

Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service

Basic Policies

(excerpt)

INTRODUCTION

This statement sets forth the basic policies for the purposes and activities of Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service (JOCS).

The programs and administration of JOCS have been conducted according to the Articles of Association. However, as there were matters that were not included, and that are difficult to be included in the Articles of Association, “Basic Policies and Principles for the Conduct of Activities” was formulated in 1974. It was revised and separated into “Basic Policies” and “Principles for the Conduct of Activities” in 2003.

This statement is a result of prayers and sincere discussions of many people involved since the establishment of JOCS in 1960, and reflects the discussions of the 1st Bangkok Conference in 1971 (mainly by JOCS overseas workers) as well as the proposals made by the Basic Policy Consultation in 1982 and the 2nd Bangkok Conference in 1983.

This is not an unamendable statement, as it is not possible to express the belief and ideas perfectly in words. It is desired that this “Basic Policies” be used as a living guidance, led by the Bible and the Holy Spirit, in implementing the programs and activities of JOCS.

CHAPTER 1 BACKGROUND

At the East Asia Christian Medical Personnel Conference held in Hong Kong in December 1958, the representatives of Japan Christian Medical Association (JCMA) expressed their preparedness to receive medical staff from countries in Southeast Asia to Japan for training. After this conference, a number of requests to send Japanese medical personnel to Asian countries, and to receive their medical students in Japan, were made.

Taking to heart the war responsibility toward neighboring nations, and regretting that Japan’s militaristic invasion policies taken in the process of her modernization were wrong before God, concerned people accepted these requests from brothers and sisters in Asia as a call from God. With the heart to be penitent of the past sins, and as the work of human beings forgiven and renewed through Christ, and with the sense of mission to bear the responsibility

to proclaim Christianity to the world in cooperation with churches in Asia, Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service (JOCS) was established in March 1960.

JOCS was established by its parent body, Japan Christian Medical Association. Efforts have been made to use the spirit of JCMA in the activities and administration of JOCS. In other words, JOCS clearly expresses to be a Christian entity. However, as the activities of JOCS have general relevance to, and need to receive cooperation from, the wider public, JOCS considers it important to open its doors to anyone who agrees to the purpose and prospectus of the organization.

CHAPTER 2 PURPOSE

Following the teaching of Jesus Christ in the Bible, "...love one another as I have loved you," this organization seeks to contribute to the improvement of health in the world.

In cooperation with churches around the world, we contribute to the health activities, particularly in those areas where people are underprivileged with little basic health services available, thereby sharing the sufferings of the people in the communities.

In order to accomplish this purpose, we send abroad Christian workers of the medical profession to promote human resource development, and undertake other necessary programs. We also aim to increase the body of supporters so that the above vision can be shared in a wider society.

CHAPTER 3 BASIC POLICIES

1. As clearly manifested in its name, JOCS' activities are based on the belief in the salvation by Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible. We seek all Christians to unite and cooperate in achieving our goals, regardless of their sects, denominations and understanding of the Gospel, as long as the essence of Christian faith is not undermined.
2. We keep a humble attitude to serve all people, and avoid excluding anyone from our Christian community; therefore, we open the doors wide to encourage people who are in favor of JOCS' purposes and prospectus to participate in, and cooperate with, our activities. We respect the freedom and independence of all people, and do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, creed, occupation, economic status and other conditions.
3. We consider it God's favor to be given an opportunity to serve people, and will not propagate boastfully our meritorious deeds.

Basic Policies of JOCS (excerpt)

4. We value the fruit of scientific research in modern medicine, accept it as God's blessing, and make the most of it for people. We believe that perfect healing comes from God's salvation, and seek health in physical, emotional, mental and social aspects.
5. Although we recognize JOCS as an entity to profess Christianity to the world, we place the primary emphasis on delivering medical services to other countries. We do not consider our medical services as an easy instrument of missionary work to convert non-Christian followers.
6. Recognizing the protection of health to be a basic human right for all people as well as the essential condition for national development, we will cooperate to ensure people protect their health. In our efforts, we will place an emphasis on the welfare of the most neglected people, and will take a pioneering role in our service implementation. In this way, we wish to become the salt of the earth.
7. We consider it important to promote well-balanced, comprehensive community health programs covering clinical activities at a medical facility and information/educational activities in health and medical care, and extend our cooperation in both aspects to respond to the needs of people in communities.
8. We keep close contact between overseas workers and supporting members through communications and visits. This will allow the supporters to experience for themselves what the overseas workers have come through, and make it easier to jointly solve problems confronting the overseas workers at service. This will also allow people in Japan to share the spirit and ideal of the overseas workers, and to learn from them as well as encourage them.
9. Recognizing our unique mission and duty, we maintain our independence and refuse to make an easy compromise. We also value spirit above apparent forms, and do not consider expansion of the organization and activities as the first priority.
10. Although we carry out our activities based on request from abroad, it does not mean we wait passively. We are not denied to explore the needs of the people in question, and to make proposals and embark on new programs on the basis of mutual trust, understanding and cooperation.

CHAPTER 6 OVERSEAS WORKERS

1. Recruitment and Training of Devoted Workers

We constantly pray that we are given medical workers who accept this "Basic Policies" and wish to devote themselves as overseas workers. We seek, in particular, the members of the Japan Christian Medical Association for their commitment. We also endeavor to identify and train people who have a willingness to devote themselves in the future, and encourage them to take part in various programs such as field work and short-term visits abroad.

2. JCMA Membership

JOCS overseas workers are advised to be a member of JCMA for more than one year as they are expected to develop a sound commitment in faith to the members of the Association, and be sent with strong support from the Association, so that heavy burdens are mutually shouldered by the workers and supporters.

3. Selection Policies of Overseas Projects

JOCS will select overseas medical cooperation projects in accordance with the following criteria:

- 1) A proposed project should meet our basic policy and be appropriate in scale for us to implement. It should be a medical health project that brings out the ability of our workers to the fullest.
- 2) We focus mainly on manpower contributions, and shall not provide monetary and material fund without a human resource exchange.
- 3) While respecting the value of cooperation with other organizations, we will limit the area of our cooperation to the field of medical and health care programs. “Medical and health care” should be interpreted as practiced by medical and health institutions in Japan.
- 4) Prospective partner organizations are expected to understand the basic policies of JOCS, and be willing to cooperate with us based on common purpose and shared responsibilities.
- 5) We respect the autonomous, self-reliant position of the partner organization. From the initial stage of a project, we aim to transfer the project and facilities to the partner organization at a proper time and make every effort for that organization to sustain them.
- 6) We shall not build any medical and health facility that cannot be managed properly through the local resources alone once the project is over.
- 7) The Board Members will always examine proposals made by members of JOCS, overseas workers, members of JCMA as well as requests by similar organizations abroad and international organizations. They will also endeavor to identify, select and plan new projects suitable to JOCS based on their own research.

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