Contribution to implementation of the “WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol”

1. To develop/strengthen national monitoring systems for alcohol consumption, alcohol-related harm, and policy responses in Japan that are consistent with WHO global and regional information systems.
2. To develop and implement effective screening and brief intervention methods and procedures to reduce harmful alcohol use in Japan.
3. To play a central role in collaborating with the National Police Agency and the Ministry of Justice in planning and implementing education, counselling, and treatment programs for drinking-and-driving offenders in Japan.
4. To prepare a literature review examining biological markers of alcohol consumption and heavy drinking and their use in health care settings.
5. To provide technical contributions to WHO meetings and conferences on alcohol and health.

Our center hosted the 16th annual meeting of International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) on 2-6 October 2014 at Yokohama, Japan. 447 scientists from 47 countries participated the meeting.

To perform field trials and other relevant studies related to the proposed section on substance use disorders and addiction behaviors of the ICD-11 in Japan.

The center will cooperate with WHO to perform surveys and field studies related to the proposed section on substance use disorders and addiction behaviours of the ICD-11 in Japan according to WHO protocols and in coordination with Dr. Toshimasa Maruta, Tokyo Medical University. The center will survey relevant Japanese health care professionals and will contribute to the collection of advice and opinions regarding the revision of the mental and behavioural disorders chapter of the ICD from Japanese psychiatrists, other mental health professionals and primary care workers.

In conjunction with WHO, we held a 3-day International conference for Internet Addiction (IA) issues on 27-29 August 2014. Experts of the field of clinical and research actively discussed over the issue of IA. Whether IA should be included in ICD-11 was one of the focus of this meeting. The working group concerning to this issue will be organized in WHO for the purpose of successive and intensive discussion.

Literature review and draft recommendations for post-disaster psychosocial interventions to prevent alcohol-related harm

Our Center will review scientific articles concerning the association between disaster and alcohol consumption as well as alcohol use disorders and will conduct field research on alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harm in earthquake- and tsunami-stricken areas in the northern part of Japan. The Center will also draft recommendations regarding post-disaster psychosocial interventions to prevent alcohol-related harm to be considered by WHO.

We sent mental health care team to the disaster-hit area for 1 year after the East Japan earthquake. We also conducted the field research to clarify the effect of the disaster on the status of alcohol-related problems and other drug addictions.

To build the capacities of health professionals in developing countries so as to reduce alcohol-related harm under the supervision of the WPRO.

Under the supervision of the WPRO, the Center will host training seminars for health professionals in developing countries regarding the early identification and use of interventions for alcohol-related problems. The seminars will be held at either the Center or at satellite seminars of the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR). In the latter case, the seminar will be hosted by the Center in collaboration with the local organizing committee of the APSAAR meeting. In addition, the Center will accept health care professional trainees from developing countries.