

# NEWS LETTER

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# 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.



## The 19th Meeting of East Asian Forum of Nursing Scholars

The 19th EAFONS (East Asian Forum of Nursing Scholars) was held at the Makuhari Messe in Chiba, Japan on March 14 and 15, 2016. EAFONS is an annual international forum in East Asia, targeting postdoctoral researchers, doctoral students, and junior scholars in the field of nursing. Students of Disaster Nursing Global Leader Degree Program (DNGL) organized a meeting entitled “Let’s Get Ready for Disaster Risk Reduction: the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 to Action Proposal from Nursing Scholars” on the second day of the conference at noon. The participants were not only from East Asian countries such as Hong Kong, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand but even from the US and the UK.



# 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.

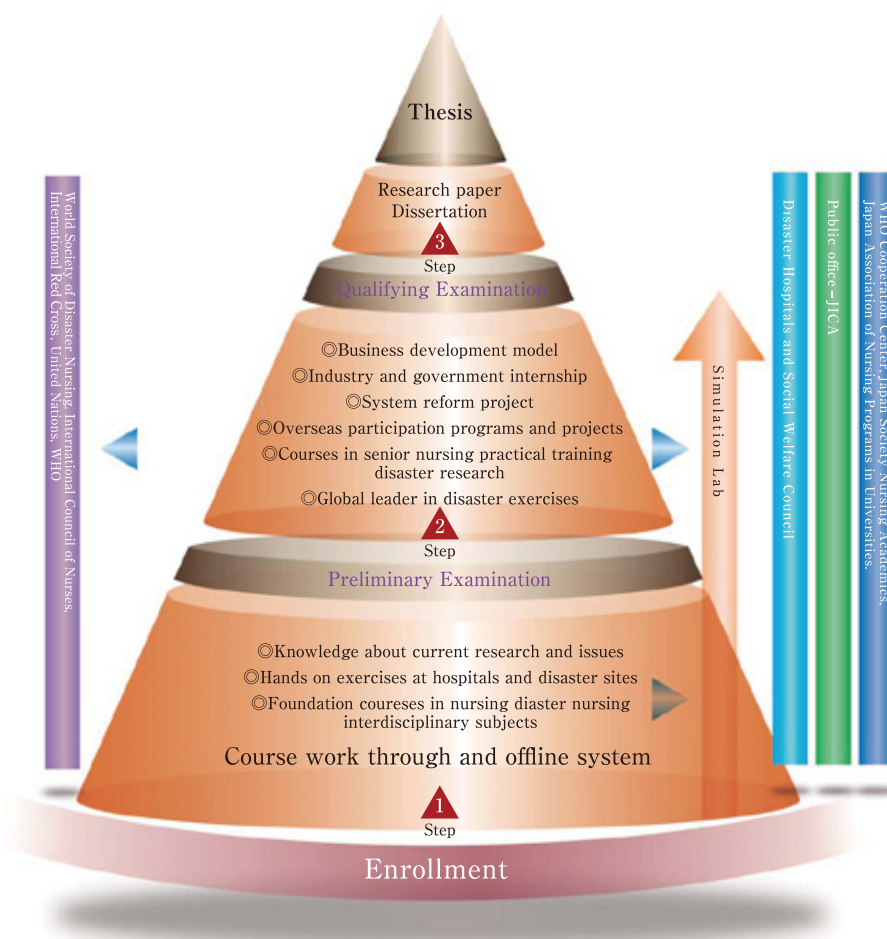
## Council on Education and Research Internship System

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



### Hastoro Dwinantoaji

My name is Hastoro Dwinantoaji from Indonesia. It was my dream to study in Japan since I was a student at the School of Nursing in the Gadjah Mada University.

My day starts with a prayer in the early morning when I have a class in the first period. At noon, I have lunch with my classmates, senior students, and university staff at a spacious canteen. We discuss the topics explored in the class or practice our foreign languages by exchanging Japanese and English in conversation. After that, I do assignments or discuss my research topic with my colleagues. I receive great support from my professors in various aspects.

DNGL curriculum primarily focuses on developing individual student's research skills, so students are able to directly receive instructions from the advisors. Studying at DNGL has been a great experience. I will confidently develop my career by means of knowledge and experiences I acquire through my studies in this program.



### Mami Nojima

While working at an emergency care center as a nurse, I became interested in disaster nursing. This motivated me to further my studies in a graduate program. Soon after the joining the program, a major earthquake occurred in Nepal. In August 2015, I had an opportunity to visit Nepal, and I could observe the real conditions. Through this experience I fully recognized the significance of disaster nursing as well as public and community health nursing. In September, I had an opportunity to listen to the stories of the members of the 9-11 Families' Association in New York. This greatly helped me to understand the importance of family support in the mid-to-long term disaster responses.

The first six months of study were indeed exciting; I learned how to apply information and knowledge I gained in the classroom into practice through observing both domestic and international disaster conditions. I would like to further my understanding through various learning opportunities, in lectures and practices, in both national and global contexts, and I will think deeply about how to apply the knowledge into practice and research with global perspective.

## Chiba University



### Takae Sekiguchi

The DNGL program has allowed me to learn disaster nursing and medicine directly from experts in the forefront of these areas and related fields. It also gives me opportunities to experience the actual disaster conditions through fieldwork, so that I can equip myself with various knowledge in a comprehensive way. In the process of conducting research, I developed an ability to interpret the meanings of words and explain what I meant in writing, following detailed instructions from a supervisor, which would have been difficult to learn in clinical practices. By exploring Hospital Disaster Preparedness, I would like to best utilize the research outcomes so that others can benefit in a more advantageous manner.

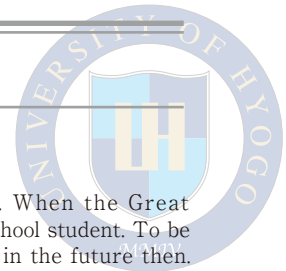


### Maki Nakajima

Six months have already passed since I joined DNGL program with an aspiration to contribute to ensuring human security in disaster. Since then, I have acquired abilities to present my ideas and find research topics as a researcher through attending lectures given by professors from various fields, joining discussions by means of a televised conference system, and delivering presentations. Furthermore, I have been confronted with the question of what to disseminate to the world through my research. I have become aware that people in different fields of study anticipate and expect achievements from disaster nursing. This makes me recognize our significant missions and responsibilities. I will further develop my knowledge and skills with my colleagues, who share the same aspiration.



## University of Hyogo



**Megumi Arisaka**

I am originally from Minami-Awaji in Hyogo Prefecture. When the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred in 1995, I was still a high school student. To be honest, I didn't know what happened and what would happen in the future then. Later on, I studied nursing in Kobe and started working as a nurse. Kobe was in the process of restoration from the disaster. Even to this day, many disasters occur around the world, including Japan, and people greatly suffer as consequences. I am also a qualified midwife, so I strongly hope that the life of women and children in the world would be better protected. Nursing includes not only providing medical care but also understanding people, cultures, roles and even the future. I, therefore, have joined DNGL in order to make people's lives happy with smiles.



**Marina Inagaki**

I became interested in disaster nursing through the experience of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake as an evacuee. Later on, when studying abroad I found the great works of the Japanese forerunners in the world. With the spirit as Japanese, we must cooperate with people from all over the world to confront the common disaster issues and problems.

This five university inter-curricular program is innovative. Professors broaden our views about the world and show what is necessary to be qualified as global leaders. I would like to develop myself by constantly considering what I feel, think and develop in relation to the world and what I can do for the worldwide disasters as a nurse from and in Japan.

## Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing



**Chihiro Kobayashi**

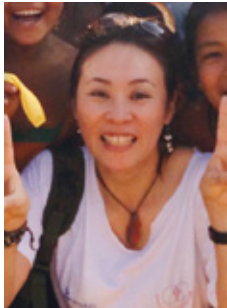
The first six months of the doctoral program went by sometimes quickly and sometimes slowly. Now I come to realize the difficulty of integrating the practical aspect as a nurse in disaster nursing into the academic aspect of research. I would like to take advantage of my learning together with my colleagues, who have rich and practical experiences, and put myself into the environment of learning for five years by attending various lectures and trainings organized by five different universities. By doing so, I believe that I will be able to reflect upon and confront disaster nursing from the broader point of view.



**Mayumi Yamauchi**

After participating in the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, I first-handedly experienced the difficulty with understanding and managing situations in different cultural contexts. This encouraged me to enroll in DNGL program. At present, I am being trained in leadership and multi-occupational cooperation in practice, as well as reflection on the past experiences. During the break between semesters, I carry out various academic activities outside the classroom, such as writing a research abstract in English and participating in nursing activities for restoration after disaster. By attending international conferences and congresses, I have understood worldwide trends and global viewpoints. I will further apply what I have learned to research in order to deepen my study in disaster nursing.

## Tokyo Medical and Dental University



**Chikako Sugawara**

I just ran through the first six-month term of DNGL. Since my daily work was to study about disasters (sometimes I was into it too much, I guess), I have come to a deep understanding about the diversity of disaster nursing and the significance of its roles. I was in clinical practice for some time before joining the program, it was indeed hard for me to study. Despite the difficulty, I enjoy my student life by understanding different opinions from various disciplines and viewpoints, with solid support from the course mates, seniors and professors. "What can I do for the victims injured by disasters?" I believe that this program offers us the great learning opportunities to develop ourselves in considering the characteristics of nursing.



**Shigeru Miyamae**

Shifting my lifestyle from working in a hospital to being in a graduate school has brought such a great change to my life. For instance, participating in international conferences and courses in English had brought confusion at times. Nowadays, however, I have gotten used to such student life and am supported by professors and senior students. At the same time, I also came to appreciate and enjoy it because it allows me to directly learn from experts from different academic disciplines. Particularly, meeting a variety of people is the utmost pleasure. Under the umbrella of a key notion of "disaster," I met not only professional nurses but also people in different occupations, ages, places of living, nationalities, and ethnicities who share similar aspirations. Furthermore, sharing opinions with different points of view with them has greatly stimulated my academic interests. I believe that only DNGL with the inter-curricular program among five universities with the global network can offer such a learning environment.

### International and Student-Organized Seminars in the 2015 Academic Year

DNGL organized an international seminar entitled "Leadership in Inter-Organizational Collaboration during Disaster Response" hosted by Chiba University on Saturday, February 13, 2016. When a disaster occurs, it is essential that various organizations including international institutions, governmental administrations, military forces, private sectors, and NGOs establish a close-net collaboration. This seminar, thus, invited keynote speakers from three different disciplines: Dr. Tener G. Veenema (School of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University) of disaster nursing, Dr. Gregg Greenough (Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health) of humanitarian aid and Mr. Tsukasa Katsube (Consultant for Emergency Response Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team, Japan International Cooperation Agency) of disaster relief. The seminar focused on problems and issues of leadership in collaboration of multiple organizations in disaster response.

The following day (Sunday, Feb 14th), these speakers and DNGL students conducted a seminar, "What Is the Competence Necessary for Disaster Nursing Global Leaders?" Students learned a lot from the practical experiences of the speakers, particularly from, Dr. Veenema, a specialist in disaster nursing, who showed them a concrete career path. Students passionately asked them questions about "how to protect the weak in disaster response." This seminar was all planned and organized by DNGL students and was conducted in English.



## The Annual Conference of the Japan Society of Disaster Nursing

DNGL students attended the 17th annual conference organized by the Japan Society of Disaster Nursing in summer 2015 and conducted meetings with the themes of “Was the Support in the Great East Japan Earthquake Appropriate and Helpful for People and Localities? (for the first-year students)” and “Learning from the Past Disaster Experience, Get Ready and Hand It Down to the Future: Let’s Share Your Activities (for the second-year students)”. They had an opportunity to share their opinions with participants in each venue and realized the significance of sharing what to learn and experience in the past disasters and the ideas of organizational disaster management with all expert nurses in order to apply them to the society. Furthermore, several students presented research papers at the conference. In order to have such meetings and presentations at the next annual conference, DNGL students actively study and practice by encouraging one another. During the period of the conference, there was the spectacular Sendai Tanabata Festival (star festival) in Sendai City where the conference took place. This was a great opportunity for all participants to deeply appreciate the restoration of the devastated areas from the Great East Japan Earthquake.



## UNISDR Science and Technology Conference

Students participated in the UNISDR (the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) Science and Technology Conference in Geneva (January 27-29, 2016). It was the first UN conference on disaster risk reduction convening with specialists in science and technology and practitioners in the field to reconsider the contribution of science and technology to the goals established in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDDR). Compared to the Hyogo Framework for Action, SFDDR tends to frequently mention “health.” The conference shared outstanding researches and good practices, reinforcing the idea that it is crucial to focus on both hard and soft ways to disaster risk management, along with the gradual acceptance of human-centeredness in disaster risk reduction although many of the presentations still focused merely on early warning systems.



It is essential to confront global issues including related agendas such as sustainable development goals (SDG) and the Paris Agreement, COP21, for climate changes. What is required as researchers is to establish an approach based upon both evidence-based proposals and practices. It was strongly felt that DNGL would be indispensable in actualizing the Sendai Framework goals by collecting data, implementing analyses, and conducting rigorous reviews.

## Fieldwork



The Great East Japan Earthquake of 2012 was a mixture of natural disasters and nuclear power plant accidents, resulting in tremendous damages. Further great earthquakes are predicted in the near future in Japan, so the significance of nuclear disaster preparedness and the natural disaster prevention is strongly emphasized.

Students conducted a fieldwork at a health care center located near Ikata nuclear power plant in the Tohoku region. They walked around the village and found narrow, steep roads and abandoned houses in near collapse from the earthquake. It seemed extremely difficult for the villagers to quickly and safely evacuate from this place if another great earthquake together with a nuclear power plant accident were to occur at the same time. Although the staff at the health care center explained that the evacuation plan was already in place, it was also necessary for the residents to regularly participate in drills for the safe evacuation.

The students could also understand what the villagers thought about disasters by accompanying the activities led by public health nurses. They said, “Be as it will be.” and “We can get water from mountains.” This made the DNGL students realize the importance of adapting the disaster risk management plans to both natural and local living environments.



## Messages from Faculty Members



Message

### Awaiting the further growth beyond Step 1

The second year of the DNGL program was crucial for the students who entered the program at the beginning of the year 2014. They wrote research papers and passed the Preliminary Examination. I believe that they realized their own strengths as well as identified their challenges ahead. I also think that the students developed awareness of the importance of observing what is actually happening through multiple field visits.

The students from the year 2015 learned intercultural understanding in their daily life by welcoming an international student from Indonesia. Furthermore, they felt confident and secure by having senior students in the program.

In addition, there were several opportunities for them to organize events together through the participation of an academic conference. I expect all of these experiences lead to the next step in their studies. I also continue to learn and grow together with them.



Professor, Japanese  
Red Cross College of Nursing  
Yumi Tamura

### Exploring the role of nursing in disaster prevention and reduction through participating in local activities

In disaster response, voluntary and cooperative assistance is considered more important than official help. In fact, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 highlights the necessity of reinforcing social participation and cooperation in disaster risk reduction. Tokyo Medical and Dental University is located between Bunkyo and Chiyoda wards nearby Tokyo Station, characterized as a business zone where many companies are situated. After the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, it became clear that people working in this particular area were unable to return home. I, therefore, explore the role of nursing for disaster prevention and reduction with students by establishing a firm collaboration among residents, volunteering groups, and companies by actively participating in projects and activities organized by various volunteer organizations for disaster prevention. I hope that we continue proposing the role of nursing from academic and international points of view. I am looking forward to furthering activities of this program.



Associate Professor,  
Tokyo Medical and Dental University  
Hanae Miura

## About HEDN

Three years have passed since the first publication of the world's first international disaster nursing academic journal, Health Emergency and Disaster Nursing (HEDN)!

Nurses in disaster sites engage in a wide range of activities towards reconstruction and focus on health of people in all ages, as well as families, groups and communities. Health Emergency and Disaster Nursing (HEDN), the world's first international disaster nursing academic journal, was initiated three years ago in order to gather and globally-publicize findings from disaster nursing research. HEDN is an online-based journal with no fees. 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: <http://hedn.jp>

