

The World Council of Optometry

**Meeting of the General Delegates
to be held 5 June 2009**

Japan Country Report

**All Japan Optometric & Optical Association
(AJOOA)**

1. Membership of the AJOOA as of February 28, 2009 is 7,342 people with 86.1% or 6,321 members registered as AJOOA Certified Optometrists. There are an additional 1,939 people who have also registered AJOOA certified program although they are not the members of the association yet.
2. The total figure of the AJOOA Certified Optometrist as of February 2009 decreased to 8,260 persons, 114 people less than the previous year.
3. Effort has been made to bring up all the members of the AJOOA Certified Optometrists either to SS class (with educational background of three years) or SSS class (with educational background of four years) by the year 2010. No one shall be allowed to register without optometry educational background since 2004. There is still a way left for those people without educational background could register taking the examination.
4. AJOOA has organized nationwide continuing education program open to anybody.
5. A committee has been formed having a special mission aiming at gaining national recognition of optometry in Japan. The committee is composed of the people from the various sectors in the society.
6. AJOOA has also organized the committee to publish a textbook for the members as the guideline reference. It will be completed in a year.
7. The Japanese Society of Ophthalmic Science and Technology has been reorganized recently to form the Japanese Academy of Optometry and Ophthalmic Science.
8. AJOOA has set a budget to raise public awareness of the AJOOA Certified Optometrists throughout Japan by standardized radio message and web site

information.

9. Oversea Out-reach activities:

- (1) The fourth vision screening mission to Azerbaijan was implemented from June 8th through 20th in 2008 by the request of the UNHCR Office in Baku. Three thousand and five hundred pairs of the pre-made glasses with 40 pairs of sunshades, 20 pieces of IOL and 21 units of hearing aids were shipped by airfreight from Japan in advance. Screenings were conducted at Gabala, Oghuz and Sumgayit. 1,885 people were screened and 1,729 pairs of glasses were dispensed. Additional 74 pairs were sent from Japan post mission to provide individually made glasses according to their specific requirements.
 - (2) This was the 26th mission from the year 1983(Thailand, Nepal, Armenia and Azerbaijan) and the accumulated number of the pre-made glasses donated to the UNHCR during past 25 years is 116,200 pairs.
10. 28th vision screening of the Japanese orphan who were left behind in China after the last World War was conducted on November 20th, 2008 in Tokyo requested by the Ministry of Labor and Welfare. Eight people were screened and six pairs of individually made glasses were dispensed free of charge. As of the end of the year 2008, 923 pairs of glasses were provided to 863 people.
- (3)

Akio Kanai, O.D.

Chairman

International Affairs Committee

All Japan Optometric and Optical Association (AJOOA)