2015 Fiscal Year Priority Activities
Promoting the popularization and international exchange of occupational therapy in a comprehensive community care system

Healthcare, medicine, and welfare policy in Japan is accelerating towards the establishment of a comprehensive community care system in 2025. The Japanese Association of Occupational Therapists, in order to contribute to the building of such a system, is continuously promoting system maintenance so occupational therapy may be provided at locations close to target persons. Specifically, continuing from the previous fiscal year, the association is working to popularize a “management tool for improving daily life performance” and enhance the cultivation of personnel capable of supporting community life transition and community life continuity for people with dementia and mental handicaps in communities; to support transition to social participation, including employment, from special support education for developmentally disabled children; and to support employment suited to the characteristics of various impairments. It has established a new committee with 47 administrative divisions as a plan for further promoting such measures and will start to run a system that can rapidly respond in communities nationwide to issues surrounding occupational therapy. Together with this, the understanding of users and cooperation with persons in other professions is essential for the popularization of occupational therapy, so the association shall promote exchange between related organizations and organizations for related professions that include interested parties.

On the other hand, the success of the 16th International Congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists offers an opportunity to contribute to the qualitative improvement of occupational therapy in the Asia region. Specifically, it invigorates international academic exchange, including motivating occupational therapists in the Asia region to participate in the Japanese Association of Occupational Therapists and the editing of the Asian Journal of Occupational Therapy.

In addition, in parallel with projects related to its 50th anniversary, the association is proceeding with revising its definitions in order to specify both inside and outside Japan what occupational therapy meets diversifying needs and fields. This is of great significance and will bring together consensus among members.

1. Measures to develop the science of occupational therapy

1) Promote specialized task-oriented research into community life support, in order to promote gathering of occupational therapy results……Continuing (#4 Academic Division)
2) Promote utilization of academic databases……New (#6 Academic Division)
3) Propose revised definitions for occupational therapy to the board of trustees, keeping in mind revisions to the current law, the “Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists Act,” and make preparations for study at the policyholders meeting……Continuing (#3 Academic Division)
4) Utilize English language topic registration systems, and make preparations for the start of English sessions from the 50th Japanese Occupational Therapy Congress and Expo…….New (#8, 9, 65 Academic Division)
5) Increase the number of overseas reviewers for the Asian Journal of Occupational Therapy and enhance the editing system……New (#12 Academic Division)
2. Measures to improve the technical skill of occupational therapists

1) Hold workshops in which the theme includes medical-nursing coordination for community life support and coordination of independence support for disabled children……Continuing (#36, 54 System Measures Division and Education Division)

2) Implementation of occupational therapist personnel education and training in the field of school education……Continuing (#44, 46 System Measures Division and Education Division)

3) Promote the training of occupational therapists to respond to initial stages of dementia and community life support……Continuing (#25, 31 Special Committee to Promote Life Support for Persons with Dementia and System Measures Division and Education Division)

4) Promote training for community life transition and community life continuity for those with mental disability……New (#44, 46 System Measures Division and Education Division)

3. Measures for promotion of effective use of occupational therapy

1) Popularize the Management Tool for Daily Life Performance to all members and improve awareness by persons in other related professions……Continuing (#1, 11 Special Committee for Management Tool for Daily Life Performance Promotion Project and Academic Division)

2) Clarify the role of occupational therapists in the comprehensive community care system (including the situation with disabled person support) through participation in community care meetings, participation in the general nursing prevention and daily life support projects, collection of actual cases in which the Management Tool for Daily Life Performance was applied for nursing prevention……New (#28,29 System Measures Division and Special Committee for Management Tool for Daily Life Performance Promotion Project)

3) Coordination with related organizations in order to promote employment support through occupational therapists……New (#36, 54 System Measures Division)

4) Promote participation of occupational therapists in the newly created items after the 2013 revision of the medical payment system (cardiovascular rehabilitation charges, comprehensive community care wards, dementia patient rehabilitation charges, incentives for improving ADL maintenance, etc.)……New (#30 System Measures Division and Education Division)

5) Establishment of the committee of 47 administrative divisions and start of measures for system policy matters……New (#70, 73 Society organization director)

4. Measures concerning the spread and promotion of occupational therapy

1) Planning and holding of workshops and other events for promoting mutual understanding and coordination with persons in other professions……Continuing (#54, 58, 69 System Measures Division and Education Division and Publicity Division)

2) Popularizing awareness for proper understanding of occupational therapy for persons with dementia and the use of occupational therapy through workshops and other events……Continuing (#58,59 Special Committee to Promote Life Support for Persons with Dementia and Publicity Division)

5. Measures for cooperation and exchange with related foreign and domestic organizations

1) Promotion of exchanges with occupational therapy organizations and academic and personal exchanges with occupational therapy organizations in Asian countries……Continuing (#65, 67
6. Support for disabled persons, older adults, and children injured in accidents and disasters
   1) Contribute to restoration and reconstruction activities, including prefectural society activity support for the central disaster area of the Great East Japan Earthquake (Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima)…Continuing (Disaster Measures Office)
   2) Prepare for large-scale disasters and organize peacetime coordination and cooperation systems with administrative division societies…Continuing (#77 Disaster Measures Office)

7. Measures for corporate management and operation
   1) Popularize the results of the occupational therapy promotion activity pilot project assistance system in order to popularize and increase awareness of occupational therapy in communities…Continuing (#71 Society organization director)
   2) Prepare for the 50th anniversary project and for the release of “A 50-Year History of the Japanese Association of Occupational Therapists”…New (#82 Vice-President)
   3) Confirm progress and review the secondary occupational therapy five-year strategy…New (Office)
   4) Establish and begin operation of the Kyoto satellite office as part of the Business Community Plan (BCP) for handling disasters…New (Office)