Background

The National Institute of Health and Nutrition (NIHN), established in 1920, is the world’s oldest national research institute in the field of nutrition. “Asian Network Symposium on Nutrition” is the main international symposium hosted by the NIHN, which has been held every other year since 2004. The first symposium entitled “Optimizing Maternal and Child Nutrition for the Prevention of Chronic Diseases” was held in January 2004, followed by the second one entitled “Nutrition Reference and Dietary Recommendation in Asian Countries – from nutrition science to policy” (March, 2006), the third one entitled “Nutrition Monitoring and Community Nutrition Programs for National Health Promotion in Asian countries (March, 2008)”, the 4th one entitled “Nutrition Education Program for National Health Promotion in Asian Countries: a Focus on School-based Program (September 2010)”, the 5th one entitled “Food Security for Maternal and Child Nutrition in Asian and Pacific Countries (March 2012)” and the 6th one entitled “Improvement of Social Environment for Healthy Diet (March 2014)”. At each symposium, nutrition researchers and professionals, both in Japan and abroad, were invited for the academic debates and exchange of views on the issues related to the sub-theme.

Recently, “Double burden of malnutrition” has become one of the significant public health problems worldwide. Prevention of childhood obesity as well as improvement of maternal and child nutrition has therefore been recognized as the prioritized global health issues. In Japan, “Shokuiku (food and nutrition education)” which is legislated by the law, also focuses on control of childhood obesity.

At the upcoming 7th symposium, following the keynote addresses on the strategies for obesity prevention of school children, country reports of each invited country will be presented. Based on which, we expect to deepen the debates on present situation and future direction of each country and the Asian and Pacific region.

Program

9:00 Opening Address
Dr. Suminori Kono (President of the NIHN, NIBIOHN)

9:10 Symposium

Chairpersons: Dr. Nobuo Nishi
(Chief, Center for International Collaboration and Partnership, NIHN, NIBIOHN)
Dr. Katrin Engelhardt
(Technical Lead, Nutrition, WHO/WPRO)

Keynote address

Ending Childhood Obesity: What it will take
Dr. Katrin Engelhardt
(Technical Lead, Nutrition, Div. of NCD and Health through the Life-Course, WHO/WPRO)

Strategies for Prevention of Obesity in School Children
Dr. Colin Bell
(Associate Professor in Public Health, Deakin University, WHO Collaborating Centre for Obesity Prevention, Australia)

Country Report

Obesity Control and Prevention amongst School Children – Malaysian Experience
Ms. Rokiah Don
(Ex-Director, Division of Nutrition, Ministry of Health, Malaysia)

Strategy on Childhood Obesity Prevention – Viet Nam Country Report
Dr. Do Thi Phuong Ha
(Head, Dept. of Community Nutrition, National Institute Nutrition, Vietnam)

Current situation of overweight and priority issues – Mongolia Country Report
Dr. Ganzorig Dorjdagva
(Officer in charge for Nutrition and Food Safety Policy Implementation and Coordination, Ministry of Health and Sports, Mongolia)

11:00～11:20 Break

Strategies for Obesity Prevention in Children:- Philippine experience
Ms. Jovita B. Raval
(Chief, Nutrition Information and Education Division, National Nutrition Council, Philippines)

Strategies for Obesity Prevention in Children:Fiji country report
Ms. Ateca Kama
(Manager, National Food and Nutrition Centre, Fiji)

Current Problems with Situation Analyses of Childhood Obesity in Japan
Dr. Hidemi Takimoto
(Chief, Department of Nutritional Epidemiology, NIHN, NIBIOHN)

12:20-12:50 Discussion

12:50 Closing Address
Dr. Masaki Shimizu (Director for Research Coordination and Evaluation, NIHN, NIBIOHN)

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Supporting bodies:
* Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan
* The Japan Dietetic Association
* The Japanese Society of Nutrition and Dietetics