

# *NISE Newsletter*

*for Special Education in Asia and the Pacific*

No.24  
March, 2005

## **The 24<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific International Seminar on Special Education**

### **Educational Supports for Children with Multiple Disabilities with Sensory Impairments including Deafblindness**

#### **1. Preface**

As a Center for the Asia and the Pacific Program of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID), The National Institute of Special Education (NISE) has been hosting "APEID Seminar on Special Education" since 1981. Since 2002, the name has been changed to "Asia-Pacific International Seminar on Special Education", which has been co-hosted by the NISE and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. Last year's Seminar was the Third "Asia-Pacific International Seminar on Special Education" and the 24th Seminar counting from the First APEID Seminar on Special Education held in 1981.

#### **2. The 24th Seminar**

The 24th Asia-Pacific International Seminar on Special Education was held from October 12 to 15, 2004. The main agenda was for the participants to report on the states and issues regarding and discuss educational support for children with multiple disabilities

with sensory impairments including deafblindness. The Seminar was participated by representatives from 12 countries namely Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

#### **3. Seminar Outline**

##### 1) Theme

"Educational Supports for Children with Multiple Disabilities with Sensory Impairments including Deafblindness"

##### 2) Hosting organizations

The National Institute of Special Education  
Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

##### 3) Schedule and venue

Schedule (October 11 = 16, 2004)

Oct. 11 (Mon.): Arrival of participants

Oct. 12 (Tue.) : Explanation of outline of and

visits to NISE and Kurihama School for Children with Autism, University of Tsukuba, Opening Ceremony, keynote speech

Oct. 13 (Wed.): Country reports

Oct. 14 (Thu.): Country reports, general discussions, Closing Ceremony

Oct. 15 (Fri.): Institutional visit (Yokohama Central Rehabilitation Center for Children)

Oct. 16 (Sat.): Departure of participants

Venue: The National Institute of Special Education



#### 4) Keynote speech

In the afternoon of October 12, the Opening Ceremony was followed by keynote addresses given by Ms. NAKAZAWA Megue, Chief Researcher, NISE, and Dr. Jude Nicholas, Specialist in Clinical Neuropsychology who is conducting researches at Vestlandet Resource Center for the Deafblind/Haukeland University in Norway. Ms. NAKAZAWA spoke on “Development of Deafblind Education in Japan and Its Contribution to Education for Children with Multiple Disabilities” Based on her ample practical experiences in the field of education and guidance for the deafblind children, she specifically talked about the history in Japan of the education for the deafblind children and the contributions that the knowledge gained from such education and guidance have made toward the subsequent education for children with multiple disabilities in Japan. Dr. Jude Nicholas spoke on “Deafblindness and Neuroscience : Educational Implications”. He specifically talked about the outcomes of his researches in the field of

neuroscience which included the roles of the brain in the areas of cognition, emotions and physical expressions. He explained the mechanism whereby the brain organizes itself in cases of sensory deprivation. The participants showed great interests in the development of the guidance methods for the deafblind children that incorporated such findings and knowledge.

#### 5) National reports

The participants from the 12 countries including Japan gave national reports on the 13th and in the a.m. of the 14th. They reported on such matters as statistics on the birth of children with multiple disabilities with sensory impairments including deafblindness, national policies on educational support, the present state and issues of school education, future prospects and case studies. The following persons reported (titles omitted).

##### **Australia:**

Dr. Brian Devlin (Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Health and Science Charles Darwin University)

##### **Bangladesh:**

Mr. Md. Golam Yahia (Ministry of Education Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka)

##### **China:**

Dr. Chen Yunying (Director of Psychology and Special Education Division, China National Institute of Education Research)

##### **India:**

Mrs. Neerja Shukla (Professor and Head Department of Education of Groups with Special Needs, National Council of Educational Research and Training)

##### **Indonesia:**

Dr. Mochamad Sholeh Y A Ichrom (Professor, the University of Sebelas Maret/Education Manager Directorate of Special Education, Ministry of National Education)

##### **Japan:**

Mr. GOKAMI Tetsuo (Research Director, Department for Policy & Planning, the National Institute of Special Education)

##### **Malaysia:**

Mrs. Siti Zaharah binti Mat Akib (Deputy Director General of Education, Special Education Department, Ministry of Education)

**Nepal:**

Mr. Ganesh Prasad Paudel (Section Officer, Department of Education, Sanothimi Bhaktapur)

**Philippines:**

Ms. Maria Melissa Rossana STA ANA (Guidance Head, Guidance Department Operation Brotherhood Montessori Center INC)

**Korea:**

Ms. Hyun Jin Kim (Senior Education Researcher, Korea Institute for Special Education)

**Sri Lanka:**

Ms. G L Leela Gunasinghe (Actg. Superintendent, Child Guidance Centre, Department of Social Services, the Ministry of Women Employment and Social Welfare)

**Thailand:**

Ms. Phonakorn Piratha (Teacher 2, Level 7, Nonthaburi School for the Deaf)

6) General discussions

In the p.m. of the 14th, general discussions were held based on the national reports and concerning the actual state of children with multiple disabilities in the participating countries and the measures taken. The participants generally agreed on the importance of carrying out educational practices backed by theory, and of sharing the outcomes of such practices, in further enriching and improving the educational

support for children with multiple disabilities with sensory impairments. To that end, with this Seminar as an opportunity, they agreed to publish a “Journal of Special Education” to promote the information exchange and share the outcomes of educational practices related with special education in the Asia-Pacific region and also to strengthen the networks between the participating countries. They also agreed to follow up on and further develop the discussions carried out in this Seminar. It was decided for Japan, China, Korea and Malaysia to be in charge of editing this journal, and for Japan to publish its first edition.

A summary of the discussions by the chairperson was followed by the Closing Ceremony.

7) Institutional visit

On the 15th, the participants visited the Yokohama Central Rehabilitation Center for Children (Director: Hara). They inspected the actual scene of individual guidance provided to the area's children with disabilities including those with multiple disabilities with sensory impairments, and facilities such as indoor swimming pool and large play equipment. They heard the Center's operations and the issues that it faced from the person in charge. They showed a great interest in the Center activities, and confirmed that the theories discussed in the keynote addresses were being put to practical application in the actual guidance provided by the Center. In this and other ways, they actively carried out discussions including those with researchers.



The participants left Japan on the 16th.

8) Participants

112 persons participated in the 24th Seminar.

**Breakdown:**

a) NISE staff and researchers

b) Eleven persons from countries other than Japan invited based on recommendation by the respective countries' UNESCO National Committees

c) Other participants from abroad

d) Staff of universities and special schools in Japan and parents of children with disabilities

***GOKAMI Tetsuo***

*Leader*

*Executive Working Group for the 24<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific  
International Seminar on Special Education*

# JAPAN-OECD INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

**F**rom 2 to 4 March, OECD International Workshop was held jointly by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT), OECD/CERI and The National Institute of Special Education (NISE). The workshop theme was "The JAPAN-OECD International Workshop on the Education of Students with Disabilities, Learning Difficulties and Disadvantages in OECD Countries". The workshop was participated by 17 people from 11 OECD countries namely U.S.A., Canada, U. K., Italy, France, Finland, Norway, Luxembourg, Sweden, Australia and Republic of Korea. The workshop was also participated by MEXT and NISE researchers and staff members. Overview report on Special Support Education in Japan, presentations on current situation of education for Children with disabilities by participants from each country and discussions were made at Yokohama Symposia as the main site. The participants also visited a special school and an ordinary school in Yokohama during the period.

The workshop schedule is below.

**Wednesday, 2 March 2005**

13:30-13:50 1. Welcome and opening ceremony  
13:50-14:30 2. The Japanese Education System - MEXT  
14:30-15:00 3. The Japanese Approach to Education for

Students with Disabilities - NISE  
15:00-15:30 4. Practical Report on Education for Students with Multiple Disabilities - NISE  
15:30-16:00 5. Round table discussion on items 2, 3, and 4  
16:00-16:30 Coffee  
16:30-18:00 6. The Education of Students with Disabilities in Regular Schools and Classrooms. Evidence from OECD countries - OECD Secretariat  
7. Policies to include multiply handicapped cognitively impaired students in education and into society: A global parents' perspective  
8. Summary of World Bank activities in the area of Education for Students with Disabilities.  
18:00-19:30 Cocktail Reception

**Thursday, 3 March 2005**

9:00-12:00 9. Site visit - special school - MEXT and NISE  
12:00-13:00 Lunch  
13:00-17:00 10. Site visit - regular school - MEXT and NISE





**Friday, 4 March 2005**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>9:00-10:00 11.Feedback and discussion regarding the school visits - NISE and participants</p> <p>10:00-10:30 Coffee</p> <p>10:30-12:00 12.United Kingdom's policies to include severe learning disabled students (deaf-blind or multiply cognitive impaired) in education and in society</p> <p>13.USA's policies to include multiply disabled students (deaf-blind or multiply cognitive impaired) in education and society to develop social cohesion</p> <p>14.Students with Severe Disabilities: A Cohesive Education Model</p> <p>12:00-13:30 Lunch</p> <p>13:30-15:00 15.Italy's network of integrated services to include severe learning disabled</p> | <p>students in education and in society</p> <p>16.France's policies to include severe learning disabled students in education and in society: Situation and trends</p> <p>17.Norway's policies to include severe learning disabled students (deaf-blind) in education and in society: Teacher training</p> <p>15:00-15:30 Coffee</p> <p>15:30-16:30 18.Round table discussion and exchange of experiences with participating countries</p> <p>16:30-17:00 Closing Ceremony</p> |
|--|--|

***SASAMOTO Ken***

*Chair,*

*JAPAN-OECD WORKSHOP Executive Committee*



## From the Editors

First of all, we would like to thank all who contributed to this volume of newsletter.

In this volume, we focused on two big international conferences that were held in last six months. We hope to share information about a global trend in special education with readers through this volume.

We always welcome your contributions to this newsletter by e-mail or post.

***SASAMOTO Ken, TOKUNAGA Yutaka, ARAI Chikako***

### Table of Contents

	Page
The 24 <sup>th</sup> International Seminar on Special Education <i>GOKAMI Tetsuo, NISE</i> .....	1
JAPAN-OECD International Workshop on Special Education <i>SASAMOTO Ken, NISE</i> .....	4
From the Editors .....	6

NISE International Exchange Activities

[http:// www.nise.go.jp/en/internationalexchange/internationalexchange.html](http://www.nise.go.jp/en/internationalexchange/internationalexchange.html) (in English)