



AMDA

**ASSOCIATION OF
MEDICAL
DOCTORS OF
ASIA**

**2020
ANNUAL REPORT
COVID-19 ISSUE**

**COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS**



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AMDA's GPSP Concept



MESSAGE FROM AMDA PRESIDENT



Over the past year and a half, the humanitarian community has done its utmost to provide consistent support to citizens suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Needless to say, AMDA's chapters around the world have played their part and have continued to support the vulnerable in their local communities. This includes the reconstruction of people's daily lives that were heavily affected by the disease outbreak.

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has led to the fragmentation of human relationships in many parts of the world. Although social distancing and lockdown measures have been rightly imposed for the containment of the disease, they brought about a bi-product called "separation" which has put us under immense stress. But the battle cannot be fought alone. We need to cooperate. In doing so, AMDA's vast humanitarian network has the strength to let every stakeholder get connected to confront the difficult time.

AMDA is always determined to work for the weak by providing grass-root support in the most meaningful way possible. If we are united, I firmly believe that we can deliver help to those who are fighting to survive day by day.

It is the strength of the civil society that can rally the power of the people to overcome any challenges that may come our way. It is left to each one of us as to how much commitment we make to protect our peaceful daily lives. So, please join me and collaborate on projects and initiatives in saving our neighbors.

My deepest gratitude for your continued assistance, and wishing you the safety of yourself and loved ones.

Faithfully yours,

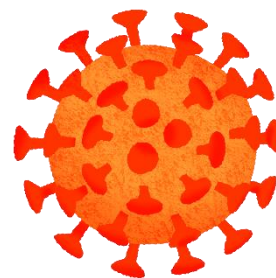
A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be '菅波 英' (Suganami Eiji), is written over a circular blue stamp. The stamp contains the text 'Association of Medical Doctors of Asia' around the perimeter and 'AMDA' in the center, with a small star at the bottom.

Shigeru Suganami M.D., Ph.D.
President, AMDA

[COVID-19 SPECIAL]

AMDA's COVID-19 Response

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has wreaked havoc on many facets of our society which forced people to lose their jobs, experience a significant drop in their income or face poverty and malnutrition. Many have lost their loved ones, and medical workers have had to risk themselves in saving the lives of the infected.



As the past has shown, AMDA is one and acts as one in times of crisis. Based on the principle of partnership, AMDA has been utilizing its global network across 32 countries and regions to support those who are withstanding the test of time by giving a boost to locally-driven humanitarian initiatives.



Afghanistan: “Providing quality medical services amid the COVID-19 crisis”

AMDA Afghanistan offered free consultation services at its clinic to patients who could not afford a medical bill which is usually around 150 to 200 afghani per consultation. In addition, it provided the patients with facial masks, soap and gloves whose prices were soaring. At the same time, its staff were handing out COVID-19 precaution leaflets issued by the government, while advising its visitors on personal protective measures to be taken at home.



[COVID-19 SPECIAL]



Bolivia: “Keeping trademark activities consistent”

“The situation in Bolivia regarding COVID-19 is not very good,” said AMDA Bolivia’s Ms. Martha Romero who liaises with AMDA Headquarters in Japan on a regular basis. According to Ms. Romero, it is not only because the nation’s medical sector has had existing problems even before the pandemic struck, but also due to the national elections which were held in the previous year that caused the increase in the number of the infected cases. “The country has just gone through subnational elections and therefore, people got more relaxed and did not think about the novel coronavirus which led to another outbreak,” she said.

Meanwhile, the government has begun providing vaccines to medical personnel for a start, and hopes to inoculate the public in the course of time. As for AMDA Bolivia’s activities, the chapter has held its trademark emergency-medicine training after an eight-month wait. Although it was once put on hold due to the government restrictions, the chapter is now conducting three training courses every month.



AMDA Bolivia has been keen to promote emergency medicine since 1998



Cambodia: “Empowering nursing students to tackle the COVID crisis”

In November 2020, AMDA Cambodia collaborated with Chenla University to organize a COVID-themed workshop. The university has one of the leading nursing schools in the nation. Mainly focusing on the maintenance of mental health under the pandemic, the event also delved into the new roles of nurses in this realm. It was held both in person and online in which a total of 100 participants took part (30 students for the former and 70 students for the latter). Among the guest speakers were officials from the health ministry, public hospitals and academia who shared their expertise on the given topics. After the event, the Cambodian chapter donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to the nursing students. It also provided an automatic disinfectant dispenser along with other medical supplies to the university.



[COVID-19 SPECIAL]



India: "Comprehensive assistance in the fight against COVID-19"

Ever since the first infected case was identified in India in January 2020, the number of coronavirus patients kept soaring. Lives of many were affected due to the nationwide lockdown which began in late March in which factories, offices and public transportation services were forced to suspend operations. Although the authorities began lifting the restrictions in steps in June, people were asked to remain vigilant.

1. Distribution of face masks and disinfectants

In early March 2020 when the case numbers started rising and advisory for the use of masks, hand sanitisers and liquid hand-wash were being called on, AMDA India distributed 50 face masks and hand sanitizers to labourers who regularly work in the so-called "danger zones" in Gurgaon and New Delhi. Along with the mask distribution, AMDA India Secretary General Dr. Meenakshi Joshi advised each one of them on how to cope with stressful times ahead, how to keep themselves safe and how to improve their hygiene.



The chapter organized another aid distribution after the quarantine measures were eased in June as many started to return to work. AMDA India procured 1,100 masks and purchased 25 litters of hand sanitizers (80% abv), 15 litters of Dettol liquid hand-wash along with 200 sets of COVID-19 precaution pamphlets.

As AMDA India thinks disposable masks are a burden on resources and does not encourage the use except for frontline medical workers, it decided to procure handmade cloth-masks to protect the environment. AMDA India ordered the masks to a group of women in the Nilgiri Mountains, also considering the fact that this could support the women's livelihood.

The goods were given to street cleaners, police officers, gas station staff, street vendors, security guards to name a few. In addition, the supplies were donated to a nursing home that houses 500 elderly people with mental disabilities or those without anyone to depend on. As a whole, 1,150 people benefited from the relief.

2. Extending support to a labourer's family

After the sudden announcement of the lockdown in late March, people were in panic. Assuming that the quarantine measures would be extended for a long period, labourers started walking towards nearest bus stops in an attempt to leave cities, with some heading back to their hometowns on foot.

In one instance, AMDA India Secretary General Dr. Meenakshi Joshi received a call about a family with two children who got stuck due to exhaustion after walking 55 kilometres from Delhi. As they had no place to go and required immediate assistance, they were accommodated at AMDA India's office with basic necessities. For about three months, the

[COVID-19 SPECIAL]

family sought shelter there until the lockdown was eased. Although the daily correspondence was made by phone to avoid in-person interactions (due to the government's stringent quarantine measures), the family managed to cook for themselves with foodstuffs and cooking utensils which AMDA India provided.

3. Offering free webinars for the maintenance of well-being

AMDA India's Dr. Meenakshi Joshi organized a free webinar series with a focus on how to maintain one's well-being in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Having been an established Ayurveda specialist, Dr. Meenakshi shared her expertise in two webinars on topics such as "how to protect oneself from infectious diseases" and "how to cope with hay fever in the spring". In total, 91 people joined the event from India and Japan. With favourable responses from the participants, the webinar is expected to continue further.



4. Clothing donation

In time for Diwali, one of India's largest annual festivities, AMDA India donated 58 pairs of clothes for children and adults (as well as snacks) to a group of labourers in Gurgaon. The annual celebration was quiet this year contrary to its usual festive atmosphere. As is the case, AMDA India asked the group to conduct the donation in a cautious manner by limiting the number of people entering the event venue.



Indonesia: "Helping to prevent outbreaks at hospitals"

In Sulawesi where AMDA Indonesia is headquartered, the chapter had conducted a screening test of visitors at local hospitals since late March 2020. The screening, which was held between 9 AM to 3 PM, saw up to 50 patients per day. In addition, AMDA Indonesia provided personal protective equipment and sanitizers to medical facilities, especially at the occurrence of the flash floods that hit Masamba in South Sulawesi in July.



[COVID-19 SPECIAL]



Japan: "Personnel deployment to a medical facility affected by COVID-19"

On 14 December 2020, AMDA Headquarters in Okayama, Japan, sent a relief team to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak ravaging through Hokkaido, the northern part of the nation whose medical system had been pushed to the brink.



Through its contact, AMDA was requested by the Asahikawa City health bureau to dispatch medical personnel to support local medical facilities that were short-staffed due to the infectious outbreak. The team was sent to assist a facility for persons with severe motor and intellectual disabilities (SMID). Prior to the relief work, the local municipality and other organizations coordinated with AMDA in deciding its work location. Starting on the 15th, AMDA sent a total of four staff comprising three nurses and one coordinator.



Malaysia: "Networking with health authorities"

AMDA Malaysia has been committed to COVID-related dealings mainly through its secretary Dr. Elizabeth Anthony who also serves as State Deputy Director of Health in Penang where the chapter is based. Working for the Malaysian health ministry, she takes charge of all government-run hospitals in the region and heads the local COVID-19 task force. AMDA Malaysia Chapter Chairperson Dr. Anthony Balavendrian has also been registered as a health ministry volunteer for administering vaccines at immunization campaigns. While the nation has been handling the pandemic situation well with ample manpower in place, AMDA Malaysia wishes to act in tandem with the health ministry in supporting its inoculation measures. It is also planning to provide mobile clinic services in light of the post-pandemic period.



Dr. Anthony Balavendrian
(AMDA Malaysia)



Philippines: "Telemedicine, online seminars and item distribution to help the public and medical facilities"

In the spring of 2020, AMDA Philippines organized a telemedicine initiative to cater to the arising needs for medical consultations at the time when people could not seek help outside due to the nationwide lockdown. Targeting both the public and medical professionals, the telemedicine effort later led AMDA Philippines to hold COVID-related webinars, explaining what the viral infection is and how to cope with it. Also, AMDA Philippines distributed personal protective equipment and other necessities to medical facilities where disposable medical items were in high demand.



【COVID-19 SPECIAL】



Singapore: “Working under the government’s PHPC scheme”

At MD International Medical Centre which is run by AMDA Singapore, it is providing primary care services to the citizens under the health ministry’s Public Health Preparedness Clinic (PHPC) scheme.

The PHPC initiative is aimed at the comprehensive administration of primary-care medical facilities at the time of public health crises. It is activated to bring the hospitals together whenever infectious outbreaks (i.e., influenza and anthrax) or imminent health hazards (due to the climatic haze, etc.) occur. At this time, the authorities have decided to reactivate the scheme, seeing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as a grave threat.

The roles of PHPC

As a PHPC-registered medical clinic, MD International Medical Centre has been engaged in the following activities:

1. Prescription of medicine (Tamiflu and antibiotics for anthrax etc.)
2. Vaccine administration
3. Medical treatment under the government subsidies (e.g., in accordance with the authority-driven COVID-19 response)

MD International Medical Centre has been participating in the government’s influenza subsidy scheme which targets Singaporean citizens and permanent residents. It allows the patients with all types of respiratory diseases to receive consultations and treatment at the subsidized rate of 5 to 10 Singaporean dollars.

Likewise, the medical centre has been offering free PCR tests (swab tests) in line with the health ministry’s COVID-19 response. This also applies to patients with coughs and fever below 38°C.

MD International Medical Centre has always been a keen provider of primary care services. They include elderly care and chronic disease management for maladies such as diabetes and hypertension. Under the government’s inoculation programs, it has an excellent track record of providing immunization against influenza, pneumococcal pneumonia (PCV13/PPSV), human papillomavirus (HPV2/HPV4), hepatitis B, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap), measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) as well as chickenpox (varicella).



Dr. Don Lau
(AMDA Singapore)

By working in tandem with the health ministry and National University Health System (NUHS), MD International Medical Centre hopes to continue offering quality medical services even in the midst of this difficult time.

1. Peace Building

Emergency Relief

Even when the world is struck by an unprecedented viral disease, natural disasters do occur. Although there had been obvious risks for AMDA's medical relief teams to be deployed in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, they went the extra mile to help those in need while taking necessary precautions.



Flood disaster in Kyushu, Japan (July)



In response to the torrential rain that struck the Kyushu region in the southern part of Japan on the early morning of 4 July 2020, AMDA dispatched a relief team to Kumamoto Prefecture severely hit by flooding and landslides. On the 6th, AMDA's relief team comprising one doctor, two nurses and one coordinator left for Hitoyoshi City in Kumamoto.

After an emergency weather warning was issued in Kumamoto on the 4th, the overflow of Kuma River had inundated the prefecture's southern areas, causing extensive damage. For this relief effort, the city governments of Soja and Akaiwa in Okayama Prefecture also joined forces with the AMDA team. Both municipalities are AMDA's official disaster relief partners that have collaborated on a number of occasions at the time of emergency relief. The joint team worked at Dai-ichi Junior High School, an evacuation shelter in Hitoyoshi City, and the Sagaramura village, where the team provided medical consultation services and relief items. One of the interesting efforts to note was chiropractic and acupuncture services provided by professional therapists at the said shelter. It was well accepted by the evacuees as a means of fatigue relief in the midst of their prolonged shelter life. AMDA coordinators also went around each household to assess the villagers' health and living conditions upon request from a local public health nurse.



1. Peace Building

Flash floods in Masamba, Indonesia (July)

In response to flash floods that struck Masamba in the North Luwu Regency of South Sulawesi on 13 July 2020, AMDA Indonesia and AMSA UMI (Asian Medical Students' Association Muslim University Chapter) sent a joint medical team to organize three-day relief activities.



As global warming has caused excessive rainfalls, the water volume in the upper stream of the Rongkon River, which flows through the region, has gone up to the point in which the surrounding environment could not withstand. This eventually triggered the flash floods.

According to the National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) as of 15 July, six sub-districts of North Luwu were hit by the floods. A total of 4,202 households (15,994 people) were affected and 156 households (655 people) were displaced, while 4,930 houses were submerged and 10 houses were swept away. 213 houses were covered with mud and sand, and the bridges connecting the villages were cut off. The road infrastructure received significant damage in which roads were buried under four meters of mud pile.

The joint medical team left the provincial capital, Makassar, on the afternoon of the 17th, carrying relief goods such as blankets and disposable diapers along with food items. The team also brought personal protective equipment to be donated to medical facilities for the COVID-19 precaution.

On the 18th the following day, the joint team began providing medical assistance and relief supplies. The team noticed that some of the victims were suffering from trauma after losing their close members of their communities. They were also under immense stress in fear of a recurrence of the disaster. It was suggested that 1) community-based mental health care, and 2) emotional care for children in the early phase of shelter life, were needed. For this reason, the team later reported that the deployment of mental health counsellors was considered desirable in fulfilling such needs.



On the same day, the joint team also started distributing personal protective equipment and disinfectants to local medical facilities including Andi Djemma Hospital and Hikmah Hospital. As most of major local hospitals had been experiencing difficulties in providing adequate

1. Peace Building

medical services (even at public facilities), the joint team responded by providing financial support, medical supplies, clothing and blankets.

Super Typhoon Goni (Rolly), Philippines (November)



In response to the super typhoon Goni (Rolly) which struck the Philippines in early November, AMDA Philippines and *AMSA Jonelta jointly launched relief activities, while another relief effort was planned with Catanduanes State University. (*Asian Medical Students' Association)

On 7 November, relief items including foodstuffs such as rice, noodles and canned fish were sent from Manila to Catanduanes, an island in the disaster-hit Bicol region in the eastern part of the Philippines.

A truck load of relief supplies, which AMDA Philippines and AMSA Jonelta prepared, arrived at its destination on the following day although ships bound for the island were limited. The items (which had already been sorted into 263 sets in Manila) were distributed by local volunteers to target households in Virac, the provincial capital on the southern part of the island. Thanks to the coordination and assistance by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) and local supporters, 263 households in Barangay Balite benefited from the aid.

Later on, an additional relief effort was carried out at two more barangays on the island in response to a request made by AMDAs' local contact who had collaborated with AMDA in the past. AMDA Philippines, AMDA Headquarters (Japan) and Catanduanes State University (to which the said contact person belonged) collaborated on this aid work. On the 15th, the relief team distributed locally-procured food items such as rice, noodles and canned fish to the residents of Barangay Calatagan Proper (120 households) and Barangay Calatagan Tibang (130 households) respectively.



Also on the 17th, Catanduanes State University took the central role in distributing food items and other relief supplies in the local town of San Miguel. The poor road conditions hampered the original plan of completing the distribution to all target households in one day. The team managed to provide the aid to 185 families, however, the rest of the distribution was conducted in the following week.

On the 27th, relief personnel from Catanduanes State University distributed food supplies to 150 households in Virac's San Vicente district. The items were purchased locally to help the

1. Peace Building

regional economy. The relief activities came to completion after delivering aid to 764 families in total.

Super Typhoon Vamco (Ulysses), Philippines (November)

While AMDA was conducting emergency relief in response to the earlier typhoon Goni (Rolly), another tropical storm Vamco (Ulysses) made landfall on the island of Luzon. To help the residents in Cagayan and Isabela Provinces in the north, AMDA Headquarters (Japan), AMDA Philippines, WiNDS (Women in National Development and Security), AMSA Philippines and Luzon Crisis Assistance Team (LCAT) made arrangements to launch another disaster relief.



Flood-hit Cagayan



Isabela residents stranded by the flooding

According to the figures announced by NDRRMC on 16 November, approximately 2.07 million people were affected by Vamco as a whole, of which 168,113 were in Cagayan, and 164,428 in Isabela.

1. Provision of relief items in Cagayan

In Cagayan, AMDA Philippines, AMSA Philippines, Luzon Crisis Assistance Team (LCAT) and others conducted an aid distribution drive. Preparation work had already been carried out by LCAT and its supporters who engaged themselves in procurement and packing of relief supplies such as rice, drinking water and hygiene kits. The items were shipped via road on the 20th and received by the volunteers from Cagayan State University who distributed the goods on the following day. The target beneficiaries were 266 households (two districts) in the town of Penablanca in the province.



From the 21st to 22nd, the joint relief team provided relief supplies to 300 households in four districts of the city of Ilagan and the town of Tumauini. Volunteers from Our Lady of the Pillar College and Youth in Action took charge of procuring relief goods such as food items and soap, as well as powder milk and diapers for babies.

1. Peace Building

2. Medical relief and item donation in Cagayan and Isabela

Meanwhile, AMDA Headquarters (Japan) arranged another relief effort with its Filipino counterpart WiNDS and the Association of the Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP)'s Isabela branch in both Cagayan and Isabela.

On the 28th, AMDA, WiNDS, and AMHOP Isabela jointly organized medical relief and item distribution in Cagayan. Preparations had already been made on the previous day where sets of relief goods including foodstuffs, personal hygiene items and buckets were put



Isabela in the aftermath of the flooding

together to be provided at the town of Enrile. In the town's Marracuru district, the joint team (comprising about 30 personnel) delivered the items to 197 households, while its doctors and medical staff offered medical services. Among 97 patients were those who came to get the medicine for chronic diseases such as hypertension or diabetes. Some dropped in to receive treatment for upper respiratory tract infections and minor wounds. After that, the team moved to the Divisoria district to provide relief supplies to 100 households.

The team also visited the Annafunan East district in the city of Tuguegarao in which an evacuation shelter was set up due to a heavy rainfall that struck the region again on the day before. Likewise, the team distributed relief goods to 210 families who were seeking shelter there. This became the final relief work in Cagayan.



On 30 November, the joint relief team comprising 40 personnel including doctors, nurses and volunteers visited the town of Tumauni in Isabela to work at Barangay Fermeldy which was one of the most affected districts in the region.



Medical relief in Marracuru

Compared with other communities, the barangay was densely populated with 3,000 residents (600 households) which had made it difficult for aid organizations to provide sufficient assistance. To respond to such circumstances, the joint team decided to organize both medical relief and item distribution.

For the medical relief, patients totalled 268 who were mostly suffering from respiratory diseases and skin infections. For the item distribution, the team handed over relief supplies to local government officers, so that they could be distributed with goods from other aid organizations in the course of time. The relief items were foodstuffs and hygiene kits for 360 families.



1. Peace Building

Hurricanes Eta/Iota, Honduras (November)



The riverside where the evacuees used to live (Tegucigalpa)

In response to hurricanes Eta and Iota which wreaked havoc across Honduras, AMDA Headquarters (Japan) and AMDA Honduras launched a joint relief effort. According to the Honduran authorities, the massive tropical storm affected more than 1.64 million people, forcing around 10,000 people to flee homes (as of 6 November). The initial inquiry for the team deployment was directly made by H.E. Mr. Hector Alejandro Palma Cerna, the Ambassador of the Republic of Honduras to Japan on 17 November. AMDA was asked to provide immediate assistance.

1. Tegucigalpa

Tegucigalpa, the capital, has been struck by successive landslides triggered by Iota coupled with an incessant rainfall at night. The situation hampered the smooth aid distribution for authorities and disaster relief organizations. Once necessary arrangements were made, AMDA Headquarters and AMDA Honduras went to provide relief supplies in the city's three districts. Items including portable cooking stoves were prepared for the planned aid work.



On 26 November, the joint team delivered relief supplies to 13 households (40 people) seeking shelter at the city's Maximiliano Sagastume Elementary School. The items included powder milk and diapers for babies, and cleaning equipment.

Most of the evacuees were residing near a local river and their jobs were collecting and selling sand from the sandbank. However, their houses were destroyed by the hurricanes which forced them to take refuge at the evacuation facility. In addition, roads that were used to transport the sand were blocked. As the access to the area was literally cut off, local residents had no means to get income for the time being.

At a shelter in the Villanueva Nuevo district, three families (16 people) benefitted from the item donation. "We had to evacuate our house as the walls collapsed, but we will do all we can to rebuild our life. Thanks so much for your timely assistance," one aid recipient said.

Likewise, AMDA and AMDA Honduras delivered goods to a nursing home in the Villa Adela district. The facility has also been a shelter for homeless people who were evacuated from streets due to COVID-19 or the tropical cyclones. It also housed drug addicts to undergo treatment and recovery. At the time of the visit, 10 people had been accommodated. The team distributed hygiene



1. Peace Building

items, cleaning equipment, fever reducers, and anti-diarrhoea medicine to name a few. “This kind of help is essential because all of us are staying here for different reasons,” one elderly resident said.

2. El Paraiso

El Paraiso, where AMDA Honduras has a project site, was also devastated by mudslides and flooding. AMDA Honduras was inquired by the vice city mayor of Trojes in the municipality’s eastern area to provide assistance. Roads to Tegucigalpa and nearby villages had been partially cut off, making it difficult to procure relief supplies.

Meanwhile, the local disaster response committee in the northern city of Teupasenti said at least 106 households were affected, forcing some of the residents to flee homes due to building collapse.



Trojes, El Paraiso (22 November)

From 7 to 8 December, the AMDA-AMDA Honduras relief team carried out an item distribution effort in the city of Teupasenti in El Paraiso which was devastated by hurricanes Eta and Iota.



On the 7th, the team’s local staff paid a visit to the city’s disaster response committee to hand over relief supplies containing, a) 50 sets of daily necessities including food items, blankets, and hygiene goods, and b) 25 sets of baby products such as diapers. For logistics and coordination, the committee had worked closely with AMDA since the outset of the tropical storms.

On the 8th, in collaboration with the said committee, the team visited “hard-to-reach” districts such as San Isidro, El Ocotal, and El Chilito to provide the goods to affected households. From the 9th and onward, the committee took over the aid distribution. After its completion was announced, AMDA Honduras decided to conclude all of its activities.

Earthquake in Sulawesi, Indonesia (January 2021)



In response to a mag. 6.2 earthquake that struck Sulawesi in Indonesia on 15 January 2021, AMDA Indonesia jointly carried out aid work with Universitas Muslim Indonesia (medical department) and the members of Asian Medical Students’ Association (AMSA).

On the 17th, a team of 16 aid workers (including four doctors) arrived in hard-hit Majene to launch medical relief activities. Protecting themselves from COVID-19 with face masks and face shields, the doctors

started seeing patients, while the rest of the team distributed food items, blankets and baby diapers. The team continued the aid work on the following day.

1. Peace Building

To the villages that are not accessible by car, the staff members entered the areas on foot. The team walked two kilometres to reach the stranded communities. About 230 households benefitted from the relief effort. In the local Kabiraan village, a power generator and mats were donated to make up for the broken houses and power outage. The generator was originally brought in by the team for its aid work but was later handed down to the village for further use.

On 29 January 2021, the second medical team, comprising aid workers from AMDA Indonesia and Universitas Muslim Indonesia (three doctors and nine med-students), was dispatched to quake-hit Majene and Mamuju Regencies in Sulawesi.

Taking over its predecessor's work, the team engaged itself in medical activities at local evacuation shelters. It also provided mental care to those who were persevering through the evacuation life. This time, a group of story tellers organized a story-telling event for children at a tent set up at the site. The children enjoyed interacting with the performers on stage and gales of laughter helped brighten the mood.

During its week-long mission, the team distributed relief supplies including foodstuffs, clothes, medical goods and personal protective equipment to evacuees besides providing medical assistance.

On the 28th, the National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB) said 91,657 people were still forced to remain evacuated.



List of AMDA Emergency Relief Activities in 2020

Month	Case	Country
July	Flood Disaster in Kyushu	Japan
July	Flash Floods in Masamba	Indonesia
November	Super Typhoon Goni (Rolly)	Philippines
November	Super Typhoon Vamco (Ulysses)	Philippines
November	Hurricanes Eta/Iota	Honduras
January (2021)	Earthquake in Sulawesi	Indonesia



1. Peace Building

Refugee Assistance

Support for Bhutanese refugees in Nepal (1992~2020)

Ethnic strife in Bhutan in the 1990s triggered the influx of Nepali-Bhutanese refugees to Nepal. Since 1992, AMDA Nepal started providing medical assistance to the refugees seeking shelter in the country's evacuation camps. AMDA Damak Hospital played a central role in this project, followed by UNHCR's involvement in which the organization officially commissioned the hospital to undertake this work as full-scale refugee assistance. Currently, AMDA Damak Hospital has been providing primary health care services at a medical post which the hospital established in each refugee camp. The assistance for the Bhutanese refugees came to completion in December 2020.



■ Participating organizations: AMDA Nepal, UNHCR

Post-disaster Assistance

The Great East Japan Earthquake (2011~)



On 11 March 2011, an earthquake of unprecedented scale (mag.9.0) followed by the deadliest tsunami wiped out the eastern part of Japan, resulting in 15,800 deaths with over 2,500 people missing. AMDA launched emergency relief in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture one day after the quake struck. Throughout the relief, AMDA sent 149 personnel to various locations. The emergency relief went on until the end of April followed by various post-disaster assistance. In recent years, the affected areas have been going through a transitional phase in which people started to move out of make-shift residences to council housing or newly-built houses. The imminent issue is how to rebuild local communities whose populations are dwindling.

1. Peace Building

1. AMDA Health Support Center in Otsuchi, Iwate Prefecture



The population has been constantly declining in the locality where AMDA Health Support Center is based. After the quake struck in 2011, it fell from 15,000 to 11,570 in the fiscal 2020. In addition to the regular acupuncture treatment, the center offers light exercises to its patients after the therapy. The twice-monthly weaving and woodcraft workshops have been continued. The students are

constantly improving their skills, so much so that some of them started selling their works. Although the cooking class was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities at the facility have been conducted with appropriate social distancing measures in place.

2. Support for the homeless in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture

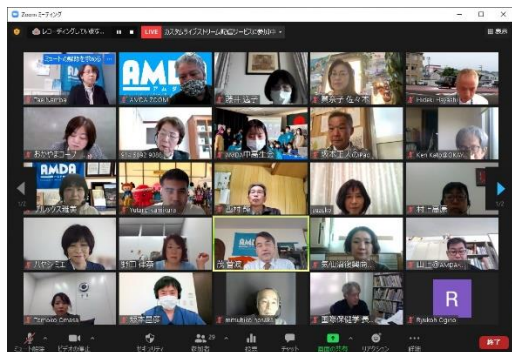


AMDA has been supporting a local NGO in the city of Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture that offers meals to the homeless who have been forced to live on the streets after the 2011 quake disaster. In 2020, the number of homeless people increased due to COVID-19 which caused job losses. In Sendai alone, it is said there are more than 100 people who have no place to live. The NGO is extending comprehensive support to the homeless by offering consultation services, providing free meals and running

a soup kitchen. The NGO volunteers are going around the city on a regular basis to hand out daily supplies and encouraging the houseless persons to use its services.

Though the soup kitchen usually offers freshly cooked dishes, packed meals were provided instead in 2020 to avoid the infectious risks. As social distancing measures are in place, the visitors were tasked to take their temperatures and wash their hands prior to receiving the meals. For those who could not get the food, underwear (donated by Japan's leading garment manufacturer Gunze) and other necessities were provided. AMDA is helping the soup kitchen by donating rice grown in Okayama and ready-to-eat instant rice packets.

3. Online event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake



In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, AMDA organized an online event with people involved in the relevant projects. The event looked back on the decade of activities conducted by the AMDA partners, with each reporting their

1. Peace Building

recent efforts. After stressing that “the wisdom is born of the lessons and experiences of those who went through hardships”, AMDA President Dr. Suganami said, “We will continue our humanitarian activities with a spirit of mutual assistance.” Thanking everyone for their hard work, he also made new proposals such as creating an online shopping scheme to sell local products. He also mentioned that the collaboration with local medical facilities and businesses would bolster the Nankai Trough disaster response strategies.

■ Participating organizations: AMDA Headquarters, AMDA Otsuchi Health Support Center, Gourmet F1 Organizing Committee, NGO “Tsudoi”, NGO “Sendai Yomawari Group”, Okayama Co-op etc.

Supporting orphans in Haiti (2019～)

AMDA Haiti has been working with World Child House Project to support three orphanages in Haiti by donating foodstuffs. All of the facilities have been faced with a lack of food supplies due to the nation’s political and economic stalemate (partially stemming from the 2010 earthquake). Malnutrition has been the most pressing issue at the children’s homes for some time. As of now, a vegetable-garden project has also been carried out at one of the facilities with the aim of complementing food shortages.



■ Participating organizations: AMDA Haiti, World Child House Project

Making “disaster-resilient” crops in Honduras (2020～)



As part of disaster reconstruction assistance in the aftermath of hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras (see the “Emergency Relief” section), AMDA Honduras and local partners repaired a school roof at a primary school in the Saladino district of Teupasenti Municipality, El Paraiso which was hit hard by the hurricanes. Discussions were held with concerned parties such as local health bureau/committee and carpenters for further repair work.

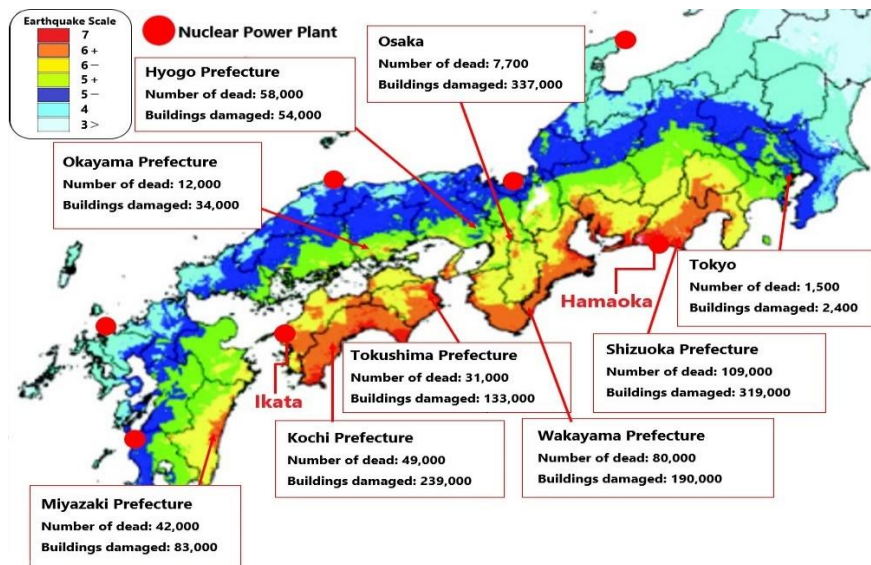
Meanwhile, agricultural consultation was organized in February 2021 at the Agua Caliente village in Taxiguat Municipality for farmers whose harvest was totally ruined by the calamities. As the area had originally produced a limited variety of crops for its arid climate, this had jeopardized the food procurement for the villagers in the wake of the cyclones. Hence, the consultation was aimed at not only restoring the farmland, but also advising the farmers on how to grow different types of farm produce which are resistant to certain climate conditions.

With 65 farmers participating, the farmland restoration began in accordance with a six-month plan. The participants had earlier received the explanation on how this initiative helps produce the resilient fields for their food security and how important it is to care for the trees and respect the crop diversity. Since March, the project entered a new phase in which the farmers started planting seeds and seedlings after their own fields were cultivated.



1. Peace Building

Disaster Response Platform



What is the Great Nankai Trough Crisis?

The Japanese government predicts that an earthquake of immeasurable scale will strike Japan along the Nankai Trough within the next 30 years. It is predicted that the quake will cause a massive tsunami that could devastate the extensive coastline along the Pacific Ocean from Shizuoka to Miyazaki Prefectures (throughout central to west Japan). The death toll is estimated to top 300,000 with 2 million buildings being destroyed. AMDA established a comprehensive counter-disaster scheme, “AMDA Platform for Nankai Trough Earthquake Disaster Strategy” to prepare for this foreseen crisis. With the ultimate aim of being fully prepared for this calamity, the platform enables local governments, medical institutions, private corporations and NGOs to collaborate in a swift manner upon the occurrence of the disaster.

AMDA Platform for Nankai Trough Earthquake Disaster Strategy

AMDA is focusing on the Shikoku region (Kochi and Tokushima in particular) given that, 1) the access to these areas will be difficult once the disaster strikes, and 2) aid assistance is expected to concentrate in major cities such as Osaka and Nagoya. By enhancing interactions between aid organizations, local governments and medical institutions, AMDA Platform for Nankai Trough Earthquake Disaster Strategy enables timely and coherent disaster response in the remote areas.



2. Health Development

Primary Health

AMDA Peace Clinic in Bodhgaya, India



Established in 2009, AMDA Peace Clinic (APC) in Bodhgaya, Bihar, has contributed to the local community health development. The clinic has been especially focusing on maternal and infant health care since 2014.

The year 2020 was especially a challenging year for APC. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown measures by the Indian government from the end of March to early June, it was closed for three months for the first time since its opening. Even in the midst of

such circumstances, the clinic continued to provide care to women in every way possible.

Meanwhile, the regional economy was also hit hard by the pandemic which affected the livelihood of mothers and mothers-to-be who regularly visit the clinic. To help these women and their families, APC carried out food distribution efforts.

In the city where many of the local people earn their living through tourism and construction-related businesses, a lack of tourists and city blockades affected their household income so gravely. Because of this, the poor could not afford enough food. After taking thorough precautions against the infection, APC began providing food aid to its users who were in need of daily food supplies.

As for the monthly maternal health checkups, they had to be conducted at a local doctor's office during APC's closure. But after the lockdown was lifted, the checkups were resumed at APC once again.

Although some of its regular services (health education for mothers, nutrition program and home-visit etc.) were suspended, APC responded to women's inquiries by phone and other means. A total number of APC's beneficiaries in 2020 was around 360 (cumulative total).



■ Participating organizations: AMDA Headquarters (Japan), AMDA Peace Clinic

AMDA Cambodia's health education program for youth



In cooperation with the Provincial Health Department of Tbong Khmom, AMDA Cambodia organizes a workshop on HIV/AIDS at the Center for Peer to Peer Educators. Aiming to promote HIV/AIDS prevention, the effort is realized through a network of peer educators and those who are living with the disease since August 2005. Up until now, AMDA Cambodia organized relevant forums with concerned parties such as National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs,

2. Health Development

Chenla University Nursing School as well as provincial authorities.

AMDA Cambodia has also run a soccer club to encourage youths to take part in sport activities. The soccer club helps divert the youngsters from falling victim to drugs, violence and other criminal activities. For the last couple of years, Chenla University has been supporting the club. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire program was suspended in 2020.

■ Participating organizations: Yamaichi Kanko (Japan), AMDA Cambodia, AMDA Headquarters (Japan)

School health initiative in Rwanda



Since 2016, AMDA has been sending a group of Japanese doctors to Rwanda to pass on their expertise in pediatrics and transfer Japan's school medical-checkup system. (The project used to be organized as part of Okayama Prefectural Government's International Contribution Project for Local-to-Local Technical Transfer initiative.) Up until now, doctors have been dispatched to Kigali, and to the nation's western regions. At Umuco Mwiza School, Japanese doctors have conducted medical checkups on students, and discussed with local medical practitioners, teachers, as well as children and their parents how pediatrics can be improved nationwide. A Fukushima-based NGO, Think About Education in Rwanda, has been partnering with AMDA on the project.

For 2020, although schools were temporarily closed due to COVID-19, the local staff continued their activities mainly at Umuco Mwiza School in Kigali in the most practical way possible. During this time, children's health monitoring was also carried out in the Miyove village (Gicumbi District) in the north.



At Umuco Mwiza School, its school nurse took charge of instructing students on washing hands and social distancing. She was also in charge of the morning body temperature screening for all students and staff at the school entrance. It was greatly appreciated by the faculty members in their busiest morning hours. The nurse also launched a school infirmary service, while conducting lectures on reproductive health.



■ Participating organizations: AMDA Headquarters (Japan), Think About Education in Rwanda, Okayama University, Nagasaki University

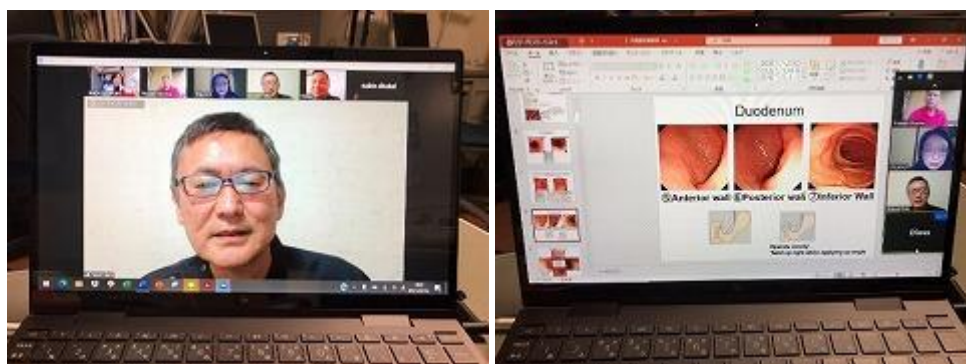
"AMDA started promoting the well-being of Rwandan children long before COVID-19 struck"

2. Health Development

Endoscopy training in Nepal

AMDA's technical transfer program on endoscopy in Nepal dates back to 2016 when an endoscopist from AMDA Damak Hospital received three-month training at Okayama Saiseikai General Hospital in Japan. It was held as part of Okayama Prefectural Government's International Contribution Project for Local-to-Local Technical Transfer initiative. This has led to frequent exchanges between Japan and Nepal. In 2018 and 2019, AMDA's endoscopy expert Dr. Takushi Sato was sent to AMDA Damak Hospital to provide technical guidance on upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and diagnosis of lesions.

The plan for 2020 was put off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, an online meeting was held with concerned parties on 14 February 2021.



Dr. Diwash, who received the training in Japan in 2016, reported on the current status of AMDA Damak Hospital. According to the doctor, the hospital has become a prominent institution for its endoscopy services in the region in which 355 endoscopies were performed in 2020. The cases included gastritis, esophagitis, gastric ulcers, esophageal varices, duodenal ulcers, and cancer.

Dr. Sato commended Dr. Diwash for successfully handling his work and gave technical guidance and instructions remotely during the web conference. The hospital is hoping for the earliest resumption of in-person endoscopy training after the COVID situation is contained.

Support for children with Down syndrome



AMDA Bangladesh Director Mr. Sarder A. Razzak has been supporting the children with Down syndrome and their parents for the last 10 years. This eventually led him to establish Down Syndrome Society of Bangladesh (DSSB). Its activities have grown into a national movement, followed by international accreditation in which his project was officially certified by an international body specializing in this field. The society is also conducting elementary vocational training for the children to experience the joy of self-realization.

■Participating organizations: Down Syndrome Society of Bangladesh (DSSB), AMDA Bangladesh

2. Health Development

Annual dental mission in Haiti

On 27 February 2021, AMDA Haiti held its annual dental checkup at Bethel Clinic, a Salvation Army hospital, in Fonds-des-Nègres, Haiti. Three staff members (two dentists and a nurse) including AMDA Haiti Chapter Chairperson Dr. Mac Keven Frederic saw 48 patients in total. Some of them were found to have caries and gum disease while others had their tooth extracted. "We did what we could in spite of the COVID-19 situation," Dr. Frederic said.



AMDA GPSP Hospitals

Japan Afghanistan Friendship Hospital (Afghanistan)



Headed by its chairperson and six other board members, AMDA Afghanistan has been running Japan Afghanistan Friendship Hospital in Kabul since 2011. The facility has contributed to providing quality medical services to the impoverished communities in the locality, while sending its doctors to Japan for professional training.

Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (Bangladesh)

Located in central Dhaka, Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) is currently one of Dhaka's leading hospitals with a capacity of 100 beds. With AMDA President Dr. Suganami's support, JBFH was founded in 1993 by the country's pioneer laparoscopic surgeon Dr. Sarder A. Nayeem (who later established AMDA Bangladesh) and pain specialist Dr. Jonaid Shafiq. Ever since, the hospital has been catering to a wide range of medical needs.



Japan Mongolia Friendship Hospital (Mongolia)

Established in August 2012, Japan Mongolia Friendship Hospital (JMFH) is the latest addition to the list of AMDA hospitals around the globe. While general medicine makes up 90% of medical needs at JMFH, it also runs a children's nursery in the same building. In the near future, the hospital is expected to function as a medical hub for local residents where, for instance, pregnant mothers can drop in for a prenatal health checkup or for children's vaccination. There is also a plan to have young doctors from Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences (MNUMS) stationed at the hospital for their practical training.



2. Health Development

AMDA Damak Hospital (Nepal)



AMDA Damak Hospital is a 75-bedded general hospital established in 1992 with the help of AMDA International and the Damak Municipality. In 1995, it became an implementing partner of UNHCR, and has served as a primary referral hospital for both local people and Bhutanese refugees in Nepal. AMDA Damak Hospital is now a popular hospital in the country's eastern region. The

hospital provides services pertaining to anaesthesiology, general medicine, surgery, obstetrics/gynaecology, radiology, paediatrics, ENT, dentistry, orthopaedics and others. It also accepts medical students from different countries to offer learning opportunities.

Siddhartha Children and Women's Hospital (Nepal)

Siddhartha Children and Women's Hospital is a 100-bedded specialty hospital for women and children. It is closely located to Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha. (The name "Siddhartha" is his childhood name.) AMDA Nepal set up this hospital after signing a partnership agreement with the Lumbini Municipal Government and the local chamber of commerce. The hospital also offers non-profit-based health care. The main hospital building was constructed with Japan's financial assistance.



AMDA Mechi Hospital (Nepal)

Located in the southeast of Nepal, AMDA Mechi Hospital was built on a land donated by a noble family who wished for better medical infrastructure in the region. The Embassy of Japan in Nepal and a few other donors also provided support. Now, AMDA Nepal is running the facility as a general hospital with a 15-bed capacity. The hospital is currently offering academic training for medical practitioners as well.



"AMDA hospitals are always committed to providing quality medical services to local communities."

3. Educational Support

Educational Support

AMDA Middle and High School Students Club

Founded in 1995 at AMDA Headquarters in Japan, AMDA Middle and High School Students Club is a student group that carries out a range of activities which include street fundraising and peace building programs both at home and abroad. The group holds a monthly meeting to discuss topics such as international cooperation and disaster prevention. Its members consist of secondary school students from Okayama and its neighbouring areas. In 2020, university students (including the former club members) established a college-student body to expand the activities.

1. Online exchange event with Bangladeshi students



Although most of the regular meetings in 2020 were held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the club managed to have a remote exchange event with Bangladeshi students entitled "Online Forum for World Peace from Bangladesh and Japan". Aiming at promoting peace, the event provided a meaningful opportunity for the students in knowing both nations' countermeasures against natural disasters. At the same time, students from both countries learned that although there are cultural, historical and geographical differences, it is a universal value to pay respect to each other and to hope for the realization of peaceful world.

2. Annual exchange meeting with students in Kochi, Japan



Since 2017, the club has held an annual exchange meeting with junior high school and high school students from Kuroshio Town in Kochi, Japan. To prevent the COVID-19 infections, the meeting this year was held online which is usually held in person. In light of frequent natural calamities, the main topic was about disaster prevention.

3. Educational Support

The meeting was attended by those who served in humanitarian activities including a nurse who participated in AMDA's 2020 Kumamoto flood-disaster relief. She stressed the need for junior and senior high school students to think voluntarily about precautionary measures on their own. In this regard, students from Kochi reported on their respective activities. It is hoped that all participants will continue to exchange ideas face to face, or through social networking sites and other means.

AMDA President to hold online meeting with AMSA Japan

On 29 September, AMDA President Dr. Shigeru Suganami held an online meeting with the members of AMSA Japan to explain what prompted him to establish AMSA, an association of Asian medical students, in the days of his youth.

AMSA (Asian Medical Students' Association) is an organization of medical students founded by Dr. Suganami and his allies in 1980 with the aim of uplifting health and medicine in the Asia region.



The meeting began by an icebreaker, followed by Dr. Suganami's story of the dawn of the student body. In the late 60s, he set off to explore the world after taking a year-leave from university. At age 22, he backpacked across Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Iran, Kuwait and Laos to see the reality of medicine in each of his destinations. "This first-hand experience has formulated emergency relief and other activities of AMDA," he said. He shared his unique views which were nurtured in his four decades of career in the humanitarian sector.

Filled with Dr. Suganami's enthusiasm, a 90-minute meeting ended fervently. "I could feel that everybody was engrossed in Dr. Suganami's stories. The fact that he asked questions to the audience during his talk made it more enjoyable," AMSA Japan President Mr. Hideaki Miyai said. "Zoom (an online meeting platform) brought us much closer, and that was rather nice," he commented.

Kodomo Shokudo Support Platform



Literally translated as "children's cafeteria", *kodomo shokudo* is a voluntary-run canteen that offers nutritional meals at a reasonable cost for economically-challenged children in Japan. While similar facilities have been set up around the nation to tackle poverty, AMDA has been donating funds and food items to a few canteens in the suburbs of Okayama, Japan, since December 2017.

In Okayama alone, it is said that there are 40 or so facilities that are established for similar purposes. Aside from providing food items and funds, AMDA is organizing excursions and volunteering activities for children and their parents to support children's healthy growth.

3. Educational Support

However, COVID-19 had a tremendous effect on the operation of the facilities. A staff who works for one of the cafeterias said, “We had no choice but to suspend our usual service. Instead of making meals for our users, we ask them to come and pick up foodstuffs at the door.” In getting over the current crisis, all of the cafeterias have been using ingenuity to support people in need.



As part of the assistance, AMDA also donated children's underwear to two cafeterias to be distributed to the users' families. The donation was realized thanks to Japan's leading garment manufacturer Gunze which has been an avid supporter of AMDA's activities. The company has made similar contributions in the past in which it supplied its products to poor families in India as well as to the natural disaster victims in Japan.

Suganami Scholarship

For many years, AMDA has supported students in challenging situations. Until now, beneficiaries of AMDA's scholarship programs have been mainly those who wish to pursue a medical career. In the GPSP framework, AMDA encourages its international chapters and concerned parties to establish their own scholarship programs.

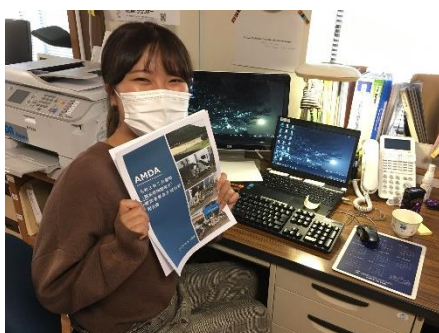
Suganami Scholarship was originally established in 2004 for capable young medical and nursing students around the world who are in need of financial assistance. Later on, the scholarship started to include students who wish to choose non-medical professions as well.



Dr. Suganami and Suganami Scholarship recipients

In Mongolia, the scholarship has been given to students at Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences (MNUMS) since 2009. Up until 2019, a total of 4,169,716 JPY has been provided to promising medical students who are in need of financial assistance.

Student internship



Every year, AMDA Headquarters in Japan accepts student interns to let them experience what it is like to work at a humanitarian NGO. The interns are often asked to take part in various events aside from clerical work at the office. In 2020, two college students, Miss Saki Michihiro (left) and Miss Aiko Shinomiya (right), spent over a month engaging themselves in

3. Educational Support

AMDA's daily work. Although telecommuting was necessary in some instances because of the COVID-19 pandemic, both worked hard to promote AMDA's activities through making pamphlets, participating in an exhibition or posting articles on social media sites.

AMDA Award presented to students in Bodhgaya, India



On 25 December 2020, AMDA Award was presented to 10 students from Bodhgaya's Jeanamitabh Free Boarding School in Bihar which is known to be India's most impoverished state. The school houses around 120 children from marginalized communities whose average household income is said to be 4,000 to 5,000 rupees per month.

each winner a trophy and 500-rupee bursary. The recipients will make use of the sum for purchasing stationery and other school items.

"We chose 10 best students from twelfth grade, the final grade, who are from poor communities. They not only excel academically but also attend classes very seriously, both of which are what it takes to be model students. The children themselves are very happy to receive the award and I am sure it was a huge encouragement for them. As of now, every child from pre-school age to fifth grade in primary school has been forced to learn at home due to COVID-19. In our school, we try to cater to their educational needs by offering online classes, or mobile lectures



where we actually get to visit their neighborhood and provide in-person lessons. Whereas, children from sixth grade to twelfth grade have been allowed to come to school and take regular classes for the time being. For the award winners, I want them to continue working hard to achieve their goals even though times are tough," Jeanamitabh School Secretary General Mr. Anand Vikram said.



AMDA first collaborated with the school in 2018 when it carried out a clothing distribution effort to provide used garments to local people in Bodhgaya. In addition, Mr. Vikram introduced AMDA to Bodhgaya Rotary Club at the time of helmet donation drives in 2018 and 2019 which were held as part of its local road safety initiative. All of such tie-ups led to launching AMDA Award in helping the students who are working hard amid the COVID-19 crisis.

3. Educational Support

[Letter from an AMDA Award winner]

"I hope that you are all happy in your county with your family. I study at Jeanamitabh Free Boarding School since my childhood from class one to tenth and now I am in twelfth class at Sanjay Singh Yadav College. Without the help from Jeanamitabh Free Boarding School, it was very difficult for me to attend the college since my family income is low. I am really happy that I got this chance to be part of this beautiful school.

I feel proud to receive this AMDA award. With your 500-rupee bursary, I went and purchased an examination book. I want to be an air hostess in the future. Thank you very much. I wait for your visit to our boarding school to welcome you. Until then, please stay safe."



4. Livelihood Assistance

Livelihood Assistance

Organic farming: AMDA Malino Farm (Indonesia)



Although the daily tally of the COVID-19 cases had been skyrocketing in Indonesia throughout 2020, AMDA Malino Farm in Sulawesi remained strong in producing organic agricultural produce. The farm endured the first year of growing crops in the face of the novel coronavirus, and the production and sales of its traditionally-grown red rice, which the farmers have been keenly cultivating for the last few years, have finally started to take off. Seeing the growth in its sales, several new farmers are expected to join the project in 2021.

While the project had to maneuver its way at the beginning of the infectious outbreak, the communication between AMDA Headquarters in Japan and the Malino farm had been interrupted between the months of August and December 2020. Even though the situations were tough, the local farmers in Malino had done their best to take care of their fields and kept their work going humbly and thoroughly. The activity records being kept from January 2021 and onward simply prove the fact that the project administration has been back on the right track ever since.



The 2nd Vietnam-Japan International Symposium

Medical Platform for the Global Community (AMDA's affiliated organization) urgently held a symposium on 29 March 2021 to extend support to a number of Vietnamese interns in Japan who had lost their jobs and fell into economic hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis. The event was second of its kind which was aimed at discussing issues and topics surrounding Vietnamese trainees. As a result, all 41 participants from various local sectors unanimously agreed to support the interns persevering through a difficult time. The initial symposium was held in February 2019 to discuss treatment surrounding Vietnamese interns whose right and dignity as workers have often been questioned.



AMDA's GPSP Concept



In 2014, AMDA established a concept of global network named, “Global Partnership for Sustainable Peace” (GPSP). The aim of this network is coexistence of diversity which is virtually indispensable for world peace. Under this concept, programs have been developed beyond borders with the philosophy of *Open Sogo-Fujo* (which literally means “mutual support/help” in Japanese), the universal value of the 21st century, as its main theme. The framework consists of four fields of activities, namely, 1) peace building, 2) health development, 3) educational support, and 4) livelihood assistance.

AMDA defines peace as “today’s family life with hope for a better tomorrow.” “Today’s family life” symbolizes a healthy family condition where one has sufficient food to maintain a decent living. The phrase, “hope for a better tomorrow” points to providing education to children. The said four fields of GPSP activities have been set to abate conflict, disaster, and poverty, all of which are considered hindrances to realizing peace.

By involving governments, local public authorities, public interest groups, corporate enterprises, and academia, AMDA hopes to enlighten the world with the concept of *Open Sogo-Fujo* to realize coexistence of diversity. This is the end goal of Global Partnership for Sustainable Peace.

GPSP’s three core values

1. **Partnership:** the natural feeling of mutual trust and respect attained through working together to overcome difficulties
2. **Open Sogo-Fujo:** expanding the concept of *Sogo-Fujo* (mutual assistance) into a universal value. It promotes mutual assistance across and beyond one’s own community, regardless of race, religion or culture
3. **Local Initiative:** maintaining the utmost respect for each and every community’s values and culture

Sogo-Fujo is a cycle of giving and receiving, a traditional value deeply rooted in the Japanese close-knit community life.

International Network of 32 chapters and over 100 collaborating organizations around the world



AMDA International Chapters

Afghanistan	Indonesia	Serbia
Albania	Kazakhstan	Singapore
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Korea	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	Kosovo	Sudan
Bolivia	Malaysia	Taiwan
Cambodia	Mongolia	Uganda
Canada	Nepal	Vietnam
Colombia	New Zealand	Zambia
Guyana	Pakistan	
Haiti	Peru	
Honduras	Philippines	
India	Sakha Republic	

AMDA Group (Japan)

AMDA MINDS, AMDA International Medical Information Center, AMDA Organization for Global Assistance and Relief, AMDA Hyogo, AMDA Okinawa Chapter, AMDA Kanagawa Chapter, AMDA Kamakura Club, AMDA Kochi Club, AMDA Fukuyama Club, AMDA Tamano Club, AMDA Otsuchi Club, AMDA Kobe Women's University Club, AMDA Takehara Club, AMDA Middle and High School Students Club

Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA)

3-31-1 Ifukuchou, Kitaku, Okayama City, Okayama
700-0013 Japan

Tel: +81-86-252-6051/ Fax: +81-86-252-7717

<https://en.amda.or.jp/>

amda_info1984@amdainternational.com