To the Press,

[Announcement of International Symposium]

**Road to Public Health Recovery in Tohoku Region**
Experiences in selected areas of Miyagi Prefecture
In
International Symposium on Public Health Recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake

March 7, 2013 (Thu) - March 8, 2013 (Fri)
Sendai International Center
Admission Free
On-site registration accepted (Pre-registration recommended)

Visit the symposium website for details: [http://www.ch-center.med.tohoku.ac.jp/symposium12e](http://www.ch-center.med.tohoku.ac.jp/symposium12e)

Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, in collaboration with Miyagi Prefecture and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, will convene the International Symposium on Public Health Recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The symposium will be held on March 7 and 8 at Sendai International Center in Sendai, Japan. This symposium is not only an opportunity to launch the report on public health recovery but also to share experiences from other Asian countries with similar disaster experiences. The symposium organizers hope to promote a better understanding of public health perspectives of disaster management, to identify concrete measures that can be taken in public health recovery planning and implementation, and to discuss the possibilities of future partnership among Asian countries.
[Abstract]

Recovery is one of the least understood areas in disaster management. The systematic documentation and critical analysis of the recovery processes, especially in public health perspective have rarely been conducted. Besides, the experience and lessons learned from public health responses from the past disasters occurred in Japan have not been widely shared with the global society.

As a part of broader effort to address these issues, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine and the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office (WHO/WPRO) reached to an agreement for documenting the public health recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake, which occurred in March 2011. With a financial support from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine has been working to document public health recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake, especially in Ogatsu and Oshika areas of Ishinomaki City, which were some of the hardest hit areas by the earthquake and the tsunami.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, there were more public health needs than any other major disasters occurred in Japan in the past. Unlike the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, there were relatively few severe casualties. Instead, there were huge public health needs since the acute stage as the disaster occurred simultaneously in wide geographic areas. The public health needs included maintenance of sanitary condition in evacuation centers, infectious disease control, prevention of non-communicable diseases, nutrition, care of elderly and disabled who required medical and psychosocial support. The Great East Japan Earthquake highlighted the importance of public health activities after the major disasters.

It is important to document the public health recovery process and share the lessons learned not only within the country but also with the international community to be prepared for the future. Therefore, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine published a report entitled “Public Health Recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake: Experiences in selected areas of Miyagi Prefecture” in both English and Japanese. A film of public health recovery process was also prepared in DVD format.

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