedings of the international symposium “Current issues in dementia and dementia care in East Asia” held on March 2, 2013 at Osaka University. It is hosted by GLOCOL Collaborative Research Project “International Comparative Study on Factors Affecting difficult-to-care condition of dementia elderly in East Asia.” Eminent researchers were from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand and Japan participated in the symposium to report the situation in each area and discuss on points in common and deference.

From 2007, GLOCOL has promoted and implemented international collaborative research projects, particularly on the topic related to “human security” and “area studies.” In the field of development and humanitarian assistance, mental health is a new issue, but increasing in importance steadily. And dementia is one of the hottest issues of international mental health, because the incidence of dementia is destined to increase in the developing world in tandem with the ageing population. Moreover, the developing countries will have comparatively little time to develop services. It is this unprecedented pace of demographic aging which makes it such a huge public health challenge, particularly in East Asia.

Though the population aging is universal phenomenon, the situation of dementia and dementia care of each older person varies considerably according to social, economic, and cultural contexts. Aging and health has many socio-cultural determinants. Available social institutions and social support for dementia people

vary in different societies. Dementia and dementia care hence are typical research objects in the perspective of area studies. In the progress of the research project, we will make a cross-cultural comparison of the prevalence of Behavioral Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) and related factors in Asian countries.

The theme for the symposium was chosen according to the above-mentioned background, as a means of bringing together the many related current situation, and providing a basis for discussion of issues arising across Asia in relation to dementia and dementia care. The aim in the Proceedings is presenting such important issues in an accessible medium, and opening discussion arena for the people concerned.

The Proceedings have been brought together by Prof. Makimoto Kiyoko in the compilation of the papers. And I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of research project who assisted us in organizing symposium. In conclusion, we all hope that the proceedings will be fruitful for the future not only of dementia studies but also of aging studies in common.