

**-New Year's Message-**  
**A Year to Gathering the Wisdom of Each and Every Member of  
The Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare**

**Hiroto Kuga (Doshisha University)**  
**President, The Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare**

Peace, Freedom, Equality, Dignity, Human Rights, Happiness. These are words that the study of social welfare has cherished throughout its history. No year has made me think about the meaning and irreplaceability of these words as much as 2022. It was also a year that made me realize that even in this era of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, humanity has not yet acquired the means to stop conflicts between nations and to find a way to resolve them. It has been a year of heartache over the unreasonable destruction and deprivation of the modest daily lives of ordinary people living in the countries and regions where wars have been waged. We began the year 2023 thinking of the victims of the wars in Ukraine and Russia and wishing that the situation, that still continues, would end as soon as possible.

Intentionally, the study of social welfare is the study of the ideological, theoretical, policy, and practical pursuit and realization of the welfare of people and society. I believe that social work is a study of solidarity and action based on the values expressed in the words I mentioned at the beginning (peace, freedom, equality, dignity, human rights, and happiness). It is by no means only the situation outside of the country where wars are still going on. Even looking at the domestic situation (Japanese society), we believe that social welfare as a discipline of this kind of practice is increasingly in demand.

In Japan, various social and lifestyle issues have emerged since the spread of the COVID-19 infection from 2020. The society in which we live is still in a situation of inequality, poverty, discrimination, and division. The situation calls for more support, both in policy and in practice, for people and households that are deprived of opportunities due to unemployment and other factors, socially isolated, and in a state of destitution. Additionally, in this atmosphere of uncertainty and inexplicable insecurity, there is a strong sense of a bleak society where people have lost their composure, tolerance, and inclusiveness towards others, as can be seen, for example, on social networking sites

where slanderous and offensive words are constantly being sent out.

I believe that social welfare studies, which hopes for the happiness of people and society, is also a discipline that contributes to the realization and maintenance of a society that supports human sociality and the richness of life through connections among diverse people. I would also like social welfare studies to be a discipline that contributes to the restoration of face-to-face direct interaction and dialogue among people, which has been restricted by the COVID-19, and to the restoration of people's spaciousness and tolerance. Social welfare studies should be an academic discipline that discusses the state of the community and society that guarantees people's welfare, as well as a discipline that continues to notice and listen to the suffering and difficulties in the lives (*ikizurasa*) of those close to us. I would like social welfare studies to be a discipline that can create and disseminate many words that connect and include diverse people, rather than words that build walls and separate people.

Now, the recent situation regarding "academia" includes the proposed reform of the Science Council of Japan announced by the Cabinet Office in December 2022 and the response of the academic community to it. In September 2020, the Prime Minister refused to appoint candidates for membership. Many academic societies, including the Science Council of Japan, issued a statement calling this a serious problem that threatens academic freedom. The reform proposal presented at this time has also raised concerns that it would undermine the independence of the Science Council of Japan, as well as its meaning of one's existence.

Our Society, like the Science Council of Japan and many other academic societies, has been taking action over the past year into this year to express our opinion. This issue is of course a concern for the academic society. However, as one involved in social welfare research and education, regarding the responsibilities and ethics of those involved in social welfare as an academic discipline, it is also a personal issue. Nowadays, the study of social welfare faces various kinds of issues--ongoing issues as well as issues that are emerging. Against this backdrop, the Fall Conference held last October was the first in three years to be held in a face-to-face format (in a hybrid format that was also online). For me,

it was two days of nostalgia and joy to see the venue bustling with the many members who attended. I was academically stimulated by the interaction among the members during the conference, and from speaking with participants in a variety of settings, not just by the many discussions which took place during the symposium and the presentations, etc. It was a memorable opportunity.

In the various efforts and plans of the Society in the future, I would like to make good use of the convenience and advantages of the Internet, but I would also like to actively regain opportunities for direct face-to-face exchanges and discussions.

The founding meeting of Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare was held in Osaka on May 9, 1954, and the first conference was held on the same day. Last year, we just completed our 70th conference, a milestone. In these complicated and unstable times, we need to learn again from the history and knowledge of our predecessors. I hope that this year will be a year in which we can further mobilize the wisdom of our members through the various activities of the Association, without turning our eyes away from the problems and realities of life and society faced by people living in this society today, and with an eye to the future of the communities and societies in which we live. I will continue to do my best with the highest ethical standards, remembering to "the one who says it should be the first to act on it (*kai yori hazimeyo*)".

I sincerely wish all members of the Society a happy and prosperous year.

I look forward to your continued support and cooperation in 2023.

## **Report on Trilateral Academic Exchange among Japan, Korea, and China**

**Koichi Kaneko (Toyo University)  
Vice President/Chairman of the Committee for  
the Promotion of International Academic Exchange**

The Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare has signed a "Memorandum of Understanding on the Promotion of Research Exchange in Korea, China, and Japan" with the Korean Society of Social Welfare and the Special Committee on Social Welfare Research of the Chinese Sociological Association, and has conducted academic exchanges through their respective research conferences. Specific exchanges include reciprocal invitations to symposia at the annual conferences of the respective sociological societies and opportunities for members to freely present their research. Here we report on the activities of the Committee for the Promotion of International Academic Exchange (here in after referred to as "the Committee") in fiscal year 2022, divided into Japan, Korea, China, and others.

In Japan, the "International Students and International Comparative Research Workshop" was held at the 70th Fall Meeting (October 15, 2022) under the theme "Multicultural Conviviality in Social Welfare Research and Education: Experiences of International Students in the COVID-19 and Education and Support Sites." There were 2 oral and 3 poster presentations from Korea, and 2 oral and 2 poster presentations from China. The Committee worked with the Congress Secretariat to prepare for the acceptance, and at the same time, performed complicated administrative work such as issuing invitation letters and acceptance receipts necessary for the entry procedures. As a result, all presenters from Korea were able to present at the conference. China, however, had only one poster presentation, and a total of three presenters could not present, due to declining of presentations, etc.. This could be a topic that could be discussed in the future by for the Committee.

As Korea was the secretariat for FY2022, an inter-Korean symposium was held on October 28, 2022 with the theme "The Concept and Scope of Social Welfare in Each Country: Historical Transition and Changes in the Wake of the COVID-19." From Japan, Chairman Hiroto Kuga and member Haruhiko Sakaguchi (former member of this committee) made reports. There were two research presenters from Japan. As Japan will be the secretariat in FY2023, the Japan-China-Korea Inter-Korea Symposium will be held at Musashino University (Musashino Campus) during the 71st Fall Meeting.

China will host the East Asia Forum (Xiamen University) online on December 27, 2022. Although there was only one research presenter from Japan, Kaneko, the chairman of this committee, presented a report at the invitation of the Chinese side.

In addition, in fiscal 2022, we launched an initiative to introduce overseas research trends (including information on academic societies in the region) on our website by relaying information provided by our members, students, and researchers living overseas. The Society's Global Summit was held from June 29 to July 2, 2022, and an article by Virag Viktor (a member of this committee) was published on the website in September 2022.

**The Korean Society for the Study of Social Welfare  
Report on Research Presentation at  
the 2022 Fall Joint Academic Conference**

**Yumiko Katayama  
Nagano University**

**Differences between Japan and Korea  
on Reasonable Accommodation of Persons with Disabilities in Businesses**

My child said, "Mommy, the world is at war and it's dangerous." I showed my child a map of the world and explained, "Korea is close to Japan", and I attended the Korean Society of Social Welfare held at Kangnam University.

After being reviewed by The Japanese the Society for study of Social Welfare, I participated in the "Survey on Reasonable Accommodation, etc. in Enterprises: From the Analysis of Free Descriptions in the Questionnaire Survey on Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Jyoushou-keniki of Nagano Prefecture" on October 28 Friday – 29 Saturday, 2022 (Yumiko Katayama, Fumika Nakao, Yuko Kadoshita, Fumiko Tomita, Ayako Sasaki, and Atsushi Ozawa) (Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research 21K13478), and presented my research together with representative Nakao of the NPO Decent Work Lab.

The research used KHCoder3 to analyze free descriptions of episodes related to reasonable accommodation in a survey of business establishments (101 out of 152 total distributed, collection rate: 66.45%) conducted jointly with the Employment Support Subcommittee of the Council for Independence Support of Persons with Disabilities in Jyoushou-keniki of Nagano Prefecture.

Reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities is defined in the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" adopted by the United Nations in 2006. The "Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities" was enacted in Korea in 2008, and in Japan, the "Disability Discrimination Elimination Law" was enacted in 2013, and the "Law for Employment

Promotion of the Disabled" was revised to indicate the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. In May 2021, companies were obligated to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities, instead of making an effort to do so.

In Japan, there are few examples of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in companies, and it is unclear what constitutes reasonable accommodation, so this survey was a good opportunity to show the current status of reasonable accommodation in Japan. In addition, we had the opportunity to learn what kind of reasonable accommodation is provided in South Korea, which enacted the "Law Prohibiting Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities" earlier than Japan.

During the question and answer session, we received questions such as, "How do companies in Japan recognize reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities?" and, "Is there a labor union for working people with disabilities?" In Korea, the pattern of Korean culture is to create a legal system first and then make it known to the public once the system is in place. Also, Korean companies have not yet recognized the term "reasonable accommodation" as common knowledge. And conversely, the Japanese group was asked, "How did Japan spread the term as common knowledge".

South Korea has strong labor unions, and I understood the intent of the question when I witnessed the massive demonstrations that took place in Seoul the day after the announcement. Although I could not answer the question adequately at the time, I later had the opportunity to learn that Japan also has unions for people with disabilities.

In participating in this conference, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Yoon Ilhee (Professor Kanazawa University) and Professor Shinsuke Hyama (Project Researcher, National Cancer Center Japan) for translation, and Mr. Hiroo Funatani (Decent Work Lab) and Ms. Akemi Morita (Professor Emeritus, Toyo University) for their efforts in requesting an interpreter, Mr. Eun-ji Kim (Tong Tong cooperative workshop) for interpretation on the day. We are grateful for the cooperation of many people, including those involved in organizing the conference of The Korean Society for the Study of Social Welfare and the Japanese society for the Study of Social Welfare.

Finally, a tragic accident occurred in Itaewon, Seoul, where we stayed during the conference. I would like to express my sincere condolences.



**The Korean Society for the Study of Social Welfare  
Report on Research Presentation at  
the 2022 Fall Joint Academic Conference**

**Dong-Jin Lee  
Graduate School of Doshisha University**

On Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29, 2022, the Joint Academic Conference of the Korean Society for the Study of Social Welfare was held at Gangnam University in South Korea under the theme "Reconsidering the Foundations of Social Welfare in South Korea: Reflecting and Restructuring Knowledge. This year's conference was a large-scale academic event, jointly sponsored by 13 academic organizations and 14 professional research institutes.

Gangnam University, the venue of the conference, was the first university in Korea to be approved for the establishment of a Department of Social Work, and is highly regarded as a pioneer in the field of social welfare in South Korea, having established the first "four-year independent social welfare university education" in the country. In addition, Prof. Deok-Jun Kim, who studied under Professor Keiichiro Shimada of Doshisha University, is a founding member of the Department of Social Work at Gangnam University, and Gangnam University has deep ties to Japanese social welfare.

I participated as a presenter at the Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare under the Memorandum of Understanding on the Promotion of Research Exchange in Japan, Korea and China, and made the following research presentations. In recent years, child abuse by childcare workers has become a major social problem in Japan, and the Japanese government has been conducting surveys on child abuse and inappropriate childcare by childcare workers such as daycare teachers. However, previous Japanese studies on childcare and abuse have focused on domestic abuse by parents and guardians, so I set the research question as to what factors cause or influence child abuse by daycare teachers, and discussed it through a review of previous Korean studies.

After our presentation, Korean researchers commented on my research and asked me questions about Japan's child abuse policy, prevention and response systems, differences between the childcare systems in Japan and Korea, and the establishment of the Comprehensive Support Organization for Children and Families. I was reminded of the importance of participating in international research exchanges and joint conferences in order to broaden the scope of my research.

In addition, I also participated in the second part of the "Industry-Academia Cooperation Session," a session by the Korea Institute of Health and Social Research on "Demographic Change and the Re-structuring of 'Watching Over' (*mimamori*)" (meaning childcare and child-rearing services in the field of children and elderly care). Korea is also facing rapid demographic changes, and the Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA) has been working with the "Child Rights Guarantee Agency" and the "Public and Reinforcement of Social Services" to address child abuse. Korea is also facing rapid demographic changes, and major changes are taking place in the country's welfare policy with the establishment of the "Child Rights Guarantee Agency" to deal with child abuse and the "Social Service Agency" to strengthen the public nature of social services and improve the quality of services. In the midst of a changing society, I was impressed by the statement, "Do children want services which involve being watched (*mimamori*)?" In the future, in contrast to the current policy and practice of "*mimamori*" services from the perspective of education and parents, we would like to consider what public services allow children to play freely and happily through services, and what public services ensure that the rights of children are respected as the highest priority.

**Specialized Committee on Social Welfare Research of  
the Chinese Sociological Society  
Report on the Research Presentation at the 2022 East Asia Forum**

**Xu Dongsheng  
Graduate School of Kurume University**

On December 27, 2022, still under the influence of the COVID 19, the 2022 East Asian Social Welfare Forum, organized by the Specialized Committee on Social Welfare Research of the Chinese Sociological Society and the School of Public Affairs of Xiamen University, was held online. The theme of the conference was, "East Asian States: New Opportunities and Challenges for Social Welfare." Around 50 researchers from Japan, China, and Korea participated in this year's conference and engaged in lively discussions.

The forum provided valuable research presentations from different perspectives by five speakers (two from China, two from Japan, and one from Korea), including Professor Peng Hua-min, President of the Special Committee on Social Welfare of the Chinese Sociological Society, and Professor Kouichi Kaneko, Vice President of our Society. I was very nervous because I was the only student among the distinguished professors.

Now, from the viewpoint that in Japan and China, both of which have serious dementia problems, it is very important to foster young professionals who will lead the next generation for the future spread of professional dementia care and the realization of a society in which people with dementia live together, I gave a 30-minute report in Japanese using a PowerPoint presentation in Japanese under the theme of "Comparisons of the Attitude, Image, and Knowledge of Students in Departments of Social Welfare in Japan and China Regarding People with Dementia ." After my presentation, the commentator, Professor He Rong Gao (Xiamen University), gave an encouraging comment on my presentation, saying, "This is

an important and significant study for deepening the understanding of dementia among the younger generation and for realizing a symbiotic society with the elderly with dementia," which encouraged me to continue my research.

This presentation was a very meaningful experience for me as an early career and inexperienced researcher. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare and the organizer, Specialized Committee on Social Welfare Research of the Chinese Sociological Society, for giving me such a valuable opportunity to present my research in my home country, where I have little experience in presenting. In the future, I would like to further deepen my research so that I can contribute to the development of the welfare society, and at the same time, I would like to contribute to the promotion of academic exchange between Japan and China.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Takamune and all the secretariat members of the Japan Society of Social Welfare for their efforts in various preparations and coordination.

## **Report of the First CS-NET Salon -First of all, Horizontal Connections-**

**Research Support Committee, Member, Minh Kang  
Doshisha University**

The 1st CS-NET Salon (hereinafter referred to as "this meeting") was held online for two hours from 14:00 to 16:00 on Saturday, November 26, 2022. The theme of the meeting was "Research Grants: The Struggles and Innovations in Obtaining Research Grants," and the participants were about 45 people; the fact that the keywords were "CS-NET (Creative Support Network, a network for early career researchers)" and "Salon" (a place for early career researchers to casually exchange ideas) could have contributed to this. The meeting was attended by about 45 early career researchers, and a relaxed atmosphere was created for a pleasant exchange of ideas.

The meeting was divided into two parts. After an "Introduction of the Salon Project" by Maki Yasuda, a member of the Research Support Committee of The Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare, who is in charge of the CS-NET Salon Project, the first part of the meeting consisted of three presenters who each gave a 20-minute presentation on a topic of their choice. Since this was the first session of the project, the topics were presented by Research Support Committee members Professor Minh Kang (assistant professor at Doshisha University), Professor Yumiko Koyasu (doctoral student at Nihon Fukushi University and staff of Council of Social Welfare), and Professor Maki Yasuda (associate professor at Hokusho University), with the intention of not overburdening the participants.

First, Professor Kang presented a topic entitled "Independent Research As Well." I also mentioned that it is important to participate in many research exchange meetings (academic conferences, etc.) and appeal oneself (show that one is capable of doing research and fulfilling one's own role). Next, under the title "Everything is About Meeting and Connecting with People," Committee Member, Professor Koyasu spoke about "research activities that can be undertaken in the absence of research

funding.” Specifically, she talked about her efforts to reduce costs, including the fact that she was able to enclose questionnaires in the alumni newsletters of research subjects with the consultation and cooperation of her supervisor, who understands research, and that she applied for fee-paying postage and was able to pay for only the portion of the postage that was returned. Considering that many early career researchers are proceeding with surveys and interviews without research funding and are struggling with financial burdens, the experiences of Committee Member, Professor Koyasu were valuable and useful in real life for early career researchers. Finally, Professor Yasuda talked about her experiences in obtaining research grants in three different periods of her life, namely, the master's course, the doctoral course, and after employment, as well as her frustrations and innovations in this process. Graduate students and some researchers in the Master's and Doctoral programs who do not have a researcher number will attempt to apply for research grants from private organizations, such as public interest incorporated associations. For example, the successful experience of finally obtaining research funding from a private organization by realizing that it is very important to understand not only the purpose of the research grant, but also "the past history and future direction of the private organization" as well as the purpose of the research grant, provided participants with a great deal of insight.

In the second part, based on the topics presented, the participants were divided into small groups of about four, to exchange information. The facilitator led the information exchange session, during which participants exchanged their experiences with research grants. Specifically, the following topics were discussed: "I have applied for a research grant but was not accepted," "I don't even know where to get information on research grants," and, "The environment is not conducive to receiving advice and opinions on research grant and research grant applications.” Many participants also expressed their requests to academic societies, including CS-NET, such as "I would like a place to interact with early career researchers in the same research field," "I would appreciate it if you could hold seminars on paper writing, submission, and peer review," "I would like to discuss childcare and work and the work-life balance of researchers," "I would like information on research ethics," and so on.

As described above, I believe that the first CS-NET Salon was a good opportunity for "exchange among early career researchers in a casual atmosphere," as befitted the purpose of the event. One thing that has remained with me is what many participants said: "I don't have anyone around me with whom I can share my problems. Several years ago, at a seminar, a professor with extensive experience in teaching graduate students was asked, "How do you teach your graduate students?" To this question, the professor replied, "I emphasize discussion among graduate students." I recall one early career researcher who heard this answer commented, "In some schools, there are almost no graduate students not only in the seminar but also in the graduate school itself," and that the researcher envied the environment in which graduate students can have discussions with each other.

From these events, I strongly feel that what many early career researchers, including myself, are truly seeking is "friends with whom we can share our problems as researchers," in other words, "horizontal connections." In order to meet such needs, we would like to continue the CS-NET Salon, which encourages connections among early career researchers.

Finally, I would like to thank once again all those who took time out of their busy schedules to participate in the first CS-NET Salon, especially those who took on the role of facilitators, despite being suddenly requested.

翻訳

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