



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS**

NAME OF ASSOCIATION: Japan Dental Hygienists Association

YEAR ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED: 1951

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 14,726

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS/TRAINING INSTITUTIONS: 170

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2018

- Provided assistance for community dental health activities in disaster-hit areas including Hokkaido and western Japan.
- Certified a total of 2614 members in 7 acknowledged fields of dental hygiene.
- Over 1800 members participated in the 13th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Dental Hygiene in Fukuoka.

KEY ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES FOR 2019

- Celebrated the Japan Dental Hygienists Association's 65th Anniversary.
- Supported the launch of an e-learning program to provide dental professionals with continuing education to further improve their knowledge.

NEXT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEETING:

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Dental Hygiene

September 14-16, 2019 Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture

Theme: Shifting the Focus of Dental Health Care to Prevention and Wellness

LINK TO WEBSITE:

<https://www.jdha.or.jp/en/>

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Noriko Takei

President

Japan Dental Hygienists Association

IFDH Country Report Dutch Dental Hygienists Association

On May 31, 2019, we received the fantastic news that our ministry of health decided to start an experiment in the Netherlands medio 2020. This means that DH are completely independent during this experiment to administer local anaesthesia, treat primary cavities and indicate, take and diagnose X-rays (solo and BW). After years of lobbying and discussion we have finally come to this wonderful result. A positive development for our profession and the oral care in the Netherlands.

Background of this decision:

In the Netherlands we do have a transition in medical care. This transition goes slowly and step by step and started in the early years 2000. One part of the transition is the so called task allocation. Certain tasks of scientific educated caretakers (for example doctors and dentists) can be done by a caretaker with a higher vocational education. This means that we can use the hands of as many caretakers to meet the demands of all the patients. In the first place to get a medical care that is efficiently and effectively and with high quality. In the second place, if we can reach a medical care that starts with prevention, also a cost effective transition. The overall project is called: 'The right care in the right place'.

Physician Assistants and Specialist Nurses were the first ones to fulfil such an experiment with good results.

Talking about task allocation in oral health started also in the early years 2000. In that period the government also decided to implement the Bologna agreements on higher education. This meant that all the higher vocational education in the Netherlands had to become a 4-year bachelor education. The former 3-year education was on bachelor level, but was not finished with a bachelor diploma. This was the moment to renew the curriculum of the dental hygienists education and add some new items. Such as treat primary cavities and doing scientific research as part of the education. So in 2002, the treating of primary cavities was incorporated in the new 4-year curriculum. From the start of the education in 1967 Dental Hygienists learn to indicate, take and diagnose X-rays. It was only not possible to decide themselves when a X-ray was indicated. A prescription of a dentist was needed to take the X-ray and the dentist need to be present in the office.

Anaesthesia is part of the curriculum from 1997 on. In that year dental hygienists became functional independently to administer local anaesthesia. This means that only a prescription is needed, the dentist does not need to be present.

In 2006 the first dental hygienists with the 4-year education graduated. In that year also the law did change. Dutch dental hygienists are from that time on fully independent for the whole scope of practice, except the restricted acts (local anaesthesia, primary cavities and X-rays).

So now, with the fantastic news of the start of the experiment, the 4-year educated bachelor dental hygienists, become fully independent on the whole scope of practice. All the other dental hygienists in the Netherlands (with 2-year and 3-year education) have to meet the learning outcomes of the 4-year curriculum to gain the possibility to start with the experiment. Unfortunately, the Government has decided this without taking into account the years of experience of these dental hygienists and the continuing vocational training. The Dutch Dental Hygienists Association works towards a positive result in 2024, not only for the participants in the experiment, but for all dental hygienists, to become fully independent for the whole scope of practice.

In 2019 we also have an anniversary. Our own Quality Register exists 10 years.

In 2000 we started a Quality Register with 7 other allied health professional associations. This was a demand of the new Law on Professions in individual Health Care (law BIG).

Registration is voluntary. Because of the fact that oral health is different from the other health care and because of difference in insight, the Dutch Dental Hygienists Association decided to start their own Quality Register in 2009. We now have approximately 1770 dental hygienists registered in this Register. That is almost 50% of the dental hygienists in the Netherlands. Every five years the dental hygienists have to show that they meet the criteria of continuing vocational training and working hours. If so, they will be registered again for five years. The criteria are updated every five years and adjusted to new developments among the profession of dental hygienists and health care.

To celebrate this anniversary the Quality Register organised a symposium on May 24, with lectures on the sense and nonsense of a quality label and what the Quality Register means for the profession.

On 15 November 2019 the Dutch Association organises their yearly Symposium, together with the annual meeting. The theme of the symposium is Positive Health. In 2011, Machteld Huber introduced this in the Netherlands. Till that time the definition of health was: absence of illness or infirmity. In that light almost none is healthy. When this definition was coined in 1948, infectious diseases were the main problem. Today, however, chronic and lifestyle diseases are much more prevalent, particularly in the Western world. It is the challenge to live your life with chronic diseases. So Machteld Huber introduced a new definition: "Health as the ability to adapt and self-manage, in light of the physical, emotional and social challenges of life".

The way in which 'health' is defined has a significant influence on how we organize and use health care.

During the symposium several speakers have a lecture about positive health from their point of view and what that means for the dental hygienist in daily practice.



The Spanish Federation of Hygienists, this year presents the XXXI National Congress, which will take place in Majorca on 18th-20th October.

There, we will also celebrate the X edition of the “National Day of Dental Hygienist”.

We take this opportunity to propose the creation of the "International Day of the Dental Hygienist", in order to give greater visibility to our profession at an International level and, there's no one better than the IFDH to make such a proposal.

In addition, we propose that just like the WHO has just proclaimed 2020 as the International Year of Nurses, it would be good if we could get, for example, 2022, to be proclaimed as the International Year of Dental Hygienists, since our role in prevention and health education is fundamental for society.

All this would give a qualitative leap in the recognition and exaltation of our work, for the improvement of oral health and general health.

Thank you very much from Spain!!!!