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Cooperation for the improvement of rehabilitation services in Mainland China

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Economic development has several social implications such as an increase in the number of handicapped persons because of industrial or traffic accidents and lifestyle-related illness in Mainland China (China). Therefore the necessity for rehabilitation services becomes more important. In response to a request by the China Government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has cooperated for the improvement of rehabilitation service since 1980's. The Japanese OTs have participated in cooperation of JICA. In this presentation, we report a process of the cooperation that Japanese OTs provided for Chinese rehabilitation service.

The first term (1986-1993): CRRC was established as the national rehabilitation center in 1988. The focus of first term cooperation was human resource development in CRRC. The Association of Occupational Therapists (JAOT) dispatched several OTs to educate rehabilitation therapists. And Chinese staff received training in some Japanese rehabilitation facilities.

The second term (2001-2008): Establishment on OT/PT training course of the international standard became main purpose. The Japanese OTs assisted to develop a curriculum, the textbooks and materials for fieldwork, teaching method to improve quality and the quantity of the OT training course in CRRC. Consequently, the education of the bachelor level based on international standard was started. In particular, it should be noted that the educational program for OTs was approved by WFOT.

The third term (2008-): This project focuses on establishing a model of a CRRC-oriented rehabilitation service training system in three provinces. It is a plan to train for local rehabilitation workers by distance education system. The Japanese OTs assist to develop a curriculum, contents making, course affairs management, etc.

The Chinese Government announced that they provide rehabilitation service to all handicapped persons by 2015(2002). In addition, Sichuan Earthquake and the Paralympics holding raised awareness for the handicapped persons. However, human resources of rehabilitation are not enough for rural area. Therefore, human resource development in this field is still task of high priority among social developments in China.