

NEWS LETTER

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Message

A message from Hiroko Minami, the Program Director of DNGL

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.



DNGL International Seminar and Student-Run Seminar in 2016

The DNGL international seminar entitled “Challenges of Disaster Management~Lessons learned from the recent mega-disasters” was held at Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing on November 26, 2016. The invited speakers were the former Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Head, UNISDR, Dr. Margareta Wahlström; the JCADR Executive Director of Research, Dr. Satoshi Nishigawa; and the former President of the Japanese Red Cross Kyushu International College of Nursing, Dr. Kikuko Urata. The speakers iterated on their expectation of nursing field’s leading contribution to collaboration across various professions and disciplines in disaster and mitigation at global and national levels. The next day, DNGL students of five universities held a workshop with the speakers and discussed each individual student’s challenges toward becoming a disaster nursing leader.



Internship in Nepal

As an internship in Nepal, a DNGL student had an opportunity to observe the local Nepali nurse's relief activities in evacuation shelter for the April 2015 Nepal earthquake victims. Through giving care, she learned depression and resettlement issues were the most obvious problems caused by prolonged life in shelters. She conducted public health monitoring around the shelter and gave health education to the evacuees. Through this internship, she learned that disaster nursing should enlarge its target from individuals to families and from groups to communities, and nursing should offer customized care to the victims, respectively. At the same time, she realized the roles of nursing in evacuation centers: 'nursing activities designed to fit each disaster cycles,' 'diversity of nursing,' 'coordination,' and 'assistance to recovery of everyday life.'



Disaster Nursing Practicum I

In summer of the second year, the practicum course was offered to students for the purpose of students learning about necessary care for survivors of disasters in mid- to long-term periods after the disaster. Students also learned about problems with daily life and health of disaster victims and also about collaboration and mediation when offering services and managing disaster relief work. In 2016, the practicum was held in Tohoku, the area hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, and in Kobe, the city which suffered the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. DNGL students learned by doing care activities, along with nursing professionals working in organizations that provided assistance to victims, such as visiting homes and offering health consultations.



What I learned from Disaster Medical Science

I have participated in disaster training even before I joined the DNGL program, but I enrolled in Disaster Medical Science course to learn from the basics again. From the teachers with rich experiences in disaster medicine relief work, we were able to learn about large contents such as the concepts, history, acute phase disaster-medicine, and about radiation. Particularly, simulation training on medical treatment for radiation victims was most interesting. Actually, we covered the walls and floors with special tapes and sheets used to prevent from contamination and created a space for treatment. We also learned how to put on and take off the protective gears. In addition, the course covered on case studies about disaster related deaths and other situations after the disaster. I realized again about psychological pain of the victims who must live in prolonged evacuation.



Interdisciplinary collaboration disaster response drill training

As part of Disaster Profession Collaboration Exercise course that is offered in the second semester of 2016, the concentration exercise course was conducted for three days from February 27 to March 1, 2017 on Inohana Campus at Chiba University. In addition to six students of DNGL, six students from the Graduate School of Horticulture and Graduate School of Science joined the simulation training. With a shelter management game (HUG) as an icebreaker and starter, students carried out plans for relief assistance for flood victims and building a disaster response headquarter. Also under the theme of community building workshop for disaster victims 18 months after the disaster, students carried out exercises involving various aspects of disaster response and collaborative disaster responses as a team. The course was lively with the involvement of police officers, fire fighters, self-defense forces, local governments, religious leaders, disaster nurses, and community leaders. Students carried out simulation tasks and reflected. Through this course, students learned about leadership, teamwork, communication, and the mindset for collaboration.



Disaster Nursing Sminar I (face-to-face class in Fukushima Prefecture)

With the supports from Ms. Yoshiko Fukushima of Nagasaki University, eight students in the first year and two teachers conducted face-to-face classes on nuclear disaster in Fukushima Prefecture on January 30-31, 2017. On the first day, we visited Fukushima Medical University and received radiation disaster exercise lessons, focusing on measuring radiation level in the area and emergency medical care provision to radiation victims. The exercise was led by Professor Arifumi Hasegawa, a specialist in Department of Radiation Disaster Medicine at Fukushima Medical University. After the lecture, we visited Village of Kawauchi. Until June 2016, a part of the village was restricted as evacuation enforced area. We discussed with an administrative officer of the village who was in charge of evacuating the villagers to the neighboring areas. The main topics of discussion were long-term and complex problems and pain inflicted on the villages by the nuclear disaster. On the next day, we visited Tomioka Town, to which its residents were to be returned by April 2017. We witnessed tremendous damages by the tsunami and nuclear disaster that still remain and learned about the importance of long-term assistance.



Simulation: Emergency Medical Treatment for Radiation Victims



View to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant from Tomioka Town

Enrolled Student Voice



University of Kochi



Kosuke Sasaki

I once worked for the disaster base hospital, so I had many chances to learn about acute phase activities such as DMAT, but I had not been aware of disaster relief activities in other phases of disaster cycle. Since I began my graduate program, I have been expanding my knowledge about roles of nursing profession and management in mid- to long-term phase, disaster mitigation, disaster psychology and environmental disaster prevention, collaboration with mitigation related professionals. In addition, I am learning about different cultures and values through exchanges with professors and students in different countries, attending English programs abroad, and attending international meeting. In undergraduate days, I lived in Kochi, and I was glad to be back to Kochi as a graduate student. As a member of the Kochiike (Kochi Family), I wish to find my path as a global leader in disaster nursing as I continue my study in Disaster Nursing Global Leader Degree Program (DNGL).

Chiba University



Satoko Suzuki

I joined the DNGL program to deepen my knowledge about disaster nursing, even though I have experiences from working as disaster relief nurse. Learning from and clearing research tasks by the experts in disaster nursing and disaster medicine is intellectually stimulating and satisfying. I wish to improve myself to be able to return what I learned from the Program to the global community members.



Yuko Tsukada

I took one year off during my undergraduate studies in School of Nursing at Chiba University, and I volunteered as a nurse in Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Since then, I became interested in disaster nursing and joined DNGL Program. Now, I spend my days in full. Lectures are offered by specialists in different fields, I engage in dialogues with my colleagues who are working toward becoming disaster nurses in global settings, and I network with citizens who work hard for disaster mitigation. Every day, I question what disaster nursing requires from me. I wish to be able to share what I have learned and also hope to be able to contribute to ensuring human security of all global citizens.

University of Hyogo



Eni Nuraini Agustini

Joining DNGL Program is one of my dreams. Coming from Indonesia, I had a dream to learn about disaster mental health nursing since my background is mental health nurse. The lectures and practices at DNGL Program are interesting and academically stimulating, moreover it is applied to real-world case studies which is extremely useful. The Education program at DNGL program encourages, and supports me to learn many things in disaster health management from many perspectives. At DNGL Program I had various opportunities to attend many classes delivered by experts in disaster from UN, WHO, UNDP and all over the world. Those opportunities added immense value to my life.



Natsuko Yamamura

I am interested in building social system for health promotion and prevention of diseases for all, and I have worked as a prefectural public health nurse. During my interim, I experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and participated in disaster response and governmental assistance to disaster struck areas. I felt lack of knowledge about disaster and dire need to enforce health risk reduction at the government level. That is why I joined DNGL Program. In the past year, in addition to courses I took, I was involved in various activities such as evacuation drills by local government, assistance to disaster struck areas, and disaster mitigation development in local communities. I also learned about health and disaster and was reminded of the importance of collaboration across sectors and disciplines. I aim to become a disaster nursing expert equipped with research skills and competency to actualize global and globalizing Japan's concerns.

Japanese Red Cross College of Nursing



Miyako Aoyama

I worked as disaster relief nurse in Tohoku after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and from that experience I became deeply interested in disaster nursing and joined DNGL Program. After the admission, 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes occurred, and I learned systematically about disaster information gathering, assistance methods, and evaluation on assistances through seminars, lectures, and fieldworks. In addition, we, DNGL students, organized seminars. In the process, I experienced difficulties with consolidating different perspectives of various participants and had opportunities to reflect on leadership and collaboration. In the present, together with my cohort, I am spending my days thinking about the ways to pose research questions and to develop ways to protect the disaster victims. I wish to continue to deepen my studies and sharpen research skills to be able to solve real problems.



Naoki Fujii

From experiencing the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and volunteering for flood disaster in undergraduate days, I became interested in disaster nursing. I chose this discipline to deepen my master's studies in infection control nursing and apply it to disaster response against infection and infectious diseases. The past one year was filled with learnings from graduate courses and practicums, in addition to attending domestic and international conferences and disaster relief activities for 2016 Kumamoto earthquake victims. I am grateful for being able to learn in such a rich environment and wish to improve myself every day.

Tokyo Medical and Dental University



TMDU

東京医科歯科大学



Mihoko Tanimoto

When I was working as a nurse, I always pondered upon the meaning of leadership and management. Also, I was listed as a disaster relief nurse for the Great East Japan Earthquake and was in waiting to be called. All of these led to the decision to join DNGL Program. After entering the program, I attended lectures by numerous teachers who are actively working in the frontline of disaster relief work. I am grateful for opportunities to meet and interact with these experts. As a midwife, I aim to create a place where mothers and children along with their families can live safely even in times of disaster.

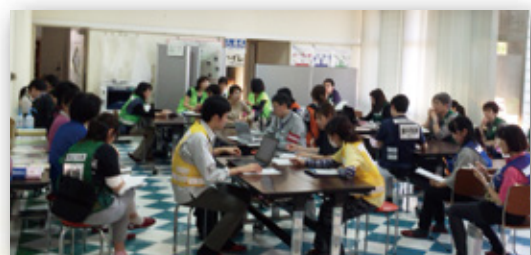


Yumi Tomofuji

When I heard that the program is a 5 year one, I hesitated to join. I was anxious about what I could be and what I could accomplish in those 5 years. However, my days pass by like a storm filled with learnings about medicine and from experts in multiple disciplines. In addition, I receive the question, “what is disaster nursing?” from many people. So I take this 5 years to be the period of finding answer to that question and build something. Also, that “something” shall be the source of providing “safety and security” to a large number of people in hospitals, industries, and in communities.

Disaster relief activities in Kumamoto

DNGL students from the University of Kochi joined disaster relief work at the Town Mifune public health center in Kumamoto Prefecture after the 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes from April 26 to May 5, 2016. The earthquake victims in Mifune were living in shelters and their own cars out of fear. The town was still experiencing continuing aftershocks. The damages included destruction of over 1,500 buildings. The full reports on damages were still not in when the DNGL-Kochi team arrived. In the midst of chaos, the students visited shelters, and with public health nurses for disaster, they surveyed damages and also visited homes of victims who requested help. Many of the town residents have long history of living in the region and had formed tight-net communities. After the disaster, many of the community members helped each other. The damage reports were obtained through local administrators or public health agents, and the students checked vital signs and health conditions of victims during visitations. The students shared relevant information and contacted necessary authorities for help when they identified those in need. This experience highlighted the importance of community building and collaborating with other agencies in non-disaster times.



The 4th Academic Conference of World Society of Disaster Nursing

The 4th Academic Conference of World Society of Disaster Nursing held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on September 29-30, 2016. DNGL students presented on their experience of assisting with running the Evacuation Cafe and analyzed reports of victims as part of 2016 Kumamoto earthquake relief efforts. People have no concepts of Evacuation Cafe in Indonesia, but students led discussion on the role of community leaders and relationship with nurses in the cafe. From other talks and panel discussions, students deepened their understandings about disaster nursing research and contribution of nursing to Sendai Framework. Students also learned about efforts by different nations and nursing programs in other countries.



The 1st Disaster Prevention Promotion National Congress



On August 27 and 28, 2016, five DNGL students participated in the 1st Disaster Prevention Promotion National Congress by Cabinet Office of Japan. The congress was held at Tokyo University's Hongo Campus. Under the theme, "Disaster Nursing for Protecting Life and Livelihoods: Call for Community -Based Disaster Mitigation" the DNGL students presented on disaster mitigation against Nankai Trough earthquake and the earthquake below the capital city. The student presentation also included the future directions of disaster nursing and efforts of DNGL programs toward disaster mitigation. The presentations on disaster nursing were in easy to understand language out of consideration for audience who are not experts in disaster-related fields. Each student also introduced their own disaster mitigation activities in addition to collectively presenting on DNGL program. The five students exchanged various opinions and perspectives with participants from different backgrounds, and experienced sharing information such as experiencing dilemmas after disasters and disaster mitigation of individuals. Through this event, students experienced exchange of knowledge, overcoming the boundaries of disciplines. The participants expressed "they were stimulated," and "it was easy to understand the role of nursing in disaster."

Disaster prevention awareness activity for local residents

As the students of disaster nursing, we are involved in developing disaster mitigation programs for local residents through local events such as college festivals and local festivals. In May 2016, DNGL students built a booth recreating the evacuation shelter and reminded the importance of preparedness for disaster at the Keyaki Festival held by College of Nursing Art and Science, University of Hyogo. In November 2016, DNGL students conducted a learning event for elementary students to think about and prepare the evacuation bag. In January 2017, the students joined a memorial event for the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake entitled "Hyogo Safety Day," and built a booth called "The Reality of Evacuation Life?" The theme of the booth was difficulties of evacuation lives in 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes and other disasters and we thought the problem-solving with local residents. Through these activities, we are still learning about community-based mitigation.



Messages from Faculty Members

Message



DNGL—Continuing to Challenge Further

It has been six years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Every March 11th I remember the day. Strangely enough, my body remembers. It has been four years since DNGL program began. When you begin the five-year doctoral program, it may have seemed long, but once you start your program, the time flies by. The first cohort of the program has already progressed to preparing for qualifying exam and doctoral thesis. In 2017, we admitted four students from overseas, and I am also struggling with making teaching materials in English. However, it is DNGL's nature to challenge the new and innovative. The University of Kochi is expanding its mitigation efforts against Nankai Trough earthquake to Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Congo. On the other hand, I am continuing to record the psychological pains and struggles of disaster victims who have been taken away from their homeland after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant accidents.



Professor, University of Kochi
Yoko Nakayama

Towards a New Challenge: Acquiring Disaster Nursing Expertise through Research and Practice

I believe the 2nd cohort of DNGL students have found their research theme of lifework to deepen their own expertise in disaster nursing in their Practicum-Research Report. The 1st cohort has been carrying out dissertation research. When a big earthquake occurred at Kumamoto in April 2016, DNGL students from all of the five universities participated in relief works. They took leadership roles while providing care to the victims, participated in support planning, and gave some advices to the support staffs as the specialist of disaster nursing. In addition, Chiba University held the "Refugees Support" Workshop Series. Through considering the health problems of refugee, we are initiating a new project to systemize nursing as a field to actualize "Human Security." I always would like to constantly challenge new issues with the students of DNGL.



Associate Professor,
Chiba University
Takako Ito

About HEDN

Four 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 four 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: <https://hedn.jp>

