

# Editorial

## Workplace Health Promotion

This special issue is composed of a refereed selection of papers presented at the First Asia-Pacific Conference on Health Promotion and Education with the main theme “Asia-Pacific Perspectives and Evidence on Health Promotion and Education: Sharing Experiences, Efforts, and Evidence” held in July 2009 in Chiba, Japan.

Globalization, industrialization, and information technology have caused many health problems from lifestyle-related disease to mental health issues at workplaces<sup>1)</sup>. To cope with these health issues, workplace health promotion and health education are desperately needed. To convince employers to invest in health promotion and health education programs, it is necessary to show evidence of the effectiveness of such programs. Such evidence has been accumulated in recent years, but most such evidence is developed in the US and European countries<sup>2)</sup>. There are big differences between Western and Asia-Pacific countries with regard to social, economic, and cultural environment. If we want to improve the health status of workers in our region, we need programs specific to the Asia-Pacific region. We must produce and accumulate our own evidence based on Asia Pacific perspectives.

We are happy to present readers four original articles,

one review article and one case study which reflect the changing horizon of occupational health. They cover a wide range of topics: from prevention of occupational disease to that of life-style related disease and mental health, from epidemiology to health promotion, and from non-economic evaluation to economic evaluation. We believe that these articles, in its respective manner, add new knowledge to occupational health.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Industrial Health for permitting the publication of this special edition, to all distinguished authors for submitting their papers to this issue, and to all reviewers for their support in referee reading.

### References

- 1) Higashi T, Inui S (2006) Future challenges of occupational health services (OHS) in a changing working world. In: Evidence-based occupational health, Muto T, Higashi T, Verbeek J (Eds.), 31–4, Elsevier, Amsterdam.
- 2) Pelletier KR (2009) A review and analysis of the clinical and cost-effectiveness studies of comprehensive health promotion and disease management programs at the worksite: update VII 2004–2008. J Occup Environ Med 51, 822–37.

### Editors of Special Issue

**Takashi MUTO**, MD, PhD

*Dokkyo Medical University, Japan*

**Toshiaki HIGASHI**, MD, PhD

*University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan*