

# Health Promotion in 21st Century: Health Promoting School as One of Setting Approaches

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We are now living in 21st Century. We succeeded brilliant products of health and safety from 20 Century. As most of you may know, some important key words had been advocated in the latter part of 20 Century such as "Primary Health Care," "Health Promotion," "Healthy Cities," and "Health Promoting School." There were and are more. There might be a discussion that the idea "Healthy Cities" would not only be applied to modernize cities but it should also be applied to towns and villages. What is important or what we should recognize are the system, correlation, and cooperation among community. Let us change the angle of your eyes if you try to see the health matters, from you to your surroundings. We call a new public health approach "a setting approach." What is characteristic is to advocate for intersectoral action that focus on environment, social and economic determinants of health. It was proposed in health promoting area such as healthy working place, healthy islands, health promoting school, healthy hospitals, healthy tourism, and so on.

In safety area, on the other hand, the idea "safety promotion" was proposed

and spread gradually mainly in Europe in 1980's. An actual setting for safety promotion in community was proposed as "Safe Community." Either health promotion or safety promotion emphasizes coordination and cooperation in community involving every individual and specialist. Safe Community also uses setting approaches.

One of the examples of setting approaches is found in health promoting school (HPS). Global School Health Initiative by World Health Organization (WHO) introduced the idea of HPS in 1995. HPS spreads gradually. First, a model schools were built and HPS trial was discussed in many countries and regions in the world. Today, many countries adopt HPS in country level.

Though Japanese government has not adopted HPS officially, we can find many elements of HPS in schools in Japan such as school health committee, School Health Law, and Health Education Promoting School Award by Japanese Society of School Health. What we need is to rank HPS as official policy in school and coordination and cooperation with community around school. I have been advocating the meaning of HPS, and I am going to present HPS in Sport and Adolescent Meeting in Central Education Council. We are still on the way to come close to HPS.

In Asia-Pacific region, Australia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan are eager to introduce HPS. I attended some international conference on HPS these a few years; I would like to show you some of the essence of their discussion.