

**Table 5. Strategy of research on occupational health and industrial medicine in the 21st Century:
Emphasized areas and priority issues**

Emphasized area I.

Research concerning the issues of work life and health occurring due to the change in industrial society:

1. Diversified employment patterns and health
2. Information technology (IT) and labor health
3. Mental health and industrial stress
4. Prevention of labor-related diseases
5. Health of the elderly workers
6. Health of working women

Emphasized area II.

Research concerning the biological effects of harmful factors in the workplace:

1. Evaluation of toxicity of chemical substances
2. Genetic effects and cancers
3. Combined exposure
4. Individual difference in health effects
5. Ergonomic factors and biological burden

Emphasized area III.

Research concerning risk assessment and labor safety and health management system:

1. Development of the index of health effects and risk assessment
2. Effective promotion of risk communication
3. Development of measuring system and control techniques of workplace environment
4. Corporate management and labor health and safety management system
5. Measures for promotion of labor health in medium and small companies and independent enterprises
6. Improvement of the quality of working life and health promotion
7. International standard and harmonization of labor health and international cooperation

and its trend in the field of industry. In addition, it is important to create the corporate culture/work culture in which health and productivity go together and to establish the lifetime health management system. According to the instruction of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the "Council of Labor Health Research Strategy in the 21st Century" (Secretariat: National Institute of Occupational health) was established in 2000. It was established because the strategy-based research should be developed beyond the bounds of conventional labor health research in Japan.

As a study for 3 years, three emphasized fields and 18 issues were selected as the priority research

areas (Table 5). The first area is the "research concerning the issues of working life and health affected due to the change in industrial society" from the aspect of grasping of workload and health effects. The second one is the "research concerning the biological effects of harmful factors in the workplace" from the aspect of elucidation of the mechanism of harmful effects. The third one is the "research concerning risk assessment and labor safety and health management system" from the aspect of control measures. Table 6 shows the contents of the 78th Annual Meeting of Japan Society for Occupational Health in April, 2005.

Table 6. Contents of the 78th Annual Meeting of Japan Society for Occupational Health (JSOH) n 2005

Special Lectures

1. The expectation for the professionals of occupational health
2. The present state of occupational health in the Republic of Korea

Main Symposium

Structural challenge of industry and occupational health services

Symposium

1. Health support for working women – How medicine and law can meet their needs?
2. Measures to prevent health impairment due to excessive overwork. Its present condition and problems
3. Collaboration on resources inside and outside the workplace focusing on support for back-to-work
4. Occupational health and human resource management from now: The joint symposium of JSOHealth and Japan Society for Human Resource Management
5. Future scope for the Occupational Health Physician Certification Program of the JSOH
6. General Health examination in occupational health services

Open Symposium

CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and occupational health; How can we make workplace lively, healthy and creative?

Panel Discussion

1. The protection of personal data in occupational health service
2. Excessive daytime sleepiness and occupational health

Employment issue for persons with disabilities from the viewpoint of occupational health.

5. International cooperation

In order to provide the “occupational health service” to all workers, it is considered important to promote researches, training and joint projects with the countries with different culture, history and social system beyond national borders. The issues such as improvement of skills of specialists and standardization of manual are important. In order to utilize the OSHMS, it is important as an international issue to train and to maintain the ability of specialists who understand the meaning of the actions conducted by participants, implement the actions certainly, notice the issues and consider improvement at all times. It is considered that occupational health professionals play an important

role in the education of health and safety for management and workers, which is said as the most effective investment. In Asian countries, generally, there are few high-level specialized educational courses for training of specialists in the field of occupational health as established in western countries, which is also considered an issue to be dealt with in the future. It is considered as an essence to enrich the joint project in the occupational health activities by the COSH, the Asian Labor Health Conference and the WHO Regional Office and the activities of Korea-Japan-China Joint Conference on Occupational Health that is in the same cultural area of Chinese character.

Table 7. Collaboration Process

- **Standardization**
accuracy control, judging standard, teaching methods, storing data
 - **Education and Training**
Professionalized health care
 - **Information System**
IC card, the Internet
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