

World Meningitis Day: Japan

5th October 2022



Petitioning to protect people at-risk of meningitis and connecting the public to experts.

Japan Child Meningitis Org held an informative, in-person lecture and petitioned alongside other organisations to make vaccines available for at-risk groups.

JaCMO decided to hold an in-person lecture for World Meningitis Day 2022.

It was an open lecture held in Chiba city, Tokyo, which was free to attend. Lecturer Reiko Junma (Professor, Comprehensive Safety and Health Management Organisation, Chiba University) explored the topic, "Did you know? Knowledge of infection

control when travelling abroad or carrying out overseas assignments. On the 13th of October, continuing their efforts, JaCMO held a demonstration in central Tokyo. The slogan was "Prevent vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs)". It was a joint event between JaCMO and other organisations who work against congenital rubella syndrome, polio and other

Organisation:

Japan Child Meningitis Org

Location:

Japan

Background:

An advocacy group, including patients and healthcare professionals. Activities started in 2008.

Contact:

Hajime Takeuchi, representative of JaCMO.

Change objective:

To raise awareness about meningitis and to create a society protecting children from meningitis and supporting children with meningitis sequelae.





"Lectures are very important for sharing information about meningococcal diseases with audiences because most Japanese people do not know about the infection well." - Hajime Takeuchi.

VPDs. After the street demonstration, JaCMO submitted a joint petition to the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Result and impact

Despite the severity of meningitis, Japanese society does not pay enough attention to invasive meningococcal diseases. While participants were few, about 30, the lecture was a small step forward in changing society. The petition submitted to the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare is a call for the government to change their mindset in controlling meningitis.

Key learnings

- **Continuous activities.** JaCMO was established in 2008 and they have acted in collaboration with people affected by meningitis and medical doctors for more than 20 years.
- **Solidarity.** JaCMO strengthens their petition to the Japanese government by working with other organisations whose mission also relate to the prevention of VPDs.
- **Support from experts.** JaCMO's board includes: an infectious disease specialist, a pediatric infectious disease specialist, and a public health researcher so their efforts are driven by a strong scientific base.
- **"We can do it" - Hajime Takeuchi.** JaCMO's activities played a large role in the introduction of the Hib and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines to the national immunisation programme. Their efforts have led to success in the past so they know they are on the right path.

Advocacy tip!

JaCMO wants to protect children from bacterial meningitis, saving lives and growing smiles.

JaCMO aims to propose what each of us can do create the change we want to see. Their experience has taught them that change is possible through continuous effort and perseverance.

Further Resources

- [JaCMO's Facebook page](#)
- [JaCMO's Twitter page](#)
- [JaCMO's website](#)

(resources above are in Japanese)

Contact details:

Meningitis Research Foundation
www.meningitis.org



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