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On the Publication of our Newsletter

To mark the thirteenth year since its founding, Child Research Net (CRN) has renewed its website and inaugurated this newsletter. On this occasion, we invite all our friends and visitors to our website to join us in our activities and interests to improve the lives of children.

CRN's beginnings date back to the international conference in 1992 held by the Norwegian Center for Child Research in Bergen. After the conference, delegates from all the represented nations met unofficially to discuss issues facing children in the twenty-first century. It was there that we decided to use the Internet to bring together scholars, researchers, and professionals in child-related fields for further cooperation and communication.

After my retirement from the National Children's Hospital in 1996, I approached Mr. Soichiro Fukutake, Chairman of Benesse Corporation, who was then president, about responding to this international trend. CRN was thus launched as an independent cyber-research institute separate from the company's business activities. Starting with Japanese- and English-language websites, we added the Chinese-language site in 2005 and now make research and information available in these three languages.

The aims of CRN can be summed up by what we call "Child Science." In the twentieth century, research on children's issues in various fields made great strides, but as you know, when it comes to solving problems, much still remains to be done. In the 1980s, the move to integrate these different fields of study under the rubric of "Child Research" began in Scandinavia, and in the 1990s, this gave rise in England to what is called "Child Studies." This was an attempt to research and solve child-related issues from comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and trans-disciplinary perspectives. In Japan, we have named this approach "Child Science." It is a "human biology" in that it treats both the biological and social aspects of human beings and can be considered an area of "human science" that devotes itself to the study of children.

Based on this academic approach, CRN provides an internet forum for dialogue among experts, professionals, and researchers who are concerned about children, and of course, includes parents, and when possible, children themselves. We study issues from the perspectives of Child Science and share the findings on our CRN website. In this way, we aim to do our part to make the 21st century the "century of the child."

We look forward to communicating and working with you to achieve this goal.



小林 登

Noboru Kobayashi

Director
Child Research Net (CRN)

What is Child Research Net(CRN)?

- CRN is an Internet-based child research institute. Our research
- adopts an interdisciplinary point of view on all issues regarding children,
- one which we call *Kodomogaku* in Japanese or Child Science. Our
- focus is solving the problems of children, via our online network
- or by holding lectures, symposia, and playshops to exchange
- academic views with researchers and educators around the world.

Activity Report 2007-2008

1 The Child Science Research Program in East Asia

The Child Science Research Program in East Asia was launched in November 2007. The first Japan-China Conference on Child Science held its opening ceremony in China in November 2007, followed by a second conference in Japan in April 2008.

■Report of the Second East Asia Child Science Conference (April 19-20, 2008 Ochanomizu University)

★Child Growth and Development and the Daily Life Environment—Approaches of Child Science

Noboru Kobayashi (Director, Child Research Net; Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo), Jiaxiong Zhu (Professor, East China Normal University), Jinliang Qin (Head, Hangzhou College of Preschool Teacher Education, Zhejiang Normal University), Shaowen Huang (Associate Professor, Changsha Normal College), Nobuko Uchida (Vice-president, Ochanomizu University), Yoichi Sakakihara (Professor, Ochanomizu University), Toshiya Yamamoto (Professor, Waseda University), Mikako Sutou (Fellow Researcher, Ochanomizu University), Mariko Ichimi (Senior Researcher, National Institute for Educational Policy Research), Nobuo Isshiki (Professor, Konan Women's University) *Listed in the presentation order



The Second East Asia Child Science Conference was held on April 19-20, hosted by Child Research Net (CRN) and G-COE of Ochanomizu University, and co-hosted by the Benesse Institute for Child Science and Parenting.

The subject of the conference was "Approaches of Child Science to Child Growth and Development and the Daily Life Environment." More than 200 participants attended the two-day conference.

The first day opened with an address by Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, Director of CRN. This was followed by a keynote address by Professor Jiaxiong Zhu of East China Normal University with the Chinese perspective on "The Little Emperor's Tears," a recently aired TV program on China's only children. His lecture aroused much attention. In addition, Professor Jinliang Qin of Zhejiang Normal University and Professor Shaowen Huang of Changsha Normal College also gave presentations.

On the second day, Professor Toshiya Yamamoto of Waseda University gave a presentation entitled "The culture of child development viewed from a comparison of Japan and China." Mikako Sutou, Fellow Researcher of Ochanomizu University, gave a presentation on "Approaches to perception of the child, development and education in Japan and China." Mariko Ichimi, Senior Researcher of National Institute for Educational Policy Research, gave a presentation entitled "Sketch of the

history of relations and comparison between Japan and China in preschool education." Many interesting historical materials, which recorded comparative studies of culture and child care in Japan and China and the history of perception of the child in China, were introduced.

Each day ended with a symposium of presenters from China and Japan and deeper discussion. We hope that sharing the viewpoint of "Child Science" will further exchanges among researchers in Japan and China.



Outline of "Child Science Research Program in East Asia"

Purpose: The program aims to foster and globalize Child Science through mutual exchange and lectures between universities in Japan and China regarding child rearing, child-care, and early childhood education. It promotes academic activities that contribute to solving the problems of children and hopes to nurture and improve the environment in which children are brought up.

Organizers: Child Research Net, East China Normal University

Sponsors: Benesse Corporation, Benesse Institute for the Child Sciences and Parenting

Supporters: Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Japan, Japanese Society of Child Science, Japanese Society of Baby Science, Intercultural Education Society of Japan, Educational Exchange Conference between Japan and China

Secretariat: Child Research Net, c/o Benesse Corporation, 16F Jinbocho Mitsui Building, 1-105 Kanda Jinbocho, Chiyoda ku, Tokyo 101-8685 Japan

■Opening Ceremony and First Session

The opening ceremony was held on November 12, 2007 at the East China Normal University in Shanghai and the first session was held on November 13 and 14 at the Changsha Normal College.

★Opening Ceremony

On November 12, 2007, the East Asia Child Science Research Program hosted a splendid opening ceremony at East China Normal University in Shanghai. Dr. Jiaxiong Zhu, Director of Institute of Early Childhood Education, East China Normal University and Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, Director, CRN, pledged to cooperate in advancing a sustainable program in Child Science.



★Lecture and Early Child Education Exhibition in Changsha

Noboru Kobayashi (Director, CRN, and Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo), Chihito Tada (Director, Tokyo Toy Museum), Jiaxiong Zhu (Professor, East China Normal University), Tokio Anme (Professor, University of Tsukuba),

and Yoichi Sakakihara (Professor, Ochanomizu University).

* Listed in the presentation order

Japanese Early Childhood Education Exhibition and intensive seminar were held at Changsha Normal College on November 13 and 14, 2007. From the viewpoint of "Child Science" and the particular approach of their respective field, each of the five professors gave a lecture about child rearing, child care and early childhood education on the themes of "brain science," "medicine," "child rearing," and "play."

The first day was attended by nearly 500 people concerned with early childhood education. In his lecture on the Child Science of emotion, which drew upon the knowledge of brain science, Dr. Kobayashi noted the importance of *joie de vivre* in children's physical and psychological development. Chinese professors in early childhood education voiced much support for the approach of Child Science which considers children's issues from an interdisciplinary and comprehensive perspective.

On the second day, about 200 people attended the seminar, in which professors from Japan combined lectures with hands-on practice and demonstrations. A concurrent exhibition on Japanese early childhood education was a timely introduction to the history of Japanese early childhood education and Japanese-made toys.

2 International Symposium marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of CRN

★Children in Societies with a Declining Birthrate: The Case of East Asian Countries

Kenzaburo Oe (Novelist), Yu Wei (Professor, Southeast University, China), Yoichi Sakakihara (Professor, Ochanomizu University), Keun Lee (Professor, Ewha Women's University, Korea), Jung Han Park (Professor, Catholic University of Daegu, Korea), Nianli Zhou (Associate Professor, East China Normal University, China), Masafumi Harada (Professor, Osaka University of Human Science) * Listed in the presentation order

On February 3, 2007, we held our International Symposium marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of CRN at the U Thant Conference Hall, UN House, United Nations University. The theme of the symposium was "Children in Societies with a Declining Birthrate: The Case of East Asian Countries." Researchers from China, South Korea, and Japan discussed child development and the environment for rearing children based on the current situation in societies with a declining birthrate.

In the morning session, Kenzaburo Oe, Nobel Laureate in Literature, gave a special lecture on "Children: A Model of the Human Future." This was followed by a keynote address by Dr. Yu Wei, Professor of Southeast University, China, and former vice-minister of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. She spoke on "How to Cultivate the Children's Social Emotional Competence

with the Support of Neuroscience."

In the afternoon session, a discussion panel was held regarding "The Declining Birthrate as a Social Phenomenon Affecting Children: Research in Japan, China, and South Korea" with participation of researchers from China, South Korea and Japan. Each panelist expressed his/her views on the current



downward trend in the birthrate, factual backgrounds, and other problems from a child's point of view.

For further details about the International Symposium 2007, please see our website:

<http://www.childresearch.net/RESOURCE/PRESEN/2007/SYMP0/index.html>

3 Our Japanese Website Renewed!

On March 2008, CRN made a fresh start with its renewed website. With simple navigation, it is designed to enhance the search capability of archives, making it much easier to access information.

Let us introduce our redesigned Japanese website!



Visit Laboratory

Visit the "Laboratory" and read interviews, dialogues, articles, etc. by researchers and educators from various fields on the results of their study of Child Science.

Research themes include children and media, doulas, infant and child studies, social skill training (SST).

Read Papers and Reports

This section features papers and reports written by researchers on children's issues.

Current serial articles: "Mind Records," "Physical Therapy Treatment on Children," "Upgrading Skills of Teachers Saves Drop-outs," etc.

Find Research Data

On this section, you can find results of child rearing and education surveys.

Recent updates: "The Fourth Basic Survey on School Curriculum (published in 2008)"

Find Events

On this section, you can find all featured, upcoming, and past events on children's issues.

CRN will make the utmost effort to improve the usability and information content of its website, aiming to offer richer, more user-friendly features. We greatly appreciate your understanding and continued support.

4 Strengthening Our International Network!

CRN intends to strengthen its network for international research collaboration and information exchange on children's issues, mainly through its English and Chinese websites.

In Chinese-speaking countries, we have established the Child Science Research Program in East Asia as mentioned above, thus laying the foundation for child research, cooperating with research institutes and researchers in China.

The George Lucas Education Foundation website and magazine, edutopia, features CRN, along with

Director Kobayashi, for achievements and activities in Child Science. CRN is introduced as the leading institute in Japan and one of the world's major organizations working on children's issues.

(<http://www.edutopia.org/global-education-japan-research-net>).



5 Access Report

page views from April 2007 - March 2008

Japanese website : 6,367,243pv
 English website : 1,586,157pv
 Chinese website : 702,878pv

The Japanese Society of Child Science

<http://www.childresearch.net/KODOMOGAKU/index.html>

The 4th Annual Child Science Conference

Theme: "Children, Evolution, and Brain Science: The Life Sciences and Child Science"
 Chairperson: Professor Juko Ando, Keio University
 Date: September 15 and 16, 2007
 Venue: Mita campus of Keio University

Day 1

Day 1 began with a keynote speech on "The Uniqueness of Human Children from the Perspective of Evolution" by Professor Mariko Hasegawa (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies). Then, she was joined by Professor Yoichi Sakakihara (Ochanomizu University), Professor Osamu Sakura (The University of Tokyo), and Professor Juko Ando, and initiated a panel discussion entitled "On Charles Darwin."



Day 2

On Day 2, Dr. Hideaki Koizumi (Fellow Director, The Hitachi, Ltd.), delivered the keynote speech on "Children's Education from the Perspective of Brain Science." This was followed by Symposium 2 entitled "Science for Children in Crisis," on problems related to the effect of the environment on child-rearing. After this symposium, Professor Takao Takahashi (Keio University) gave a lecture on "The Development of the Child's Brain through Heredity and the Environment," then Professor Juko Ando on "What Twins Reveal about the Formative Processes of the Brain and Behavior."

The Japanese Society of Baby Science

<http://www.childresearch.net/BABY/index.html>

The 7th Annual Meeting

Theme: "How Can Babies Benefit from Baby Studies?"
 Chairperson: Professor Yoko Shimura, Saitama University
 Date: June 30 and July 1, 2007
 Location: Omiya Sonic City Hall, Saitama-city, Saitama

Day 1

Symposium 1 was held under the theme "What Stimulates Infant's Language and Communication: Baby Talk and Music" with researchers discussion focused on the communication activities of infants. Further, an educational lecture entitled "Application of Methods Used for Study of Chimpanzees to Those of Babies" was given by Professor Tetsuro Matsuzawa (Director of Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University). In Symposium 2, there was a panel discussion on the theme of "What Are Benefits of Brain Study for Babies?"

Day 2

The theme of Symposium 3 was "What Child-Care is Required by Babies?" The symposium was organized by Professor Yoichi Sakakihara (Ochanomizu University) and Sizuko Matsunaga (Teacher of Arai Nursery School, Nakano-ku), and participating panelists were Professor Toshiyuki Shiomi (Shiraume Gakuen University), Professor Masami Ohinata (Keisen University), and Nobuko Hibari (Representative of CHAO, an NPO Child-Rearing Supporter Institute). This group of panelists discussed the current conditions of child-care.

In addition, the Japanese Society of Baby Science hosted "The 6th Baby Science International Symposium" and "The 6th Public Symposium" in 2007 under the theme of "Baby and Music," inviting overseas professionals to Japan: Professor Sandra Trehub, University of Toronto, Canada, and Professor Jayne Standley, Florida State University.

Both the Japanese Society of Child Science and the Japanese Society of Baby Science are academic societies for interdisciplinary studies of child development and the environment in which children grow. They are not based on one particular field of study; member researchers and specialists work on biology-related or cognitive science-related studies that draw on brain neurochemistry, genetics, evolutionary biology, primatology, and robotics, areas that can be linked with each other and also with other various study areas.

Although, as previously stated, human sciences have lacked a cultural or societal perspective, scientists today now apply a comprehensive understanding to the study of human beings that includes mental and emotional aspects. In this sense, the study of children can also be expected to reflect this significant shift in the future.

In the meantime, we should realize that children are our (adults') partners, and together we are living and creating a future society. This should make us more aware of the necessity to improve the environment in which children grow and develop. We need to continue basic studies that will support them in daily life. In the years ahead, the Japanese Society of Child Science and the Japanese Society of Baby Science will focus on promoting basic studies of children and their environment.

Website Highlights

English Website <http://www.childresearch.net/>



Our English website is a hub for transmitting and collecting information. Recognizing that most children's issues are common to all countries and regions, we can share and tackle these problems across international borders. Visit our English website to find reports and articles by researchers inside and outside Japan and CRN Advisory Board Members. The site also offers quality information on symposia and lectures, updated research data, etc.



Monthly Articles on Children

Articles by CRN staff, researchers, and child care professionals. The topics vary from the current controversial issues to reports on lectures regarding children from various standpoints.

Data

Child rearing and education surveys conducted by the research institutes of Benesse Corporation offer the latest information on children. These include the First Time Parenting survey that covers the actual conditions of pregnancy and delivery, along with attitudes and awareness of parenting in Japan and "Basic Research on Academic Performance: an international survey of attitudes toward study and actual learning of elementary school students in six cities (Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, Helsinki, London and Washington, D.C.)."

Research Papers

Database of reports from research institutes worldwide, open to everybody. Lewis P. Lipsitt, a Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Medical Science, and Human Development at Brown University [Title] Human Behavior Needs Credible Explanation: Minds Don't Snap (URL) <http://www.childresearch.net/RESOURCE/RESEARCH/2008/LIPSITT.HTM> Dr. Lipsitt proposes a theory that individuals who engage in horrendous acts of violence show several indications in their behaviors in advance, citing the graduate student shooting and deaths on the Northern Illinois University campus as an example. We recommend that you read this article.

Teens' Photo Project

Exhibition of photos taken by Japanese teenagers in their daily life. Photography can communicate aspects of teenage behaviour that escape surveys and research reports.

Join our English email magazine!

You can subscribe to our free monthly email magazine that will provide you with the latest updates on the CRN website including CRN Director's message and event information.

Japanese Website <http://www.crn.or.jp>



Our Japanese Website provides access to a complete documentation of CRN activities of the past 13 years, reports and articles by researchers and research institutes, various networks of related institutes, readers' opinions, etc. You will find it a unique community where you can read, exchange and communicate a broad range of interdisciplinary and international knowledge and information regarding children. This site is open to everybody free of charge. Please visit our website!

A variety of articles, including reports of symposia and lectures as well as articles and essays

Kenzaburo Oe (Writer, Nobel Laureate in Literature)
[Lecture] "Children: A Model of the Human Future" (Movie)
<http://www.crn.or.jp/LIBRARY/EVENT/sympo07/oe.html>
(Full Text)
<http://www.crn.or.jp/LIBRARY/EVENT/sympo07/lecture/oe/index.html>

This special lecture was given at our International Symposium marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of CRN.

13 Years of Research

Our web content is archived and open for everybody free of charge. When you want or need to know something about children, access our website to easily find what you are looking for.

Join Our Email Magazine! (Japanese version)

We deliver the "CRN News" on a monthly basis (irregularly) to provide the latest news on children. The email magazine contains information on lectures and study group meetings, up-to-date CRN news topics, questionnaires with a free gift, etc. Register and join our mailing list now!

<http://www.crn.net.cn/> Chinese Website

Our Chinese website is designed for readers who are interested in child-rearing, child care and education in China. This site provides information on children inside and outside Japan, China's approach to child-related issues, CRN activities, etc.

Vaccination

In China, mothers obtain a vaccination book instead of a maternal and child health handbook. There are many kinds of vaccinations and most of them are voluntary. This means that choosing the right vaccination is a constant source of worry for the mother. On this page, we provide mothers with basic knowledge and the latest information about vaccination; this is regularly updated.

Articles on Preschool Education

This section features academic articles published in the journal of the Chinese Society for Preschool Education Research. You will find current trends in early childhood education in China.

Infant Education in Other Countries

Up-to-date information on infant education in overseas and in Japan.

Counseling Room for Child Health

We offer counseling to help children grow up in good health. Here advice is given to parents who are worried about sickness, nutrition, etc., or having trouble with their child.

Join Our Email Magazine! (Chinese version)

Subscribe to our free biweekly email magazine that provides the latest CRN website updates and news on activities and events.



Future Activities

1 The 3rd Conference of the Child Science Research Program in East Asia

Date: October - November 2008

Venue: Nursery School of Zhejiang Normal University, China

At the second conference in April 2008, interesting discussions were held on child development and their formative environments. We expect to take this debate a step further this autumn in the third symposium. Details to follow on this website.

2 CRN websites in 3 languages, Japanese, English, and Chinese, updated biweekly

Each website is updated every two weeks. The monthly CRN email magazine delivers special topics. Sign up for our free email magazine now!

Please give us your ideas and feedback! (in Japanese only)

We would like your feedback on our newsletter. Please take a few moments to answer the online questionnaire at the top page (<http://www.crn.or.jp>) and submit it by **September 30, 2008**. In appreciation for your participation, you will be entered into a free drawing in which 100 people will be selected to receive a 500-yen gift certificate for books. (Present can only be sent in Japan.)

Post your article, report, or essay!

We would like more articles, reports, and essays from you. Please contact us at:
<http://www.childresearch.net/QUESTION/index.html?RESOURCE/index.html?no=1>

We will send you instructions on how to submit your article, and post it, if it meets our editorial standards. We await your participation.

Past activities

- 1996 Launched Japanese/English bilingual website Symposium "Children in Today's Multi-Media Society"
- 1997 Symposium "Children's Use of Multi-Media to Make Friends"
Dr. Jane Goodall visited and talked on "Chimpanzees and Natural Environment"
Dr. Jay Belsky visited and gave a speech "Message to Moms & Dads"
- 1998 International symposium "Augmented Childhood - Evolution of Child Development in the Multimedia Environment"
Dr. Jane Goodall talked on "Chimpanzees and the Natural Environment"
- 1999 Panel Discussion "Can Discipline Prevent Class Disruption?"
Playshop "CRN International Playshop99"
- 2000 Panel Discussion "Bringing Family and School Together"
Playshop "Feel the Media"
International symposium "Childrearing of 21st Century"
- 2001 Playshop "Winter's Tale - Let's Make a Playful Story", etc.
The research base "Nagayama Chi-kichi" was established (- 2002)
Sound Workshop (- 2003)
- 2002 Practical Training Seminar for Childcare Providers Hosted by CRN: "The Quality of Day Care for the Development of the Mind and Body"
Playshop "Let's Play in the Colorful Kingdom!", etc.
- 2003 Established the Research Groups on Child Science (- 2003)
Inaugurated the Japanese Society of Child Science Began "Media Kids Workshop" (- 2005)
- 2004 First Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science
Established Child Science Essay Contest
Visited child research institutes in China (Beijing, China)
- 2005 Launched Chinese-language website
Second Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science
At the invitation of Song Ching Ling Foundation, Dr. Kobayashi, Director of CRN, gave a speech (Shanghai, China)
- 2006 The subcommittee meeting held on the theme of "Nutrition Education" at the congress on children's health (Changchun, China).
Third Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science
Dr. Kobayashi, Director of CRN, presented a lecture at a symposium hosted by the Government of China (Shanghai, China)
- 2007 International Symposium "Children in Societies with a Declining Birthrate" marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of CRN
Fourth Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science
Opening of the First Child Science Research Program in East Asia (Shanghai, China)
Held Intensive Lecture and Child Education Exhibition of the First Child Science Research Program in East Asia (Changsha, China)
- 2008 Japanese website renewed
Intensive Lecture of the Second Child Science Research Program in East Asia (Tokyo, Japan)

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