

The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Hew Coop Japan

The numbers of covid-19 patients has exceeded 400,000 in Japan. The first case was reported on 16th January 2020 in Japan. The Japanese Health and Welfare Cooperative Federation (Hew Coop Japan) set up the countermeasures headquarters on 19th February 2020.

The covid-19 has spread in mainly urban areas, where many Japanese health cooperatives are based. The pandemic has caused serious health and social problems on vulnerable people. Many clinics and hospitals in the Hew Coop Japan are providing free medical care for the poor people. 17 cooperatives treated the covid-19 patients and 81 clinics and hospitals launched the out-patient department for fever.

The numbers of out-patients has decreased due to refraining from consultation. The labour and cost for the infection prevention is enormous. Many cooperatives are facing financial difficulties for above the two reasons. Two thirds of health cooperatives have an emergency loan.

The members of cooperatives made hundreds of thousands of prevention aprons and masks those were provided to the healthcare facilities and communities free of charge. The cooperative dispatched nurses to the hospital with reduced nursing ability due to the nosocomial infection. As a cooperative cooperation, We received many infection prevention products donated from the Consumers` Cooperative Union and the National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance.

Our hospitals and clinics are contributing to treating and diagnosing the patients with corona, and preparing the covid-19 vaccination. The most important objective of the Hew Coop Japan is spreading the right knowledge of the covid-19 prevention to the members in the area. I hope cooperatives all over the world overcome the pandemic.

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