

**[Report]****Why is community-based MNCH important?****Hidechika AKASHI<sup>1)</sup>, Azusa IWAMOTO<sup>1)</sup>**

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**Abstract**

It is well-known that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are set to be achieved by Year 2015, and that two targets of the MDGs, namely MDG 4 (Reduce child mortality) and MDG 5 (Improve maternal health), are related to maternal and child health. In the MCH (maternal and child health), the discussion was started to add N (neonate) to MCH at the World Health Assembly in 2005, and the MNCH becomes popular in the field of international health nowadays. This is because that the early neonatal death is still high even the child mortality rate is declining recent years, as Lancet series mentioned. On the other hand, maternal mortality rate is not declining yet and MDG 5 may not be expected to be achieved by 2015. The problems of deliveries can occur just after the child birth even their pregnancy processes seem to be normal beforehand. That is, the maternal mortality is high just before and after the child birth, as the Lancet series also pointed out that the maternal death rates are very high on the day of child birth and consecutive seven days after the delivery.

The deliveries themselves tend to be performed in mothers' home especially in the rural areas of developing countries, and the many maternal and child deaths can occur in the communities. Therefore, the community-based MNCH care can work as one of key factors to improve the MNCH situation and to reduce the maternal and child mortalities. However, it is not sure whether there is a good way or not.

In this workshop, we expected to obtain some hints through learning from different countries' experience to implement better MNCH activities in the community, and these can be the important messages from this meeting to the international health communities.

**keywords** : MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), Community, MNCH (Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health, Neonatal mortality, Maternal death