

Meeting for a home-coming report by the Takemi fellows

The two Japanese Takemi fellows who were selected by the Japan Medical Association (JMA) presented their research results at the JMA Building on July 26, 2016. These two have studied for 11 months at the Takemi Program in International Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, USA from August 2015 to the end of June 2016. Each of them passionately presented their research report.

The Takemi Program, established in 1983 at the said graduate school to honor the former JMA President Dr. Taro Takemi's achievements in international health, is an interdisciplinary program for mid-career health professionals from all over the world. It has been 33 years since its establishment, and 271 fellows from 54 countries have studied in the Takemi program so far. Many of them are actively involved on the front line of international health, occupying pivotal positions in their governments, or other roles.

The Takemi program is unique in that a university in the US and the JMA as an overseas medical association are jointly working for the program, receiving a high evaluation by the Harvard in enhancing the level of global health

study. Moreover, Professor Michael Reich, the director of the program, was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by Japan in the 2015 Spring Decoration, for his great contribution in the development of public health and international health in Japan.

The global distribution of the fellows is atypical, and there have been more fellows from developing and/or low-income countries in Africa and Asia than from the developed nations in Europe and North America. There have been 59 Japanese Takemi fellows so far, and many of them serve in leading positions in public health and international health in Japan.

I can easily imagine other Takemi fellows playing active parts in the JMAJ's subscribers' nations. Having studied in the same program, the bond of the Takemi fellows is strong and goes beyond national boundaries and time. They have, and they will, significantly contribute to their home countries by improving health standards of the people, and by developing, maintaining and enhancing their healthcare systems.

I expect Takemi fellows in each country to play even more active roles on the stage of international health as a valued human resource.

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