

DN GL

Disaster Nursing Global Leader Degree Program

NEWS LETTER

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"The Disaster Nursing Global Leader Degree Program (DNGL)" is the first collaborative graduate school comprised of five national, public, and private Japanese graduate schools.

Message

A message from Hiroko Minami, the President of Host University

In near future, an enormous, mega earthquake is predicted to potentially occur in the South Sea Trough. In addition, we are facing increasingly precarious occurrences of natural disasters, unprecedented risks from terrorism, and new strains of influenza. In order to find answers to these urgent needs, it is essential to develop an innovative human resource training system that prepares professionals in disaster nursing field to be proficient in international and interdisciplinary realms. For that purpose, five leading national, public, and private graduate schools that have been driving forces in the progression of disaster nursing science are working together as one. These graduate schools are University of Kochi, University of Hyogo, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Chiba University, and Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing. Initiatives of these schools saw the fruit of creating the DNGL program, which bears the shared idea of a human security guarantee. It is the culmination of resources that each of these educational institutions have accumulated, and the program will deal with and solve many challenges related to disaster nursing, for which Japan and the world are seeking solutions. Moreover, this program will demonstrate international and interdisciplinary leadership towards the creation of “global leaders in disaster nursing,” so that these leaders safely, securely, and independently contribute to construction of a healthy human society. I would like to ask everyone to give an even further attention and support to this program’s disaster nursing education and research activities.



Opening ceremony

The Opening Ceremony for the Joint Disaster Nursing Program, a doctoral program organized by the University of Kochi, the University of Hyogo, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Chiba University and the Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing, was held on April 5, 2014 from 1:30 pm in the Common Auditorium at Ike campus, University of Kochi. Eleven students from the five universities are enrolled in the program.

As the first joint doctoral program among five public-private universities in Japan, those attending the opening ceremony felt a variety of conflicting emotions: a sense of relief among the teaching staff, who have overcome countless difficulties to reach the launching point of the course; a sense of expectation and unease from the 11 students who were entering an unknown world; and seriousness of responsibility felt among university staff, including the presidents of the five universities sponsoring this program.



Educational Plan and Framework Join Graduate School Program

Preparing Highly Competent Disaster Nurses

Throughout the five years in the program, students will be given practice opportunities, especially in the first 2 years. For instance, students will participate in all phases of joint researches with regional hospitals on health status and long-term support for disaster evacuees. In addition, program participants are expected to gain leadership skills after completing regional disaster prevention programs held in joint efforts with other related organizations (local government, hospitals, schools, businesses, and civic groups). Practice will be carried out by cooperating practice leaders, mentors, and preceptors.

Instilling Educational Capacity (Competency)

Customized tutorials based on individual experience levels will be given to the first, second, and third years students so that they can continue to develop learning capacity.

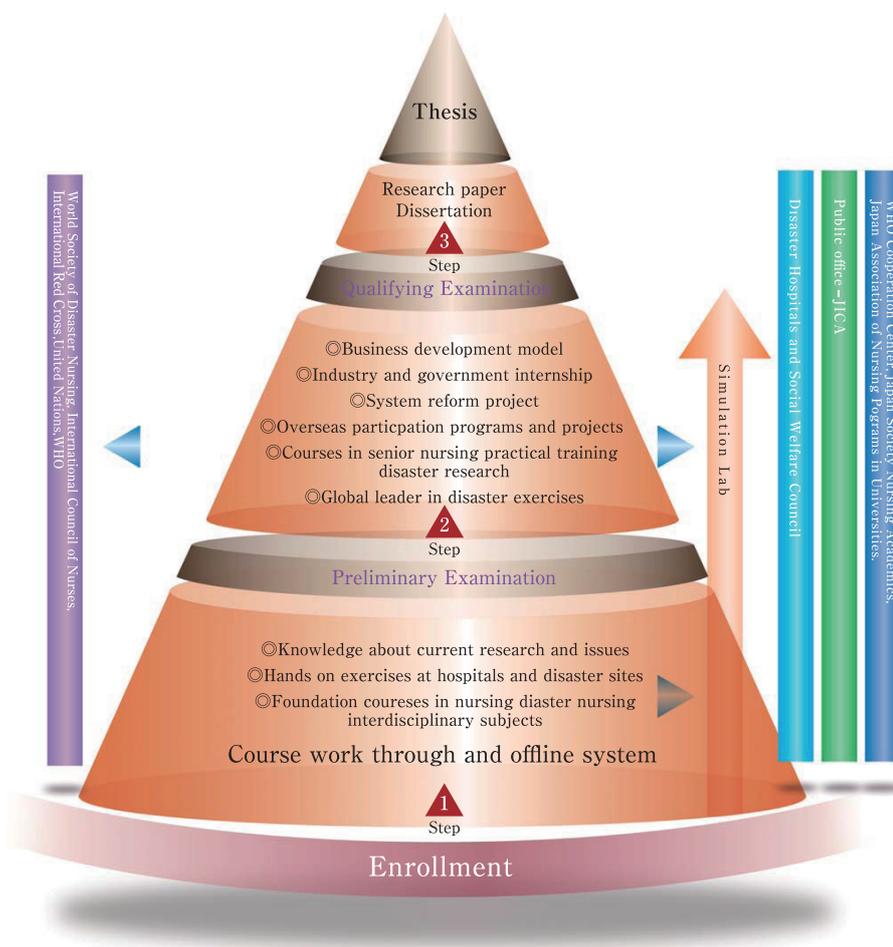
Council on Education and Research Internship System

Multi-industrial, multi-disciplinary exchange is designed to foster leadership skills. The Center will function as the principle unit for providing domestic and international exchange opportunities to students to acquire interdisciplinary perspectives.

Internship - Practical Planning and Skill Development

The third to fifth year students are to participate in joint research programs with industry and government, internship programs, and research assistant (RA) programs. These programs are designed to enhance research skills. Instructors and special appointed professors from industry, government, and research centers will guide and mentor the students. At this stage, the students will learn about unprecedented nursing educational contents, development of outreach programs for bringing changes in society, public relations skills, and implementation of these skills in application.

In addition, courses such as Disaster Nursing Global Coordination Theory and Disaster Nursing Leadership Theory offer rigorous lectures, training, and practicum opportunities.



Expected Ability and Envisioned Outcome of the Program

- 1 Step** Provide healthy environment for disaster victims and survivors to ensure human security in times of disasters.
- 2 Step** Submit policy proposals to ensure healthy living in all phases of the disaster cycle.
- 3 Step** Propose a plan for reforming the existing system, design a safe and secure society, and become expert disaster nursing global leaders.

University of Kochi



Miho Morosawa

I joined the DNGL program due to my nursing experiences from developing countries and my work in the recovery activities in Fukushima which sparked my interest in disaster nursing. The level of study has become more challenging in terms of lectures and other professional activities I must participate in, such as interacting with academic societies, poster presentations, and local information training. Every day, I feel more motivated and enjoy studying with my colleagues who come from a variety of backgrounds. Despite challenges and my shortcomings, I am determined to move forward step by step toward my goal of becoming a specialist in disaster nursing whose multifaceted worldview can help people around the world.



Megumi Nishigawa

I entered the doctoral program about one year ago. It has been a hectic year, but I have acquired a lot of knowledge and skills from lectures, simulations via TV conferences, and group discussions. All of this has strengthened my experiences from overseas. The University of Kochi is conducting disaster mitigation training with local entities. This has renewed my recognition of the importance of empowering community's ability to alleviate damages from disaster. I hope to deepen my understanding of disaster nursing in my research by continuing to receive lessons from lectures, outreach activities, and overseas experiences.

Chiba University



Yuko Hatano (Saiga)

Every day on the annual DNGL program taught me about non-nursing disaster prevention-related activities and perspectives by means of lectures and exercises and a variety of opportunities for extracurricular learning. I acquired experience in team building and leadership with multinational students at the Disaster Simulation Survival Camp in Finland, in particular, where I experienced hunger and fatigue. I want to expand on these studies, and deepen and integrate them as I put them into practice.



Saori Soeda

It has been one year since the start of DNGL program. Across the five universities, we have so far acquired the knowledge that is required at times of disaster by means of the deep content of the lectures via the TV conferencing system, which are given by lecturers who have plenty of experience in disaster nursing practice, and by means of practical simulations in group lessons. Also, we are aiming to maintain and improve international perspectives by means of international academic societies, etc. I will work hard to combine what I have learned in the first year with the exercises and research in the second year of study.

University of Hyogo



Sayaka Sumida

I gained an interest in disaster nursing after being hired at an emergency medical center following my graduation, and I joined the program after getting clinical experience in Japan and overseas. A five-year system requires determination, but I believe that it was my destiny to find this program and pass the entrance exam when I was uncertain of which path to take.

This is the first joint graduate program in Japan. At first, there was a lot of confusion about distance learning, but I realized that it is an innovative program where connections can be built between the long-distance students and teachers once you get used to the system. We have gradually built up friendships through face-to-face meetings at academic societies and group lessons, and now I am happy to be studying along with such encouraging colleagues.



Kaori Matsuo

My name is Kaori Matsuo from the University of Hyogo. Looking back at this year, it feels like the change from the working environment of a nurse to student life has gone by really quickly. Learning so much has been really fulfilling. I have studied disaster nursing from various angles, and I have considered the ideals and the requirements for disaster nursing. Meeting and speaking with my colleagues who feel the same as me, and participating in various experience-widening events has been a source of motivation. I'm happy to study in such a fulfilling environment, and I have renewed my resolve to pursue the area that interests me.

Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing



Toshiko Ikeda

In the first year of the DNGL course, I have studied medicine and welfare related to disaster nursing, as well as psychology, sociology and information science. I have also participated in overseas academic societies and seminars, and I went to my first poster presentation in English at an overseas academic conference held in Taipei in February. Although I have experience of disaster relief in Japan and overseas, the content of this course is fresh, and I feel like I am gaining practical evidence and acquiring a research-based perspective. At first, I was unsure about my decision to enroll in the program, but now I am satisfied with my choice of DNGL and with what I am learning.



Yuka Saito

I participated in a short-term internship in Fukushima and Miyagi Prefectures, which were heavily damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake. I also had direct discussions with local doctors and Japanese nurses who are working at hospitals in danger zones in Afghanistan where there are disputes, and I participated in a camp in Finland related to disaster rescue activities. What I have learned from these experiences is that the essence of support is essentially the same regardless of the country, culture or customs. Many of the subjects in this program are useful in practice, and, alongside my colleagues from the five universities, I am acquiring knowledge and skills that will help me to fulfill my dream of working at disaster support sites overseas.

Tokyo Medical and Dental University



Yumiko Ogawa

This year, we attended many lectures and systematically learned a wide range of knowledge and practices related to disasters. By means of lively discussions via the TV conference system, I received training in how to put my own ideas in order and state my opinions, and I think that my ability as a leader will be based on that experience. Every day was fulfilling, as we had lectures in English, participated in overseas summer schools and international academic conferences, and studied international perspectives while communicating with other cultures.



Kanae Tanaka

We were at full speed throughout the year, but it felt like this was the time to sow the seeds for the future. Together with the other students, I went to domestic and international academic conferences, local seminars and study groups, and other places with disaster and disaster-prevention related names in order to hand out business cards and to make an appeal for acceptance from colleagues at disaster sites. I felt impatient, despite being aware that knowledge in a variety of fields other than nursing and medical care is needed in order to get a complete view of disaster nursing, but in the second year I want to make a connection between these individual points of knowledge and the skills, which will produce results in terms of research.



Yoko Suzuki

As we are the first ever class, every day was a case of trial and error, but it's a great environment in which to study. In addition to the lectures and exercises in this program, we studied disasters from a wide range of perspectives by participating in training and academic conferences both domestically and overseas, including local large-scale drills for terrorist attacks, radiation emergency medical training with other universities, and overseas summer schools. There aren't many chances to directly meet with the students from other universities, but we made other plans for interaction using a variety of methods, which built up a better relationship.

External review



A two-day DNGL External Review Committee Meeting was held at the University of Kochi on November 3-4, 2014. The external committee was composed of disaster nursing-related university faculty members and emergency medical care-related doctors from the U.S., regional medical care-related doctors and university faculty members who specialize in crisis management from Japan. The two-day review underwent a comprehensive evaluation. The reviewers were provided with detailed description about the Joint Disaster Nursing Program, its educational training for international capabilities, interdisciplinary capabilities, industry-government-academia cooperative capabilities, and practical competency. Afterwards, the reviewers inspected the educational environment for simulation and distance learning and interviewed students. Four areas (management, teaching staff, curriculum, and students) of the program were evaluated, and the external reviewers generated recommendations on 12 points.

The 3rd International Conference of World Society of Disaster Nursing

The 3rd International Conference of World Society of Disaster Nursing was held in Beijing, China on June 21 and 22, 2014. The World Society of Disaster Nursing is an international academic society that was established mainly by nursing professionals in Japan. The Beijing conference was the first overseas meeting in which all of the DNGL students participated, and they took part in research publication sessions and lectures by disaster nursing specialists from around the world. There was also international exchange among disaster nursing students at a gathering organized by the DNGL students and students from Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, and South Korea.



Japan Society of Disaster Nursing

The 16th Congress of the Japan Society of Disaster Nursing was held on August 19 and 20, 2014 (Keio Plaza Hotel and other venues). The main theme was "Planning and Design of Disaster Nursing." The event was planned along the theme that focused on designing management system for nurses in areas where disasters occur (disaster areas), and designing the ways to provide and use buildings, locations, equipment and tools in the environment around disaster nursing.

On August 20 (Wed), the DNGL students conducted an exchange meeting entitled "Realities of the Disaster Nursing Global Leader Training Program from Student-Perspective/Aiming to Be Globally-active Disaster Nursing Leaders." The participants talked about the realities of the DNGL program from students' perspective and engaged in lively discussions about the difference between disaster nursing specialist nurses and global leaders.



Participation in the 18th East Asian Forum of Nursing Scholars (EAFONS)

The 18th East Asian Forum of Nursing Scholars (EAFONS) was held in Taipei, Taiwan, on February 5 and 6, 2015. The DNGL students participated in disaster nursing sessions in the afternoon of the first day, in which researches such as "Meaning in Life of Relocated Survivors" and "Post-earthquake Experience of Disabled Survivors" were presented, and they asked questions about the contents of these lectures. A poster session was held the next day (6th), and four DNGL students reported on the up-to-date investigative research and overseas training. Although many of the students were presenting for the first time at an international conference, they were able to hold discussions with nurses from East Asia who were interested in disaster nursing.



Messages from Faculty Members



Message

A year that was more than satisfying

We have reached the end of the first year of the joint disaster nursing program. It was a stimulating year in which the 11 students and the teaching staff encountered new challenges every day. I am responsible for international projects. We had offered this year the graduate school student session of the International Conference of World Society of Disaster Nursing (Beijing), international seminars held in Japan, as well as the East Asian Forum for Nursing Scholars (EAFONS) in Taiwan, and the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, etc., The students progressed in line with their study targets, and found the key to speak and being active internationally. These shared experiences, along with the collaborative research and field studies that are being conducted concurrently at each university, made this year more than satisfying. I'm eagerly looking forward to future developments.



Professor, University of Hyogo
Noriko Katada

Pursuing the question of how nurses can be involved in the wider context of disaster mitigation

Disasters are sudden and exert a reciprocal influence over unresolved health crises. In order to ensure the safety of people, we are pursuing the question of how nurses are involved in the wider context of disaster mitigation as we work on the construction of a disaster mitigation nursing model for use in society. This year, a prototype information application was developed for domestic and international agencies, interdisciplinary researchers and disaster mitigation nursing. In order to carry out a test demonstration of the application, I, along with the students, conducted fieldwork in such locations as Leyte and Tacloban in the Philippines, which was heavily damaged by Typhoon Haiyan two years ago, and in Susaki City in Kochi Prefecture. We are working along with businesses and government agencies as we aim to return the results of this research back to society soon. Next year, I'm looking forward to students from a variety of backgrounds enrolling, and the various activities we will implement together.



Associate Professor,
University of Kochi
Sakiko Kanbara

About HEDN

One year has passed since the start of the world's first international disaster nursing academic journal, **Health Emergency and Disaster Nursing (HEDN)**!

Nurses at disaster sites engage in a wide range of activities towards reconstruction that focuses on health of people of all ages, as well as families, groups and communities immediately after disasters. Health Emergency and Disaster Nursing (HEDN), the world's first international disaster nursing academic journal, was initiated one year ago in order to gather and globally-publicize disaster nursing research information. HEDN is an online-based journal with no fees for contribution or publication. In order to gather disaster nursing knowledge and to provide information in real time, the journal accepts papers from people working in various positions, including teachers, researchers, clinicians, students and activists. For more details: No information given here...

For more details: <http://hedn.jp>

