

## Background

“It is almost impossible to conduct a case study on the Japanese healthcare system because there is very limited information published in English,” said a renowned HSPH professor. At HSPH, there are many students and faculty interested in Japan’s medical and public health system. Furthermore, this year marks Japan’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since universal healthcare coverage was initiated in Japan, thus, Lancet published a special edition dedicated to research concerning Japan’s public health, medical and social welfare fields. There have been increased efforts to increase awareness of the healthcare system and issues in Japan globally; however, there still exists a lack of understanding by a great majority. Our goal is for the future leaders of public health to gain a better understanding of the realistic situation in Japan and to think about the role and impact Japan may have in the international society.

After discussing Japan Trip 2012 with fellow HSPH students, we came to the conclusion that we should focus our attention on the pros and cons of Japan’s model of the Aging Society. For this year’s Japan Trip, we would like to lay out the foundation for issues concerning the Aging Society from a public health, medical, nursing, and social welfare standpoint, as well as discuss ways to overcome these problems with students from other Japanese universities.

**Trip Date:** 1/8/2012 (Sun) – 1/18/2012 (Wed)

**Planned Visits:** Tokyo, Osaka, Ishinomaki

**Target # of Students:** 15 students \*only HSPH students

**Trip Theme:** The Reality of the Aging Society

Learning Objectives:

- Understand Japan’s Aging Society problems from a multidimensional standpoint, including societal, cultural, medical, insurance policy, healthcare industry and other public health related dimensions.
- Compare and contrast Japan’s manifestation of the Aging Society with student’s home country
- Proposing solutions to Japan’s Aging Society as well as ways the student’s home country can take away from the situation in Japan



## Visit Site (unfinalized)

Field	Theme	Examples	Tokyo	Osaka	Ishinomaki
Society	Safety Net (Government/community subsidized program for the poor)	Community Center Tama New Town	○		○
	Gap-Widening Society	Airin		○	
Culture	Food and Nutrition	School Lunch or Traditional Japn meals	○		
Public Health	Health Policy and Public Health for Elderly people	WHO Kobe Center		○	
		Minister of Health	○		
Healthcare Provider	General Hospital	University and City Hospital		○	
	Clinic/Homecare	Clinic visit	○		○
	Nursing Facility	Rehabilitation and Nursing Facility		○	○
	Nursing Society Geriatric Health Industry	Nursing/Welfare Business	○		
Disaster Management	Disaster recovery efforts for Public health and healthcare system	ISHINOMAKI KOBE Disaster Reduction center		○	○

January 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Convene in evening	Tokyo	Ishinomaki	Ishinomaki	Osaka	Osaka	No agenda
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
No agenda	Tokyo	Tokyo	Tokyo			

## Advisor

Prof. Ichiro Kawachi (Professor of Social Epidemiology Chair, Department of Society, Human Development, and Health, Harvard School of Public Health)

Prof. Micheal Reich (Taro Takemi Professor of International Health Policy - Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard School of Public Health)

**Estimated Costs:**

\$1 USD = 75 yen

Japan Rail Pass (7 days)	400 USD
Accommodations (10 days)	1,000 USD (100 USD × 10 days)
Food/Living Expense	700 USD (70 USD × 10 days)
Total	2,100 USD

\*Excluding International Airfare. Please include it into total cost from your place to Narita/Haneda, Japan. Boston-Narita: 1500-1800USD

**Donation** 10,000-20,000 USD (the range of donation in past years)

If participant

15 people 700 – 1,300 USD (refund)

10 people 1,000 – 2,000 USD (refund)

\* We cannot promise the estimated amount of donations and refunds because, this year, Japan had the problems of big earthquake and reduce economic growth and many firms and individuals suffers from “donation-fatigue”

**VISA**

Please check whether you need Visa ([http://www.mofa.go.jp/J\\_info/visit/visa/index.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/J_info/visit/visa/index.html))

**Question**

Please let us know any Questions and Concerns about Japan Trip 2012

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