-New Year's MessagePeace and Democracy ~Toward the Co-Construction of "Wisdom" Through Social Welfare Studies

One year has passed since the Noto Peninsula earthquake in 2024. A new year has begun, despite the fact that the world has not yet healed from either natural disasters or warfare. In the fall of 2024, national elections were held in Japan and abroad, bringing major changes that seem to predict a dynamically changing future.

In Japan, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which had been rocked by the back taxes issue, was defeated, and the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), which advocates reducing the burden on the Japanese people, and other parties made great strides. Meanwhile, in the United States, a country with great influence in the world, Mr. Trump, who advocates a "America First" policy, won the presidential election. Unfortunately, this is likely to lead to the intensification of confusion and division involving the world in the future.

In other countries as well, political parties that reject immigrants and refugees and put their own citizens first are gaining public support and gaining ground. It may be said that the people suffering from the COVID crisis and the subsequent state of high prices have chosen to protect their own lives rather than the ideals of peace and democracy that they have built up to this point. This is another democratic choice, and its outcome must be respected.

However, while listening to people's true feelings, we must clarify the background and intentions leading to their choices, communicate the correct facts, and provide evidence for systems and practices that protect the lives and rights of people in particularly vulnerable situations. This is the responsibility required of social welfare studies, and in times of turmoil, the role it must play becomes even more important. It goes without saying that social welfare studies have a responsibility to protect peace and democracy.

The Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare held a symposium on "War and Social Welfare: Learning from Historical Research" at the 2024 Spring Conference. The forum held in December featured discussions by researchers who continue their peace efforts under the theme of "Social Welfare Studies and Its Quest for Universality: Responding to People's Earnest Voices."

After the end of World War II, when peace was restored and social welfare studies in Japan began to develop in earnest, research tended to be conducted within the framework of existing systems such as disabilities, aging, children,

medical care, and poverty (public assistance). It cannot necessarily be said that there has been sufficient analysis of the impact of the rapidly changing world situation, especially issues such as war, colonialism (or the North-South gap), and climate warming, on each of us as world citizens, or academic efforts to change this situation. In light of this situation, we must continue our efforts to position wars and conflicts occurring around the world as important and fundamental themes for social welfare studies and to stimulate discussion.

In August 2015, Dr. Masami Iwata, then president, and the presidents of eight social welfare-related societies compiled a "Joint Statement by the Presidents of Social Welfare Societies on August 15, the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II." In the last sentence of the statement, he concludes, "As social welfare researchers and practitioners, we pledge to continue our efforts to look forward to a future society based not on 'blood' but on 'wisdom,' not on 'deterrence' but on 'cooperation'." I strongly hope that we can reaffirm this pledge with the members of this conference.

Then, how can social welfare studies apply it's "wisdom" for the sake of peace and democracy? The totality of social welfare studies is made up of the research results of each and every member of the Society. Some of you may think that each of you is unimportant, and that you do not have the power to face such a big task. However, each individual's research should be understood as pursuing the livelihood security and wellbeing of each and every person living in a society where peace and democracy thrive. From this starting point, the "wisdom" of social welfare studies, even if it is research from a micro perspective, should not be meaningless.

The World Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge (Budapest Declaration), compiled in 1999 at the World Science Council, in which the Science Council of Japan participates, advocates (1) science for knowledge and knowledge for progress, (2) science for peace, (3) science for development, and (4) science in society and science for society. It then emphasizes that "academic research and its application should always aim at the welfare of humankind." Each of us should recognize individually and mutually that the results of our research and its application, however modest, ultimately aim at the welfare of humankind, and that this is so. In so doing, the "wisdom" of social welfare studies will be co-constructed. In addition, as an academic society, we would like to further promote efforts to support and disseminate this construction.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere wishes for the success of all the members of the Society this year. I would also like to ask for your continued cooperation in the various activities of the Society. I look forward to discussing and interacting with you at the conference and in the journal.

Report on Academic Exchange among Japan, Korea, and China

-Specialist Committee Social Welfare Research, Chinese Sociological Society Participating in the 2024 East Asia Forum-

Vice President/Chairman of International Academic Exchange Promotion Committee, Hidekazu Hongo (Fukuoka Prefectural University) International Academic Exchange Promotion Committee, Member (in charge of China): Huimin Yang (Hiroshima University)

The Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare has concluded a "Memorandum of Understanding on the Promotion of Research Exchange in Korea, China and Japan" (hereinafter referred to as "MOU") with the Korean Society of Social Welfare and the Chinese Sociological Association's Special Committee on Social Welfare Research, and conducts academic exchange through their respective research conferences. Specific exchange activities include mutual invitations to symposiums at the annual conferences of each society and opportunities for members to present their own research.

Mr. Hongo, the chairperson of the International Academic Exchange Promotion Committee, and Dr. Huimin Yang, a member of the committee in charge visited the 2024 East Asia Forum (venue: Xiamen University, Fujian Province) organized by the Chinese Sociological Society's Special Committee on Social Welfare Research. Furthermore, academic exchanges between China, Japan, and Korea (including renewal of a memorandum of understanding) were conducted, which are reported below.

The theme of the conference was "Social Welfare in the Digital Age: New Opportunities and Challenges for East Asian Countries." The registration was held on Saturday, December 14, 2024, and the conference was held the next day, Sunday, December 15, 2024. The Trilateral Council Meeting was held in the evening after the reception on the 14th.

In attendance were six committee members from China, including Mr. Gao He Rongli, Chairperson of the Committee. From Korea, Vice President Kyoseong Kim and International Exchange Committee Chair Seonyoung Lee; and from Japan, Hongo (International Academic Exchange Promotion Committee Chair) and Dr. Yang (International Academic Exchange Promotion Committee Member).

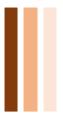
The Chinese moderator presided over the discussion on the continuation of the agreement on the Memorandum of Understanding among the three countries (as it was the year of renewal), and the signing ceremony was to be held on the second day of the conference. The contents of the MOU include matters related to mutual exchange through the invitation of free research presenters to conferences held in the three countries.

In the morning of the 15th, the day of the conference, the three countries signed a memorandum of understanding to renew the agreement in writing, which was followed by an international symposium and breakout sessions organized by the conference. In the international symposium,

Hongo presented a paper entitled "Changes in NPOs Providing Elderly Care Services and Social Work: A Comparative Study of Three National Surveys in Japan" (*Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Welfare Foundation Research Grant 2003–2004, Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research 2009–2011 [Basic Research C], Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research 2009–2011, Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research [Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research C], MEXT Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research [Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research C], 2023).

China reported on the interaction and changes between welfare responsibilities and welfare systems, the establishment of a long-term care insurance system, and the promotion of universal child welfare, while South Korea reported on the use of technology in welfare facilities for the elderly and the use of information and communication technology (ICT) by the elderly during the new COVID pandemic. This was followed by free research reports by three Japanese members (on company wards and nursing care workers), and in all, about 50 presentations were made at the conference. The presentations covered a wide range of topics, and it was impressive to see how many young researchers were enthusiastic about their research. Blessed with fine weather during the period, the conference was full of vitality, and we felt that we can look forward to more academic exchanges between China, Japan, and Korea in the future.

Finally, in renewing this memorandum, I would like to thank Dr. Yang (in charge of China, Prefectural Hiroshima University), Dr. So (in charge of China, Changchun College of Humanities), Dr. Kong (in charge of Korea, Southwest Gakuin University), Dr. Kang (in charge of Korea, Doshisha University), Dr. Kajiwara (in charge of General Affairs, Southwest Jo Gakuin University) and all the other members of the International Academic Exchange Promotion Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Kinoshita (Musashino University), Dr. Koichi Kaneko (current vice president, Toyo University), Dr. Junko Wake (current president, Tokyo Metropolitan University), and the steering committee and board members for their enthusiastic discussions and advice in advance.



Chinese Sociological Society's Special Committee on Social Welfare Research Report on My Individual Research Presentation at the 2024 East Asia Forum

Doshisha University Graduate School Yun Chen

Confidence and Growth in Research Gained from Individual Research Presentation

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the International Exchange Committee of the Japan Society of Social Welfare, the Specialist Committee on Social Welfare Research of the Chinese Sociological Society, and Xiamen University for providing us with the opportunity to present this research and for their involvement in the management of the East Asia Forum.

The individual research presentation at the East Asia Forum held at Xiamen University in China on December 15, 2024 was a valuable experience in my graduate research life.

The theme of this presentation was "The Significance of the Participation of Diverse Actors in the Evaluation Process in Community Welfare Practice." This presentation focuses on a case study of evaluation activities of the "Green Living, Blooming Community" program in Yancheng City, Yancheng City, Yancheng Road, W Company District, Jiangsu Province, China. Using participatory observation and a questionnaire, I aimed to clarify the significance of the participation of diverse actors in the evaluation activities for the development of community welfare practices.

In consideration of the presentations, the following should be noted. (I) Evaluation workshops may serve as both a "place" for evaluation and a "place" to promote consensus-building towards solving local issues for the participants; (ii) community-based knowledge and experience are now recognized as common resources through evaluation workshops; (iii) stakeholders' requests for evaluation were reflected through the evaluation tool, providing meaningful evaluation information for program improvement.

On the day of the conference, my presentation was included in the keynote session of the conference. This was my first opportunity to present in Chinese, and being assigned to such an important keynote session, I was very nervous. What made me very happy, however, was that even though the keynote speech itself did not include a question-and-answer period, the moderator and commentator for the

keynote speech that day was Dr. Fang Giao, a program evaluation researcher whom I have admired for many years.

Dr. Fang commented on my presentation and pointed out that my evaluation research based on social constructivism, which is different from traditional appraisal-type evaluation, is an important area to be further explored in the evaluation of community welfare programs. This comment greatly boosted my confidence in my own research.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude once again to The Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare for giving me this opportunity to present my paper. I would like to use this valuable experience to further explore the significance of evaluation activities in community welfare programs.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the secretariat of the Japan Society of Social Welfare for their efforts in making various arrangements and coordinating, etc. Thank you very much.



Chinese Sociological Society's Special Committee on Social Welfare Research

Report on My Individual Research Presentation at the 2024 East Asia Forum

Josai International University Graduate School Sheng Likai

We were given the opportunity to present our research at the East Asia Forum organized by the Specialized Committee on Social Welfare Research of the Chinese Sociological Society held at Xiamen University, China, from December 14 (Sat.) to 15 (Sun.), 2024. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the academic society for providing me with this valuable opportunity.

The Forum brought together many experts and researchers from the social welfare field in China, Japan, and Korea. There, they engaged in dynamic discussions on a wide range of topics, including welfare for the elderly, social security, and social work.

In the individual research presentation session, I gave a presentation on the theme of "A Study on Curriculum Improvement of Chinese Technical Colleges for Nursing Care Workers: A Comparison Between Japan and China on Curriculum for the Education of Nursing Care Professionals." The purpose of this study was to compare the educational curricula of caregiver training colleges in China and Japan and to identify their respective characteristics and areas for improvement.

The forum selected 27 large-scale schools in each province from 316 nursing staff training colleges across China. I then gave a presentation on a fact-finding survey conducted on the structure of the curriculum, knowledge, and theory courses on the elderly, courses on caregiving skills, and the distribution and number of hours of required and elective classes in those selected schools.

The results of this survey showed that in China, there is a large variation in the amount of teaching time for nursing skill courses from school to school, and in particular, there is a tendency for more time to be set aside for knowledge and theory courses. In Japan, on the other hand, a legally established and unified curriculum exists, and the number of hours spent on nursing care skill-based subjects tends to exceed those on knowledge and theory subjects. Based on these results, it became clear that it is important to examine and adjust the balance between theoretical and skill-based education, while aiming for the unification of educational standards nationwide in China in the future.

The development of caregivers is essential to providing and maintaining quality care services. This is also an important issue directly related to the welfare of

society as a whole. Therefore, it is necessary to review educational programs and curricula for effective human resource development, and the plans should be balanced between theory and technology. I concluded that both countries should work together to build a better model for human resource development for caregivers, which is an important step toward realizing a sustainable society in the future.

I received many useful questions and comments during this presentation, which provided me with important suggestions for the future development of my research. In particular, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the warm support of the Japanese Society of Social Welfare, Josai International University for supporting my research, and to Professor Wakako Hayashi for her guidance. I would like to thank you again for this valuable opportunity.



Chinese Sociological Society's Special Committee on Social Welfare Research

Report on My Individual Research Presentation at the 2024 East Asia Forum

Doshisha University Graduate School Zhang, Shihling

Development of an Analytical Framework for Fragmentation in the "Integrated Elderly Care and Medical Services" of the Sha-gu In-Home Elderly Care Service

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to present at the East Asia Social Welfare Forum 2024 held in Xiamen in December 2024. The valuable experience at this forum and the active exchange of views with the participants were a great stimulus for me to deepen my research.

As China faces increasing demand for medical and long-term care services due to the rapid aging of its population, the establishment of 社区居宅養老「医養結合」サービス"medical and long-term care combined" services for social housing and elderly care has become an urgent issue.

After the presentations, there was an energetic Q&A session, during which we received a wide range of questions and comments from many professors regarding the analytical framework and evaluation index based on the five aspects proposed in this study. In particular, there was an energetic discussion on the validity of the analytical framework, the practicality of the evaluation index, its limitations, and areas for future improvement.

The discussion on validity centered on whether they adequately reflect the current situation in China and whether other aspects need to be added. In response, we reiterated the necessity and validity of the five aspects based on previous studies and policy trends in China, and deepened the discussion. Regarding the practicality of the evaluation indicators, questions were raised regarding specific methods of utilization and the possibility of data collection. In response, specific data collection and analysis methods were presented, as well as future issues to be addressed to improve their practicality. In addition, there was a lively exchange of opinions on the limitations and areas for improvement of the evaluation index, and important issues for future research, such as addressing regional differences and utilizing qualitative data, were clarified.

Through these Q&A sessions, we were able to gain valuable opportunities to find specific directions for further refining the evaluation index and improving its practicality. We recognize that we received very useful suggestions for promoting future research.



Public Relations Committee Planning

1st

How Might Social Welfare Societies Become Involved in Certification and Professional Development?

This term, we will be publishing a series of five roundtable discussions on the above theme, which were conducted by five members of the Society. The purpose of the roundtable discussions is to open up discussions on the above-stated themes in the academic community, and to talk about them in an open and frank manner. They are not intended to draw definitive conclusions. We hope that they will help to deepen discussions among members and within the association.

The members who gathered for the roundtable discussion and the members of the PR staff who participated on the day are listed below. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the memberprofessors who took time out of their busy schedules to accept and participate in the discussion. (Titles omitted)

Speakers: Tokiko Ishikawa (Kanto Gakuin University), Jun Kuchimura (Okayama Prefectural University), Mikio Hishinuma (Japan College of Social Work), Kiyoko Miwa (Meiji Gakuin University), Yuichi Watanabe (Musashino University)

Moderator/Public Relations Committee: Rie Iwanaga (Japan Women's University),

Daishi Arimura (Japan College of Social Work), Seua Neng (Rikkyo University),

Tomoko Osawa (Jissen Women's University), Hironobu Katayama (Hokkaido

Medical University)

Session 1: Explanation of Purpose and Self-Introduction

<u>Iwanaga</u>: Today, I hope to conduct a roundtable discussion on the topic of how the Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare can get involved in qualifications and professional development. Since it will be published in the Newsletter, I hope that it will be more than a paper, but rather something that can be read casually by members and that it will enliven the discussion of the Society.

Personally, I feel that the qualification system for social workers and the recent curriculum revision have had a great impact on university faculty in social work. Of course, there are other trends in the qualification system besides social workers, and what professional development means in the first place.

There are many students and graduates who go on to work in social welfare-related fields without becoming professionals. It would be nice if you could talk about what you usually think about the major themes such as what kind of person we would like to develop in the social welfare field and how academic societies should be involved in such training. First, I ask you each to introduce yourself and to make a few remarks on your research. After that, I would like to ask the PR committee members to introduce themselves, and we will proceed in the form of a discussion.

Ishikawa: My name is Ishikawa from Kanto Gakuin University. I am in the same department as Ms. Iwanaga. After graduating from my university, I worked as a social worker in the civil service, but the salary level has hardly changed since then. After that, I went on to graduate school and experienced both Japan Women's University and Kanto Gakuin University. My discipline is social work, and I am also in charge of teaching Introduction to Social Welfare. It is difficult to start a conversation by choosing how to start it, but at the time when I received this theme, there was a partial mixture of the three positions of professional organizations such as academic societies, the Federation of Societies of Social Workers, and the Association of Social Workers. I feel that I have a foothold in all of them. From the time I was at my previous university, I have been wondering how I should think about the fact that it is a waste that students (graduates) who were motivated when they were students cannot continue working because the work environment is bad, the salary is low, and it is hard to continue. I have been consulting with students who quit after about the third year of employment because the conditions of employment do not match the salaries they make, and the actual take-home pay is insufficient. Though this might be an issue of the JAPANESE ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION rather than this academic society, I am always wondering how I, as a teacher, should be involved in this issue of working conditions.

Kuchimura: My name is Kuchimura from Okayama Prefectural University. Pleased to

meet you. I was appointed to the university three years ago, and until then I worked at a special nursing home for the elderly for about 25 years. I believe that I have the least experience as a teacher among the teachers participating today. As for the theme of this newsletter, "How the Social Welfare Association is Involved in Qualifications and Professional Development," I am interested in people. If you ask me who supports the Social Welfare Association, I believe the majority are university professors. The main work of university professors is teaching and research, and then there is the internal work of the university. These were to be expected, but there is another factor which is important that I found out when I worked at a university, and that is how to raise the passing rate of students taking the national examinations. This is like a behind-the-scenes proposition, and I knew there was a lot of pressure. I felt that new teachers, assistant professors, lecturers, and associate professors were probably being told this, especially by their superiors. Since I am inexperienced in teaching, I looked into the actual state of national exam preparation at each university . There are 22 universities in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions, excluding vocational schools, and I asked teachers at those universities to complete a survey. We received responses from teachers at exactly half of the universities (II universities) regarding their national exam preparation courses, and I have prepared a paper based on that data.

Hishinuma: Good morning, everyone. I am Hishinuma of the Japan College of Social Work, and it is a pleasure to meet you. My research focus is community welfare, especially community social work. I was originally in the field as an employee of a CSW, and a daily life counselor at a day care service, but when I worked at the CSW, I provided community support, and at the day care service, I provided individual support. What I felt there was that it was difficult for individual supporters and community supporters to be connected. At that time, individual support by CSW was still weak, and although we supported what people in the community wanted to do, I wondered if we were meeting the daily needs of each individual. On the other hand, when I went to day-care centers and other individual support facilities, I found that the staff members were doing their best, but they did not have the perspective of how to approach the community in which the users lived. They only focus on how to provide support within the framework of their own services. The individual support position, offers no perspective on how to approach the community, and there is no

¹ Kuchimura, J. and Okura, T. (2024), "The state of implementation and management issues of examination preparation courses for the national examination for social workers: A questionnaire survey of universities training social workers in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions," Okayama Prefectural University Educational Research Bulletin, 8(1), 1–10.

know-how to do so. I myself am involved with various local governments and CSWs, so I have many contacts with people in the field, and I have conducted various surveys. In the surveys, I found some weaknesses in community support. What is actually happening in the field? As Mr. Ishikawa mentioned earlier, there are issues such as securing human resources and systems, and there is also the issue of skills. Thank you very much for your time today.

Miwa: My name is Miwa from Meiji Gakuin University. I am researching matters related to foster parents. Narrowly speaking, I research the field of foster parents, children in social care, and broadly speaking, child welfare, and I am responsible for core areas of children in field training for social workers. I think you have called me here because I am involved with the field of children, but I am not sure if I am able to speak for others in that teachers in the field of children have various opinions and views that may differ. We are still trying to sort out how we should think about this major theme. However, I think that in the field of children, compared to other fields, such as the elderly or the disabled, the perspective of social work was introduced late, or perhaps it was not fully introduced. For example, it is difficult to learn the separate work of a social worker in a training program at a children's home. It is difficult to learn about the distinct work as a social worker at a children's home, for example, and it is difficult to learn about the care work for individual children. Of course, in children's homes, they understand children from the perspective of social work and work on children's reintegration into their families, but I mean that it is difficult to learn that in the practical training. I feel that it is a very difficult field to incorporate social work, as well as individual care work, into practical training in situations that directly affect the students. First of all, care and care work for children is a very important part of the program, so I feel that it is only recently that we have been able to teach so-called family adjustment while doing care work.

*In the next issue, we will continue our self-introductions and then move into the discussion. Please look for the next issue.

Participation in the 5th CS-NET Salon

Sanae Tsutsumi (Graduate School, Fukuoka Prefectural University)



The 5th CS-NET Salon was held at Doshisha University on Saturday, December 21, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in a hybrid (face-to-face & online via Zoom) format. 18 participants (13 face-to-face, 5 online) attended the event. 10 people attended the reception at 5:00 p.m.

The Research Support Committee has established a network of early career researchers (Creative Support Network: CS-NET for short) to promote the exchange of information and mutual interaction among starting researchers. "Would you like to organize a salon?" Was the theme of this year's activity. As a preliminary step to actually holding a salon in the next fiscal year under the initiative of early career researchers, we freely shared our opinions and planned a salon together.

At first, the participants were divided into four groups of four to five people (three in person and one online) to introduce themselves and to exchange opinions. During self-introductions, we talked freely about our usual research, worries, and concerns.

We also thought about what kind of salons we were interested in, what we wanted to know, and what kind of salons we would want to participate in. In doing so, we referred to the planning and appearance of previously held salons as we discussed.

The group I participated in consisted of graduate students and university faculty. Some of them were working as university faculty members and writing their doctoral dissertations as graduate students in a doctoral program. This group came up with planning ideas about dissertation writing, peer review, and career development. Planning the salon also provided an opportunity to talk about the problems that each early career researcher has and to work together to find solutions. Everyone's stories were very interesting and it was a fun and educational time.

Each group then presented what they had discussed. The contents were broadly divided into three categories: research, career development, and personal life. Regarding research, we talked about research methods and analysis, how to pass peer-reviewed papers, how to find research groups and collaborations, how to obtain research funding and opportunities for casual presentations, how graduate students straight from undergraduate school accumulate research, and how to start a non-profit organization as a researcher. Regarding career development, there were talks on how to proceed with research after writing one's master's and

doctoral theses, how to proceed with research after finding a job, and specific career design (graduate students who are working, international students, undergraduate to master, master to doctor, doctor to faculty, etc.). Regarding private life, there were discussions on how to balance work and life as a researcher and university faculty member, and the need for a place for daily interaction (where people can easily consult with each other using tools such as open chat).

The reception was held at an Indian curry restaurant. Over delicious food, we talked about our respective research themes, job hunting activities, daily life and work, and "interesting episodes" in our daily lives. I was inspired and motivated by the realization that everyone's paths and challenges have led them to where they are today.

I felt that holding a salon would provide a place for starting researchers to interact with each other. I also felt that it would provide a time to enjoy casual conversation regardless of region or research field, and that it would lead to a place to meet people and a place to stay. I believe that the salons provide an opportunity to meet colleagues and make many connections.

This was a time to gain valuable experience and wisdom from all of the Research Support Committee members and researchers early in their careers. I hope to continue to connect with you to revitalize research and educational activities throughout the Japanese Society for the Study of Social Welfare.

Thank you very much for your valuable time. We look forward to working with you in the future.

翻訳

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