

# The 17<sup>th</sup> WFC Biennial Congress & Assembly Japan Country Report

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Hello everyone. My name is Simon Takayanagi, President of the Japanese Association of Chiropractors.

The Japanese Association of Chiropractors is the only organization in Japan consisting of chiropractors who meet the WHO-standard and has about 400 members. Since there are no legislation covering the chiropractic profession in Japan, it is estimated that there are about 20,000 individuals who claim to practice chiropractic. Among them, approximately only 800 meet the WHO-standard.

The main objectives of our association are (1) standardizing clinical practice based on evidence and code of ethics, (2) starting a WHO-standardized education at universities in Japan, and (3) promoting research projects ran by the Japanese Society of Chiropractic Science which is established under our association.

Until last year, Tokyo College of Chiropractic existed as the only CCEA accredited school, however it was closed after 27 years of its history. Our association is currently seeking partnerships with universities interested in offering internationally accredited chiropractic education in Japan.

Due to the increase of treatment accidents related to chiropractic and manual therapies, our association is working closely with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare to promote safety and advertising guidelines. During the COVID pandemic, we worked with the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and issued infection control guidelines for chiropractors under the supervision of a professor from the department of infection control and prevention.

Furthermore, to regulate 20,000 chiropractors, the Japan Chiropractic Registration Organization, an independent voluntary registration organization, has implemented a registration renewal system and registration examination for chiropractors who have completed the WHO-standardized education and those who have completed a certain level of education in Japan. The registration examination is offered in cooperation with the International Board of Chiropractic Examinations (IBCE).

The Japan Chiropractic Register (JCR) is a self-regulated organization that administrates the registration exam provided by the International Board of Chiropractic Examiners (IBCE). It

also regularly submits the list of JCR registrants to the Director of the Medical Professions Division of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). Since this year, the JCR has implemented a registration renewal system and expanded the registration requirements to not only WHO-standardized chiropractors but also those who have completed a certain level of education in Japan. Currently 608 people are registered by the JCR.

Unfortunately, the 2021 WFC World Congress planned for Tokyo has been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Our hope is that the second WFC World Congress, after 1997, will be held in 2027 or later in order to promote the chiropractic profession in Japan. On behalf of our association, I would like to welcome you all to Tokyo again!

Prepared and presented by Dr Simon Takayanagi