



Connecting the baton for people with dementia at home and abroad

The 'Relay of Hope'

International Forum 2025

~Promoting an inclusive society by valuing the voice, power and connection of people with dementia~

14 February 2025.



Organized by : Tokyo Center for Dementia Care Research and Practice



joint holding : Japan Dementia Working Group



*We are experts in the experience of
living with dementia.*

Kate Swaffer

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Program

◆ 13:00 Opening Remarks

Greetings from the organizer :Mr. Takeshi Erikawa, the chairman of the Social Welfare Corporation Yukufuukai.

speech by guest of honor: Mr.Osamu Yoshida , the Deputy Director-General of the Health and Welfare Bureau for the Elderly of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

◆ 13:15 Part 1. Keynote Speech p.3

Kate Swaffer. (Interpreter) Mariko Terada.

International trends and prospects for participation by people with dementia in promoting dementia policy

14:15~14:30 Break (Video showing activities of a person with dementia in Japan)

◆ 14:30 Part 2. Talk session with Kate and Japanese people with dementia p.49

To expand participation of people with dementia

~ Including expectations for an international network among people with dementia

○Ms.Kate Swaffer. (Australia .DAI Co-founder)

○Mr.Tomofumi Tanno (Sendai City, Representative of Orange Door)

○Ms.Kazuko Fujita(Tottori City, Representative Director, Japan Dementia Working Group)

○Ms.Shinobu Yamanaka(Nankoku City, Representative Director, Second Story)

~ Messages from people with dementia in Asia ~ See page 36 onwards.

< Relay messages from floor participants > p.62

○Ms.Haruko Sunohara (Ueda City, Ambassador of Hope appointed by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

○Mr.Mamoru Roue(Bungo Ono City, Oita Prefecture Peer Supporter)

○Mr.Hitoshi Fukuda(Sasebo City, Director, Japan Dementia Working Group)

○Ms.Miki Taira(Ishioka City, Director, NPO Dementia Association Walking Together, Ibaraki)

○Mr.Toru Katagiri(Eniwa City, engaged in advocacy and awareness-raising activities)

○Mr.Shigeyuki Kanbara (Yokote City, Ambassador of Hope appointed by Akita Prefecture)

○Mr.Akio Kakishita(Shinagawa Ward, Ambassador of Hope appointed by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

◆ 15:45 Summary and acknowledgements

Dr.Syuichi Awata, General Manager ,Tokyo Center for Dementia Care Research and Practice

◆ 16:00 Closing

★Please Refer the Basic Law and other important documents (page 49 onwards).

Purpose of this forum

Living authentically with hope, and thriving together in the community, even after being diagnosed with dementia

- ◆ In Japan, this is no longer merely an ideal; it is gradually becoming a reality through the cumulative efforts and long-term trials and errors of many people over the years.*
- ◆ The Basic Act on Dementia to Promote an Inclusive Society, which places basic human rights at the forefront of its principles, was enacted in June 2023 and came into effect in January 2024. Furthermore, in December 2024, the Basic Plan for the Promotion of Policies on Dementia was approved by the Cabinet. The purpose of the act and the plan is to eliminate existing challenges and disparities, and to ensure that people with dementia can live with dignity and hope, regardless of where they reside.
- ◆ We are now at a critical turning point in the process of substantially building a vibrant inclusive society where we coexist while mutually respecting one another's personality and individuality, and supporting one another.
- ◆ What is essential for the realization of an inclusive society is amplifying the voices of those living with dementia and ensuring their participation in society. At this forum, Kate Swaffer, a global leader in the field, and people living with dementia in Japan will discuss their personal challenges as well as expectations for society as they live with hope and dignity.
- ◆ The 'Relay of Hope' is about passing on the hope and wisdom for living with dementia from one person experiencing it to another, and from those experiencing it to all people living in the same era. Let's work together to steadily expand this Relay of Hope across all positions and professions, person by person, to create and nurture an inclusive society. We hope that this forum will serve as a catalyst for each and every one of you to move forward in a better direction in your daily lives, activities, work, and endeavors.

February 2025

Tokyo Center for Dementia Care Research and Practice,
Yokufukai (Social Welfare Corporation)

This forum will be held as part of the Research Study on Building an International Network for the Participation of People Living with Dementia to Promote an Inclusive Society funded by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's subsidy for elderly health promotion project, etc. in FY2024.

* *Information Collection on the Activities of Supporting Network Promoters for Dementia in Local Communities: Toward an Inclusive Local Communities* published by Tokyo Center for Dementia Care Research and Practice (Health and Welfare Promotion Projects for the Elderly funded by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's subsidy for elderly health promotion project, etc. in FY2022.)

DC net Supporting network promoters for dementia in local communities