

Welcome Address

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It is with great pleasure that I announce the 40th Annual Conference of the Japan Association for Global Health (JAGH). The year 2025 marks 30 years since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, 25 years (a quarter-century) since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted in 2000, and 10 years since the launch of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which succeeded the MDGs. I am deeply honored to serve as the president of this milestone conference.

This association is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Its origins trace back to the "Kansai Medical Cooperation Salon," held in the Kansai region. As a student, I had the opportunity to participate for the first time in 1984, where I presented on fieldwork conducted in India and Thailand. And we had an opportunity to present the Asian Medical Students' Association (AMSA). I was also present at the 2nd Annual Conference held in Yurakucho in 1987. I officially became a member in 1989 after entering the workforce. With fewer members now familiar with the early days of the association, I hope this year's conference will serve as an opportunity to reflect on our history and shape our future.

Over the years, my involvement in the association has mainly been based in Western Japan, centered around AMDA and Okayama University. In 2011, I moved to Teikyo University to join the newly established Graduate School of Public Health and began working at the Itabashi Campus. Here, at the Department of Environmental Health and the Graduate School of Public Health, we have been conducting research and practice on the role of overseas Community Learning Centers (CLCs), modeled after Japan's public community centers.

This year also marks the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), which will be held in Yokohama in August. With this in mind, we aim to bring Japan's experience to Africa—where the SDGs are most needed—from our base in Itabashi.

This conference will be held at Teikyo University's Itabashi Campus, in collaboration with Teikyo University (President Dr. Yoshihito Okinaga) and the Teikyo University Medical Association (Chairperson Prof. Hiroko Okinaga).

Itabashi has a rich history as the first post station on the Nakasendo -trail during the Edo period and as the location of a suburban residence of the Kaga Domain (Teikyo University's address is in Kaga 2-chome, Itabashi Ward). The ward has actively promoted Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through cooperation between local residents and social education institutions (formerly the Ohara Social Education Center). In 2014, Itabashi was introduced alongside Iida City in Nagano Prefecture as a leading Japanese example at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD held in Okayama. Since then, Itabashi has continued to implement community-based sustainable

development learning initiatives.

Teikyo University was established in 1966 and will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2026. We warmly welcome all participants—faculty, students, and residents of Itabashi—to this special event.

We look forward to your participation.
