

## Recent Activities of Cancer Control Program in Japan and Asian Pacific Region

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In Asian Pacific countries including Japan, an epidemic pattern of cancer by site is very characteristic due to various geographic condition and different cultural background. From the current international cancer statistics of the WHO, Cancer is a leading cause of death accounted for 7.9 million deaths in 2007 and more than 50% are found in Asian Pacific region. Lung, stomach, liver, colon and breast cancer cause the most cancer deaths each year. The most frequent types of cancer differ between men and women. About 30% of cancer deaths can be prevented. Tobacco use is the single most important risk factor for cancer. About 72% of all cancer deaths in 2007 occurred in low- and middle-income countries. Deaths from cancer worldwide are projected to continue rising, with an estimated 12 million deaths in 2030. Establishment of regional cancer registry system is firstly necessary to obtain accurate information of cancer incidences for further cancer control program. In the second we need epidemiological evidences on risk and protective factors of cancers obtained from well designed epidemiological studies to promote the primary prevention. Thirdly well designed cancer screening system should be established to reduce cancer deaths as a secondary prevention. Regional strategic direction for cancer control in Japan and Asian Pacific region should change over time with new developments in technology, but the principle idea remains based on global standard cancer control strategies. Establishing a practical prevention program for cancer control in Japan and Asian Pacific region could be a model of cancer control program in developing countries in the world. Current situation of cancer control strategy in Japan and Asian Pacific region is reviewed and its future perspective will be discussed.