

Indonesian, Filipino and Vietnamese

ARE THE SUPPORTERS OF
JAPAN'S AGING POPULATION

VEENA YOSHINO



Indonesian and Filipino trainees attend a lecture

EVER since the start of the dialogue of exchange between Japan and the 10 Southeast Asian countries that make up ASEAN, the two entities have been strengthening their relationship for the peace and prosperity of Asia. Japan and ASEAN countries are also business partners; especially in the past five years. In fields such as medical facilities and care centers in Japan, ASEAN's bright population is helping to support.

Based on the economic partnership agreement, the intake of foreign nurses and caregivers began with the purpose for them to work and research at nursing homes and medical facilities while also obtaining the national nursing qualification or the national caregiving qualification in order to become certified and continue their work in Japan.

Currently, Japan is taking in nurses and caregivers from Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Indonesians were the first to

arrive in Japan out of the three nations in August 2008 with 104 nurses and 104 caregivers. Actual work for this group started in February of the following year. Intake from the Philippines started in 2009, and the initial numbers were 93 nurses and 190 caregivers. Vietnamese candidates are due to arrive next year.

TRAINING AND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

When the intake first started in 2008, a Japanese language education program specifically for foreign employees did not exist. However, there were many requests for the provision of language courses from medical facilities and nursing homes. Thus the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare launched a learning support program. This involves providing grants for Japanese language courses and other necessary training programs. Moreover, a group training program that will take place four times a year is in the works. This would mean that candidates will be able to receive Japanese lectures from experts of the national examinations. As for caregivers, with kanji learning and national examination study as a focus, they are able to take practice tests and group training. These programs began in 2010.

A representative of the intake coordination agency JICWELS (Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services) states that "Indonesian and Filipinos are extremely kindhearted toward their patients, and they have a lot of respect for the elderly. Where Japanese tend to forget about certain gestures, Indonesians and Filipinos do not fail in doing so. For example, a seemingly small action such as being on eye level with their patients when speaking to them. At the facility, when Japanese staff



Yamaguchi rehabilitation staff picking apples




Welcome ceremony for Filipino nurses



Ms. Garnica Jean Cristie Lincuna from Philippines

witness these scenes, they are reminded of the basics.”

Since 2008, Yamaguchi Rehabilitation Hospital in Yamaguchi City has been taking in foreign nurses and caregivers. On her new life in Japan, Filipino nurse Garnica Jean Cristie Lincuna said “patients and staff here are very kind, and the environment is really great. I’m now able to take the bus on my own, so I’m enjoying shopping on weekends.” Another Filipino nurse, Seguerra Joyce Anne Castillo, says, “The little expressions of Japanese language are very complex, and at times it is difficult to read what the patients are conveying. Still, I

am enjoying my work here.” At this particular hospital, welcome ceremonies are held for new trainees, and there is active interaction between Japanese and foreign staff. For example, they take part in local festivals, apple picking and fishing together. Through these interactive events, nurses are able to learn from the Japanese staff as well as feel happy and find worth in their job. 



Yamaguchi rehabilitation staff at local festival


>> TOPIC

CABINET OFFICE ‘SHIP FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN YOUTH’ PROJECT

One youth international exchange project among those conducted by the Cabinet Office is ‘Ship for Southeast Asian Youth.’ Exchange between Japanese youth and that of Southeast Asian countries is furthered on board the ship by this multinational project, where by living together, participants are involved in many types of exchange activities.

The ‘Ship for Southeast Asian Youth’ is founded on a joint declaration by Japan and all ASEAN countries. Beginning in 1974, the project will welcome its 40th time round this year. In 2013, approximately 40 youths from Japan, and 280 youths from 10 ASEAN countries, will take part in exchange activities in Japan for 10 days, followed by a visit to four ASEAN countries over a period of 41 days. On board the ship, the standard language is English. Although discussion regarding understanding foreign cultures, the environment and education form the main program, participants also give presentations on the situation of their own

countries, and participate in cultural exchange and sporting activities. In the countries visited, participants pay a courtesy visit to heads of state and are involved in exchange with the youth of that country, home stays and visits to all types of institutions.

After leaving the ship, youths who participated in the project join post-project organizations in each country, where they make use of the experience gained to give back to society through regional communities as well as occupation. They also contribute to the promotion of international understanding and cooperation. They also make use of the valuable experience they gained while on the ‘Ship for Southeast Asian Youth’ project. Furthermore, in Japan, lively post-project activities are available. Japanese participants join the International Youth Exchange Organization (IYEO), where they are able to exchange information with former participants and take part in network building. 

高齢化社会に向かう日本における

インドネシア、フィリピン、ベトナムの活躍(仮訳)



日本とASEANを構成する東南アジア10カ国との間の対話のやり取りの開始以来、両者はアジアの平和と繁栄のための関係を強化し続けている。日本とASEAN諸国は事業提携も行っている。特に過去5年間で、日本の医療施設や介護施設などの現場において、ASEAN諸国の有望な人材が日本で活躍している。

経済連携協定にもとづく、外国人看護師及び介護福祉士候補者の受入れは、日本の医療施設や介護施設で就労・研修を行いながら日本の看護師国家資格や介護福祉士国家資格取得をし、看護師・介護福祉士として日本にて就労することを目的とし、始まった。現在、日本は看護師候補者および介護福祉士候補者をインドネシアやフィリピン、ベトナムから受け入れている。インドネシアからは、2008年8月に3カ国の中で初めて、看護師候補者104名と介護福祉士候補者104名を受け入れた。この時の人材の実務は翌年2月に開始した。フィリピンからの受入れは2009年に開始し、最初は看護師候補者93名と介護福祉士候補者190名だった。ベトナムの候補者の受入れは来年に予定されている。

訓練・言語プログラム

2008年に受入れが初めて行われた時、外国人就労者用に特化した日本語及び国家試験の学習支援は存在しなかった。しかし、医療施設や介護施設から学習支援の提供を要請する声が多く上がったため、厚生労働省は学習支援プログラムを開始した。これには日本語研修やその他必要とされる研修のための補助金支給が含まれる。さらに、年4回程度行われるグループごとの研修が進められている。これにより、候補生は国家試験の専門家の日本語の講義を受けることが可能となる。介護福祉士に関しては、漢字や国家試験学習に焦点を当て、練習テストや集合研修を受けることができる。これらのプログラムは2010年に開始した。

受入調整機関であるJICWELS(国際厚生事業団)の担当者は、「インドネシア人やフィリピン人は患者に対して非常に親切に接し、年配の方々に多大な敬意を持っています。日本人が特定の動作を忘れてしまいがちな場面でも、彼らはそれを行うことを怠りません。例えば、患者に話す時は患者の目線に合わせるといった、一見小さな動作ですが、日本人スタッフたちはその様子を見て初心に帰ることができると話しています」と言う。

山口市にある山口市リハビリテーション病院では2008年から外国人看護師、介護福祉士の候補生を受け入れている。現在当病院で勤務をしているフィリピン人看護師のGARNICA JEAN CRISTIE LINCUNAさんは「患者さんや職員の方々がやさしく、とても良い環境です。最近一人でバスに乗れるようになったので、週末はショッピングなどを楽しんでいます」と日本での生活について話してくれた。同じくフィリピン人看護師のSEGUERRA JOYCE ANNE CASTILLOさんは「日本語の細かな表現が難しく、患者さんの意思を読み取ることに苦労することもあります。とても楽しく働いています」と話す。当病院では候補生の歓迎セレモニーを開催したり、地元のお祭りやりんご狩り、魚釣りに行ったりなど日本人スタッフとの交流も積極的に行なわれている。こういった交流を通じて患者さんや職員からも学ぶことも多く、看護師としてのやりがいや喜びを感じているという。