

Preface

Since 1988, Keishin Gakuen has conducted research in Japan, Australia, China, Indonesia, amongst others, on the long-term care insurance system, the qualification system for long-term care workers, and the training of long-term care workers, which form the foundations of Japan's ageing population countermeasures, on the theme of the globally advancing ageing of society.

In 2019, a new research project was launched with the support of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and research was conducted with the aim of applying the policy of employing foreign workers in Japan's long-term care labour market in response to the declining population and 'promoting cross-border circulation of long-term care workers', in accordance with Japan's Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN).

Furthermore, in the current project running from 2021, on the theme of 'resilience' in the face of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, research has been conducted on how to protect people's lives and livelihoods, quickly restore businesses, and move on from there.

The global spread of the COVID-19 infection, which began in 2019, has had a tremendous impact on human survival and livelihoods. In Japan, where the population is ageing rapidly, many long-term care facilities for the elderly (especially nursing homes for the elderly, long-term care facilities for the elderly, day services, etc.) have been struggling to find ways to protect lives since the beginning of the spread of COVID-19.

In order to contribute to these efforts, the Keishin–ERIA project conducted international comparisons of COVID-19 infections and mortality from the perspective of resilience in long-term care homes for the elderly, as well as field surveys to identify effective infectious disease countermeasures being used in the long-term care business, and surveys on the actual situation of business continuity management and business continuity plans (BCPs) at long-term care facilities for the elderly.

It is envisaged that long-term care facilities for the elderly would be further developed and increased in number due to the advance in the ageing of societies in the countries of East Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States, and consequently it will be necessary to establish resilience against the risk of new infections.

Support is necessary for various activities in the further development of East Asian and ASEAN countries, and in terms of support for long-term care facilities for the elderly, it is hoped that the various findings, analysis results, and data confirmed in this research can help in the development of new infectious disease control models that can be shared and used internationally.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Project Leader Professor Takeo Ogawa, who has made such great efforts on behalf of this research, Professor Reiko Hayashi, Professor Shun Ohno, Professor Kaysorn Sumpowthong from Thailand, and Professor Tri Budi Rahardjo from Indonesia, and other experts from many countries, and to Keishin Gakuen faculty staff and everyone involved.

MITSUTOSHI KOBAYASHI

President Mitsutoshi Kobayashi

Keishin-Gakuen Educational Group