

Other Topics

World Autism Awareness Day 2016

The “World Autism Awareness Day 2016 Symposium” was held at Nadao Hall (Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo) on Saturday, April 9, 2016 co-sponsored by NISE. This year’s theme was “Connectivity—The World with Everyone’s Blue Light of Hope.” During Symposium 1 titled “Connectivity—Growth of Japan and Living,” the mayors of Narashino City in Chiba Prefecture, Yao City in Osaka Prefecture, and Shiojiri City in Nagano Prefecture spoke about advanced administrative policy efforts related to developmental support. During Symposium 2 titled “Connectivity—Messages from Overseas: A focus on the Asia Region,” video messages from support groups in China and Korea were shown, and information was presented highlighting the activities of the Vietnam Autism Network and Thailand’s Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Foundation). Creative works by people with autism as well as support messages for them were also displayed at the venue. NISE works towards spreading information so that complete support is achieved by informing many people about difficulties to

understand developmental disabilities, including autism, through various events and public awareness efforts.

World Autism Awareness Day Official Website
<http://www.worldautismawarenessday.jp/>



Wheelchair Basketball Experience Event

A wheelchair basketball experience event was held on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at NISE’s gymnasium. 88 people, primarily from the local region, participated in the event.

During the event, participants had the chance to practice basic maneuvering in sports wheelchairs, shooting from a seated position, and other actions. Participants were often seen enjoying themselves as they experienced difficulty handling the ball while trying to maneuver their wheelchair at the same time.

Participants cheered and filled the gym with enthusiasm during an impressive exhibition match played by athletes from three wheelchair basketball teams from Kanagawa Prefecture (Shonan Sports Club, Para Kanagawa Sports Club, and Yokohama Dreamer). At the end of the event, listening to many children saying that they wanted to experience this all again left a strong impression.



Center for Promoting Inclusive Education System Opening Ceremony

The Center for Promoting Inclusive Education System opening ceremony was held in NISE's lecture hall on May 27, 2016.

Participants including Mr. Taira Morishita, Director for Special Needs Education Policy Planning, MEXT, attended the opening ceremony. Many experts also visited from related organizations, boards of education, education centers, and other institutions throughout Japan.

Following an overview of the center given by Mr. Kimihito Harada, Head of Center for Promoting Inclusive Education System, the Saitama Prefectural Board of Education and the Kanagawa Prefectural Board of Education, participants in Practical Research Responding to Local Needs and Issues during the current fiscal year, spoke about their efforts for promoting inclusive education. Aimed at building the inclusive education system that started during the current fiscal year, Practical Research Responding to Local Needs and Issues is a new research architecture in which research themes which center on issues faced by local communities and schools are established and research is carried out through cooperation between NISE and local communities.

In addition, Mr. Takao Andou, Professor at University of Tsukuba, gave a commemorative lecture titled "Outlook on Building an Inclusive Education System in Japan" in which he addressed topics from the current state of special needs education in elementary

schools and the issues that it faces to the role that he expects this center to play.

The opening ceremony was followed by a Practical Research Responding to Local Needs and Issues project joint meeting. The meeting was comprised of reports given by research representatives addressing topics such as the four research themes of the Practical Research Responding to Local Needs and Issues for the current fiscal year, and, in addition to that provided by Professor Andou, guidance and suggestions were also provided by Shimane University Professor Hiroji Hara who serves as a Practical Research Responding to Local Needs and Issues advisor.



FY2016 Workshop for Counseling and Support Leaders of Education for School Enrollment

The Workshop for Counseling and Support Leaders for School Enrollment was held at NISE from July 14 to 15, 2016. In addition to the enhancement of an inclusive education system, the current state of educational consultations and how schools for enrollment are determined become an important facet in the effort to develop a cohesive society.

This workshop has been held yearly around this time since 2013 for the purpose of improving the professional skills of staff and enhancing counseling and support by conducting research conferences led by persons in leading positions related to counseling and support work performed by educational support committees (provisional name) in prefectures throughout Japan and in specified cities. 67 people from around the country, including supervisors of school education from local boards of education,

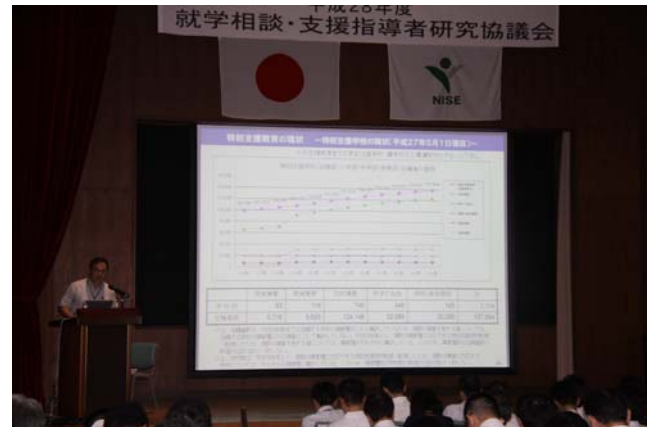
participated in this year's workshop.

The first day of the workshop featured a presentation on the latest administrative and policy trends related to the state of affairs surrounding the latest in special needs education by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology or MEXT, followed by a lecture presented by a NISE researcher titled "Research related to Creating a System for Building an Inclusive Education System – Creating Guidelines (tentative plan) for Creating Systems in Schools," serving as an introduction to front line research. The second day of the workshop began with the presentation of information about unique efforts under the theme "Creation of Systems and Organizations for the Realization of Counseling for School Enrollment through Consensus Building Involving Students, Parents and Guardians, Schools, and Boards of

Education.” “Efforts in Nagano Prefecture to Support Counseling for School Enrolment in Municipalities” was presented as a prefectural level initiative, and “Counseling for School Enrollment in Okayama City” was presented as an ordinance-designated city initiative.

Over both days, small sectional meetings were held based on participant reports and lively research discussions were held as opinions about the latest conditions and topics concerning efforts for school enrollment counseling and support in various regions were exchanged. At the end of the workshop, each of the sectional meeting groups gave reports about their discussions in a general meeting in which afterwards they were provided with guidance and support from the Senior Specialist for Special Needs Education,

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.



FY2016 Workshop for Leaders of Education for Developmental Disabilities

The Workshop for Leaders of Education for Developmental Disabilities was held at NISE from July 28 to 29, 2016. This workshop is held for the purpose of improving the knowledge and special skills of support staff members and enhancing support and guidance by local governments through presentations and discussions by people in leading positions involving guidance and support for students with developmental disabilities in prefectures throughout Japan. 104 people from all over Japan participated in this fiscal year's workshop, including educators from preschools, primary and secondary schools, special needs schools, and technical colleges as well as supervisors of school education from local boards of education.

The first day of the workshop featured a presentation on the latest administrative and policy matters by MEXT titled “The Current State of Education of Persons with Developmental Disabilities and Related Issues,” followed by a presentation by NISE titled “Research on the Current Status and Future Form of Instructional Settings and Assistance for Children with Developmental

Disabilities —A Focus on Surveys of Special Support Service in Resource Rooms—,” serving as an introduction to front line research. The second day was conducted as a symposium with the theme “Connectivity of Support for Children with Developmental Disabilities from Infancy to Post Graduation” in which an in-depth discussion was held concerning the current state of support efforts for each of the many life stages as a way to look at reasonable accommodation based on topics provided by medical and welfare personnel.

Over both days, small group meetings were conducted based on participant reports on the actual guidance and support provided to children with developmental disabilities enrolled in normal classes. Participants exchanged opinions about specific efforts towards reasonable accommodation and fundamental environmental improvement in schools, the results of those efforts, and related issues, and held lively research discussions as well as exchanged information aimed at solving related issues.



Special General Research Seminar at MEXT

NISE held the “Special General Research Seminar at MEXT” on August 30, 2016 in the first floor lounge of the former Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology building under the theme “Making all Children Shine —Towards Building an Inclusive Education System —.”

Based on the fact that this year is the first year of the fourth medium-term target period, part one of this seminar focused on the future aims and main activities of NISE (research, training, gathering, accumulation, and provision of information, building of an inclusive education system, etc.), serving as an introduction to special general research. In part two, reports were given on the results of four studies, including studies on ICT utilization for disabled students and independent activities of autistic children.

In addition to personnel from MEXT and the National Institute for Educational Policy Research, participants in this seminar included members of boards of education and principals of special needs schools. During question and answer sessions conducted after reports were presented, participants asked questions about each of

the research issues, furthering their understanding from the answers provided.

In addition, we set up a hands-on section where visitors could use teaching materials and operate support equipment designed to support education for children with disabilities where participants were deeply interested listening to explanations by researchers.



Online Accredited Courses for Teacher Certification

In light of the policy trend of the country aiming for all educators at special needs schools to possess special needs school teaching licenses by fiscal 2020, NISE decided to gradually offer Internet-based correspondence education for obtaining special needs school teaching certification starting in the current fiscal year in the fields of visually impaired education and hearing impaired education where license possession rates are particularly low. The first course was held starting October 1, 2016 titled “Teaching Methods for Use in the Education of the Visually Impaired” (1 unit, 15 lectures).

This will allow special needs school teachers and others throughout Japan who do not possess a special needs school teaching license to obtain a license by using the Internet to watch each video lecture which NISE provides for free for 24 hours, allowing people to acquire the necessary units. In fiscal 2016, around 350 special needs school staff, from Hokkaido in northern Japan to Okinawa in southern Japan, participated.

In addition, NISE held a ceremony commemorating the launch of the Internet-based correspondence education for obtaining special needs school teaching certification lectures on October 19, 2016. During the ceremony, a video message from Hiroyuki Yoshiie, Senior Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, was presented. As a supporter of Internet-based

correspondence education for obtaining teaching certifications, Mr. Yoshiie enthusiastically spoke about his hopes for improving the expertise of special needs school staff and promoting license acquisition.

Detailed information about correspondence education for obtaining teaching certification implemented by NISE is provided on the website listed below.

Comprehensive Information Site on Correspondence Education for Obtaining Teaching Certification:

<http://forum.nise.go.jp/tsushin/>



FY2016 Open Day

FY2016 Open Day was held on Saturday, November 5, 2016. Many people participated in the event, including teachers, university students, parents and guardians, and citizens from the local community.

During this fiscal year open house, we conducted a stamp rally targeting the exhibition spaces which introduce each type of disability, addressing support/consideration for the education and daily living of child-aged students with disabilities. Many people, mostly together with their families, could be seen walking around the venue with their stamp sheets in hand.

In addition, other events consisting which together comprised a broad range of subjects were held, including an exchange event called NISE Cafe which gave visitors the opportunity to speak with university students wanting to become teachers, mini lectures on



the unique features of developmental disabilities, a showing Raintree no Kuni, a film that places the spotlight on hearing impairment, a goalball activity which allowed visitors to experience firsthand what it is like to play this sport designed for the disabled, and an anma massage experience, a new activity that was planned for this fiscal year conducted by students and teachers from the Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba.

Blessed with good weather on the day it was held, the event attracted 438 people, far surpassing the number for the previous year. In particular, since there were also many children that came to the event, the atmosphere was lively from beginning to end, quite different from the normal atmosphere one would expect to find at a research facility. It was a day filled with interaction.



FY2016 Workshop for Leaders of Promoting Joint Activities and Learning

Obtaining cooperation from MEXT, NISE held the Workshop for Leaders of Promoting Joint Activities and Learning from November 17 to 18, 2016. The workshop is held for the purpose of contributing to the promotion of exchange, joint learning, and understanding about disabilities in all regions through research discussions and other activities by educators in positions to promote exchange and joint learning between students with and without disabilities throughout Japan.

74 people from around the country, including teachers from special needs schools, elementary and junior high schools, as well as supervisors of school education from local boards of education, participated in this fiscal year's workshop.

The first day of the workshop featured a presentation on the latest administrative and policy matters by MEXT titled "The Current State and Challenges of Exchange and Joint Learning," followed by a NISE report titled "Information Transmission and

Consultation Support by the Center for Promoting Inclusive Education System." Following the report, presentations were given by the Saitama Prefectural Board of Education and Goshogaoka Junior High School of Moriya City, Ibaraki Prefecture which addressed the distinct efforts that they take .

On the second day, the participants were divided up into three groups (five subgroups) where they carried out workshops. The theme of the first group was "Inventive Learning Activities for the Purpose of Promoting Exchange and Joint Learning." The theme of the second group was "Promotion of Exchange and Joint Learning of Students in Their Residential Areas." The theme of the third group was "Administrative Involvement in the Promotion of Exchange and Joint Learning." Lively discussions were held regarding content based on reports given by each participant and recent information. Topics addressed during discussions included the significance of exchange and joint learning in an inclusive

education system, reasonable accommodation in exchange and joint learning, placement of exchange and joint learning in curriculums, and promotion of exchange in schools in students' residential areas through the adoption of a secondary school

register. At the end of the workshop, reports were given on the content of the discussions held by each subgroup, and afterwards they were provided with guidance and support from the Senior Specialist for Special Needs Education, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

FY2016 Workshop for Leaders Involved in ICT Utilization in Special Needs Education

Obtaining cooperation from MEXT, NISE held the FY2016 Workshop for Leaders Involved in ICT Utilization in Special Needs Education for two days, from November 24 to 25, 2016. This new workshop was held for the purpose of deepening participants' specialized knowledge and enhancing guidance and support in all regions concerning the utilization of education support devices, including ICT utilization which is necessary for providing proper guidance and support to students with disabilities. Designed for educators in teaching positions throughout Japan, 73 people from around the country participated in this fiscal year's workshop, including teachers from special needs schools, elementary and junior high schools, as well as supervisors of school education from local boards of education.

The first day of the workshop featured a presentation on the latest administrative and policy matters by MEXT titled "The Current State and Challenges of ICT Utilization in Special Needs Education —Based on the Perspective of Reasonable Accommodation—," followed by a presentation by NISE titled "Comprehensive Research Related to ICT Utilization for Students with Disabilities," serving as an introduction to front line research. The second day was comprised of Course 1 (for supervisors of school education from local boards of education) and Course 2 (for

educators). Under the theme "Regarding Efforts Taken by Boards of Education (and Schools) Aimed at Promoting ICT Utilization," a presentation was conducted in the seminar room showing ICT in use, and presentations by participants from Fukuoka Prefectural Yanagawa Special Needs School and the Oita Prefectural Board of Education, highlighting the distinctive efforts taken by their respective institutions. In addition, lively discussions and opinion exchanges took place based on the content and new information from the reports given by each participating from a total of 12 groups.



World Autism Awareness Day 2016 in Yokosuka

On December 3, 2016, World Autism Awareness Day 2016 in Yokosuka was held in cooperation with the Special Needs Education School for Children with Autism, University of Tsukuba, the school's PTA, and Tanpopo no Kai, an organization for persons with autism and their parents in the Yokosuka area.

Marking the seventh time the event has been held, this year's activities focused on the connections between persons with autism and their families/communities under the theme "Know and Connect." The following activities were conducted during the event: (1) Screening of the film *Have a Song on Your Lips*, (2) Mini lectures focusing on the content of the film, (3) A symposium with the theme of relationships between persons with autism and

their siblings/other family members, (4) Display of works by students from the Special Needs Education School for Children with Autism, University of Tsukuba, as well as from Yokosuka Municipal Uruga Elementary School, and Yokosuka Municipal Nagai Elementary School, and (5) A simulation experience. Participants were able to hear the honest words by brothers and sisters of people with autism, serving as a good opportunity to think about a cohesive society. On that day, more than 160 people participated. In addition, as in all other years the event has been held, NISE received support from Yokosuka City and the city's board of education as well as help from students of Yokosuka Municipal Yokosuka Sogo High School.



FY2016 Lecture Meeting on Administrative and Policy Trends in Education in Foreign Countries

NISE held the Lecture Meeting on Administrative and Policy Trends in Education in Foreign Countries on December 16, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to make participants aware of administrative and policy trends in education in foreign countries, and deepen discussions about where efforts for an inclusive education system are headed in Japan.

In particular, starting this year, NISE welcomed university level educators as visiting researchers who clearly know about the state of affairs of education overseas. During the event, five visiting researchers presented lectures on trends and challenges faced in inclusive education systems in various countries.

At first, focusing on Italy, NISE Visiting Researcher Mr. Susumu Ouchi spoke about how fully inclusive education in the country is organized and has an established personnel system, the permeation of inclusive education in all around school education, the aim to improve awareness and expertise of general teachers in regards to the education of children with disabilities, and other topics. Next, Mr. Inho Chung, Professor from the University of Tsukuba, presented a talk focusing on Korea in which he provided an overview of the education system in Korea and special needs education in the country, talked about the current state of inclusive education there, and addressed other topics. Some of the issues addressed concerned improving the quality of inclusive education training at normal schools, building a system in which teachers would cooperate together and share responsibility, and the provision of services related to inclusive education.

Ms. Saeko Yamanaka, Associate Professor at Saitama University, gave a lecture focusing on education in Australia. Topics included Australia's support for inclusive education from a discrimination perspective, reasonable coordination and support efforts implemented by schools, how efforts to make standards visible are

implemented, and efforts taken to improve understanding and quality of practice regarding reasonable coordination of teachers.

Mr. Munehisa Yoshitoshi, Associate Professor at Okayama University, focused on the US, providing information about trends related to the education of children with disabilities focusing on systems, etc. related to educational environment with minimal restrictions after providing an overview of the history of the education system and compulsory education in the US, and other related information.

At the end of the event, Ms. Kanako Korenaga, Associate Professor at Kochi University, focused on Scandinavia through a lecture on the education systems of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland and features of inclusive education in each country. In addition to other topics, she spoke about how Denmark assures a diverse education, how Norway promotes inclusive education as a core facet of normal schools, how Sweden is promoting a new curriculum despite having special schools for students with intellectual abilities, and how Finland is implementing three-stage support coordinated with normal classes.



Inclusive Education System Dissemination Seminar (Hokkaido/Tohoku region)

The purpose of the Inclusive Education System Dissemination Seminar is to allow more people to know about activities of the Center for Promoting Inclusive Education System (NISE) and efforts implemented in each region towards building an inclusive education system. NISE plans to hold the seminar in six regions throughout Japan between FY2016 and FY2020. This fiscal year's seminar was for the Hokkaido/Tohoku region held on Saturday, January 28, 2017 cosponsored by the Hokkaido Special Needs Education Center. Despite the stormy weather on the day of the event, close to 100 participants were in attendance who filled the venue with enthusiasm.

Part one of the seminar consisted of reports about the activities of NISE. In Part Two, two lectures were given as relay lectures, the first titled "Function of Special Needs Schools as Local Centers of Special Needs Education and Coordination Therewith" presented by Mr. Hiroyuki Kitamura, Professor at Hokkaido University of Education, Hakodate Campus, and the second titled "Promotion of Planned/Organized Exchange and Joint Learning" presented by Mr. Akira Yaguchi, Professor, Department of Health & Welfare Science, Nayoro City University. According to surveys which provided feedback on the lectures, some

participants stated that they were able to identify the basic elements of inclusive education, are now deeply interested in regional-based practical research, and that they found the relay lectures to be concrete and easy to understand.

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the assistance provided by many people, including staff from the Hokkaido Special Needs Education Center, for holding this seminar.



FY 2016 National Institute of Special Needs Education Seminar

Each year, NISE holds the NISE Seminar for disseminating the results of research activities, etc., and sharing information with related institutions, including site where education takes place. This fiscal year's seminar was held at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center for two days, from February 17 to 18, 2017, under the theme "Promotion of Special Needs Education Aimed at Building an Inclusive Education System—For Maximizing the Possibilities for Children Living in the 21st Century —".

On the first day of the seminar, an opening ceremony as well as the 30th Tsujimura Award Ceremony were held along with a research results meeting and a general meeting. Research report presentations were given by different subworking groups. First Subworking Group: "Cultivation of Attributes and Abilities through Active Learning—Development of Education for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities based on Next-term Government

Curriculum Guideline Revision Trends—"; Second Subworking Group: "Main Points Behind Setting up Classes which Offer Independent Activities for Children with Autism—Thoughts on abilities (goals) that we want children to acquire from real situations—"; Third Subworking Group: "The Role of Kotoba-no-Kyoshitsu (Classes for Children with Learning Disabilities) in Building an Inclusive Education System—Efforts utilizing expertise found in education of children with language disorders—". Each of the reports was presented followed by question and answer sessions. In addition, a speech was given during the general meeting at the end of the day by guest Ms. Momoko Kikuchi (Special Inspector, Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau (MEXT)).

On the second day, a lecture was given by Mr. Shigeru Amagasa (Visiting Professor at Chiba University; Deputy Chief Examiner,, Special Section Meeting for Curriculum

Planning, Central Council for Education (MEXT)), followed by a talk with Kazushige Shishido (President of NISE) and Mr. Amagasa hosted by Mr. Shigeru Meikan (Department Head, Department of Information and Support, NISE) which provided further understanding about the most recent trends in new government curriculum guidelines and trends related to special needs education.

In addition, mini lectures on reasonable accommodation, featured for the first time with this year's seminar, provided simple explanations of definitions, including reasonable accommodation and fundamental environment establishment, followed by an introduction of examples of reasonable accommodation at each school level, from kindergarten/nursery school, elementary school, middle school, to high school. Information was provided by Mr. Yorihiro Katsuno (Executive Director, NISE) on new efforts by NISE in the form of information tools helpful for places of learning, connect with the enhancement of special needs education. The information tools consist of (1) Summaries, leaflets, and other research results documentation, (2) Training projects, online lectures, and online teaching certification, and (3) Utilization of websites, including the Information Center of Education for the Persons with

Developmental Disabilities website and the teaching material portal site. Information was also introduced by Mr. Kimihito Harada, Head of Center for Promoting Inclusive Education System on topics including the information tools which contribute to building an inclusive education system, such as Database for Supporting Development of Inclusive Education System (Inclu-DB) and regional practical research.

From the afternoon, a lively questions and answers session was conducted with participants regarding the poster presentation of the previous fiscal year's research completion theme, ICT devices, display of support devices, etc. During the symposium, information including examples of the utilization of the NISE Database for Supporting Development of Inclusive Education System (Inclu-DB) in teacher training, was introduced, and a discussion was held addressing how to move ahead in future support efforts for building an inclusive education system.

Although programs were also held on Saturdays for the first time in the seminar's history, capacity was surpassed with around 900 participants who participated in lively discussions. We believe that this and other factors led the seminar came to a successful close.

