

Living with children and people with disabilities
～Why has JOCS been involved with children and people with disabilities?～

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1) Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service (JOCS)

Abstract

The mission of the Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service (JOCS) is “Following Jesus Christ, we protect the health and lives of people in hardship and share their sufferings and joys.” The vision of JOCS is a world where the health and lives of all people are protected. The project focuses on three main activities: dispatch of medical professions, scholarship support, and collaborative projects. The history of JOCS dates back to 1938, when Christian doctors, nurses, and medical students were dispatched for medical activities in mainland China. After the war, the Japan Christian Medical Association (JCMA) was organized in 1949, and JOCS was established in 1960 to invite trainees from Asia and dispatch medical professions to Asia and Africa. Medical professions were dispatched to countries in Asia and Africa, including Indonesia and Nepal. Dr. Noboru Iwamura describes the story below. A poor young man carried a seriously ill grandmother across mountains and valleys on foot for three days, and when he offered her money as a thank you, the young man did not accept it. The man answered in Nepali, “To live together” and left. Once every 10 years, JOCS holds a JOCS Overseas Medical Cooperative Meeting to discuss the direction of the organization, confirm the direction, and pass it on to younger generations. JOCS started involvement with people with disabilities and children began with Hansen’s disease medical activities, outreach to the hearing impaired, and maternal and child health activities. Recent years, JOCS has been involved in working with people with disabilities in Bangladesh and working with people with intellectual disabilities. The president of JOCS, Dr. Kentaro Hatano describes JOCS’s characteristics and mission as “ideological foresight,” “practical leadership,” “role within the Japanese Christian community,” “a distinctive organization,” and “giving birth many children organizations.” When considering an outstanding company or organization, the WHY is clear. After that, think and express the HOW and WHAT. JOCS has a variety of stories starting from prehistory and continuing to the present day. The WHY of JOCS is an aggregation of the essence of the story itself. Although the scientific and evidence based HOW and WHAT are important, the driving force of organizations and persons is the WHY.