The 5th TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Training Program Participants

Name: Kokoro Endo  
Organizations: Tohoku Fukushi University  
Hometown: Minamisanriku, Miyagi Prefecture

When I was in the sixth grade of elementary school, I experienced the tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake, and my home was completely destroyed. From that experience, I decided to participate in this program with the goal of learning what can be done to avoid even a single victim. By participating in this program, I would like to deepen my knowledge about what I can do to decrease the number of victims. As a first step towards the achievement of my convictions, I will work hard together with my fellow participants to become a person who can contribute to Japan.

Name: Wakana Ono  
Organizations: International University of Health and Welfare Graduate School  
Hometown: Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture

I have no experience with disasters. Until right before the application deadline, I wondered if it was acceptable for me to participate in this program. However, one strong reason motivated me to participate. That was that I think it is not enough that only medical personnel who are interested in administration and its field can cope with disasters. Although the local residents understand they cannot rely on the local government for everything as the population declines, it is also necessary that each local resident can be independent. Through this program, I will not only demonstrate leadership, but also create an opportunity to think specifically about disaster response with individuals in each community.

Name: Saki Oyama  
Organizations: Tohoku University  
Hometown: Ichinoseki, Iwate Prefecture

I felt that by participating in this program, I could learn the most advanced knowledge about actual disaster nursing, and think about how I should further educate myself in the future. Through the training program, I want to learn how to work with medical staff, medical students, and the nursing students that are my fellow participants. The program will be stimulating and I knew that I wanted to participate. In the program, I would like to learn about disaster nursing from various perspectives and how to convey my ideas in a more understandable way to students and the general public.
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※Japanese syllabary order

Name: Maika Koizumi
Organization: Miyagi University
Hometown: Namie, Fukushima Prefecture

There are five reasons why I would like to participate in this program. The first reason is to convey the experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake to many people so that they will not forget the tragedy and the importance of disaster preparedness. The second reason is to reflect on what the experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake mean for me now and to consider what I should do in the future. The third reason is to listen to the thoughts of people who have experienced disasters, both inside and outside of Japan. The fourth reason is to learn knowledge and technology at the time of disaster. The fifth reason is to learn how to pay attention to others’ opinions, respect their thoughts, and openly communicate with them. The above five reasons are my goals for this program and I will do my best to achieve them.

Name: Hitomi Sato
Organization: Tohoku University
Hometown: Yuzawa, Akita Prefecture

During the Great East Japan Earthquake, I felt very powerless when it came to disasters, and I wanted to contribute more in the affected areas. Currently, I am studying the spirit of disaster in the field of public health and nursing at university. The program will help me learn about medium- and long-term care from the perspective of disaster-related death prevention and mental care, as well as acute treatment. In the United States, I would like to learn about disaster care and the latest medical systems tailored to the needs of diverse subjects by visiting the affected areas and listening to the stories of people who experienced disasters. I also want to work on the program with ambition in order to improve my ability to communicate with people.

Name: Reika Sato
Organization: Ishinomaki Red Cross Nursing School
Hometown: Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture

I became interested in disaster response after experiencing the Great East Japan Earthquake. I experienced a situation in which my lifeline was cut off for a long time after the earthquake. I have always worried about my grandparents living in a coastal area, and my younger brother with a chronic illness. This was when I first thought that if I had the knowledge and skills to respond to disasters, I could help people. And so, I chose nursing. Through this program, I would like to make the best use of my thoughts and ideas, study
disaster nursing and mental care, and acquire knowledge and skills. In addition, I want to share my learning in the program with students, medical professionals, and people in the community, to help others.

Name: Azumi Nagao  
Organization: Yokohama City University Graduate School  
Hometown: Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

I believe my strength is my understanding of different cultures and communication skills that I have cultivated through my experience of living and studying abroad, and the research skills that I will cultivate at universities and graduate schools in the near future. However, I don't have a concrete vision of how I should use this in the area of disaster nursing I am interested in. Therefore, by participating in this program, learning the actual situation of disaster nursing and grasping the knowledge, communication abilities, and needs required in the field, I would like to discover how to engage in nursing that makes use of my own strengths. By understanding the actual conditions of disaster nursing in Japan and the United States, I would like to learn what kind of problems may occur due to various natural disasters and unusual disasters.

Name: Momoka Fujii  
Organization: Iwate Medical University  
Hometown: Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture

After the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, I felt strongly that I wanted to help and cheer up people, so I began to look for nursing care programs. There are three things I want to learn in this program. The first lesson is about supporting pregnant women and infants at the time of disaster. In the United States, I’d like to learn how to take care of both during a disaster and to help with childbirth. The second lesson is about mental care after disasters from the time of disaster occurrence. I’d like to learn in concrete terms how I should be involved as a nursing professional and how to care for people’s hearts and minds in order to stay close to those who have been hurt by the disaster. The third lesson is about disaster measures. In the United States, I would like to convey the importance of disaster prevention education, as well as learn about countermeasures for various disasters.