

"History, Tradition, and Progress": The ceremony of 150th Anniversary of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine held in Tokyo, Japan

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Summary "History, Tradition, and Progress", a grand ceremony in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) was held in Tokyo, Japan on December 3, 2018. Hundreds of distinguished guests from home and abroad attended the grand ceremony. The NCGM is a national research and development agency, which is a type of independent administrative entity. The NCGM originated from a temporary army hospital that was established in Tokyo in October 1868. After several rounds of restructuring and reorganization, the facility became the NCGM in April 2015. The NCGM has various departments, including the Center Hospital, Kohnodai Hospital, the Research Institute, the Center for Clinical Sciences, the Bureau of International Health Cooperation, and the National College of Nursing. The NCGM conducts research in various fields such as infectious diseases, immune disorders, diabetes, and metabolic disorders and it provides advanced and comprehensive medical care. The NCGM also comprehensively provides training for personnel in international cooperation and medicine. "As a research and development entity, the NCGM will continue to fulfil those tasks in accordance with Japan's national policies", Dr. Norihiro Kokudo, the president of NCGM, said in his speech of anniversary opening greeting.

Keywords: National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM), hospital, international health, medical care

A grand ceremony in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) (1) was held in Tokyo, Japan on December 3, 2018 (Figure 1A). Hundreds of distinguished guests from home and abroad attended the grand ceremony.

Dr. Norihiro Kokudo, the president of NCGM, addressed the anniversary opening greeting, extending warm welcome to all the distinguished guests present (Figure 1B). Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino attended the celebration, and their Imperial Highness Prince Akishinonomiya expressed the congratulation on opening of the 150th anniversary ceremony (Figure 1C). Dr. Takumi Nemoto (Figure

1D), the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, and Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura (Figure 1E), the president of Japan Medical Association, delivered their congratulatory speech at the ceremony, respectively. Furthermore, addressing the ceremony, Dr. Nguyen Quoc Trieu, Chairman of Central Office of Health Protection Care, Vietnam, sincerely expressed their wished to promote the cooperation with NCGM to a new operative development stage. A special keynote lecture was given by Dr. Kazuhide Yamazaki (Figure 1F) and Dr. Satoshi Omura (a Nobel Laureate) (Figure 1G), amid warm applause throughout the venue.

"History, Tradition, and Progress, the NCGM is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year", Dr. Kokudo, the president of NCGM said in his speech. The NCGM originated from a temporary army hospital that was established inside the Yamashita gate of the Imperial Palace in Hibiya, Tokyo in October 1868. In 1873, the army hospital moved to what is now Hayabusa-cho, Chiyoda and its name was changed to the army's Central Hospital. Over time, the hospital's name

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Figure 1. Event photos. The ceremony of 150th Anniversary of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) (A); the opening greeting addressed by Dr. Norihiro Kokudo, the president of NCGM (B); the congratulatory speech delivered by their Imperial Highness Prince Akishinonomiya (C), Dr. Takumi Nemoto, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (D), and Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura, the president of Japan Medical Association (E); a special keynote lecture given by Dr. Kazuhide Yamazaki (F) and Dr. Satochi Omura (G); and a welcome reception held after the ceremony (H).

changed to the Tokyo Army Hospital, the 1st Garrison Hospital of Tokyo, and the First Army Hospital in Tokyo. In 1929, it moved again to what is now the Toyama area. After World War II, the hospital was placed under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Welfare and it was relaunched as the First National Hospital of Tokyo. "To" is short for "Tokyo" and "ichi" means "one" or "first" in Japanese, which is why the hospital has long been known as "To-ichi." The hospital became the National Hospital Medical Center in 1974. In October 1993, the Medical Center was combined with another hospital to create the International Medical Center of Japan. After several rounds of restructuring and reorganization, the facility became the NCGM in April 2015. The NCGM is a national research and development agency, which is a type of independent administrative entity.

The NCGM has various departments, including the Center Hospital, Kohnodai Hospital, the Research Institute, the Center for Clinical Sciences, the Bureau of International Health Cooperation, and the National College of Nursing (2). The NCGM conducts research in various fields such as infectious diseases, immune disorders, diabetes, and metabolic disorders and it provides advanced and comprehensive medical care. The NCGM also comprehensively provides training for personnel in international cooperation and medicine. As a research and development entity, the NCGM will continue to fulfil those tasks in accordance with Japan's national policies.

Dr. Kokudo said that this year is memorable because it marks 150 years since the Meiji Restoration. The NCGM has changed in many ways over as times have changed, but it continues to provide needed medical care. "We pledge that will strive to make people even more aware of the NCGM in the future, we thank you for your continued advice and support", he said.

After the ceremony, a welcome reception was held for everyone in attendance (Figure 1H).

References

1. 150th Anniversary of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) <http://150thannv.ncgm.go.jp/index.html> (accessed December 4, 2018). (in Japanese)
2. National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM). <https://www.ncgm.go.jp/> (accessed December 4, 2018). (in Japanese)

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