



# **Professional Degree Education (MPH and DrPH) in Japan**

Mariko Inoue

Graduate School of Public Health

Teikyo University, Japan

# Images of Japanese Health System



Long  
Life  
Expectancy

Universal  
Health  
Insurance

Good  
Health  
Outcomes

# SPH Paradox



# Only five SPHs in Japan



Japan University Accreditation Association

Year            University  
                  (Students admitted to the MPH course per year)

2000            Kyoto University (34)\*

2001            Kyushu University (20?)  
                  Master of Health Administration

2007            University of Tokyo (30)

2011            Teikyo University (20)\*

.....  
2017            St. Luke's International University (25)\*



# MPH program schools (tentative)

Thirteen universities

Average number of admissions: 10

No regulation on translation in English

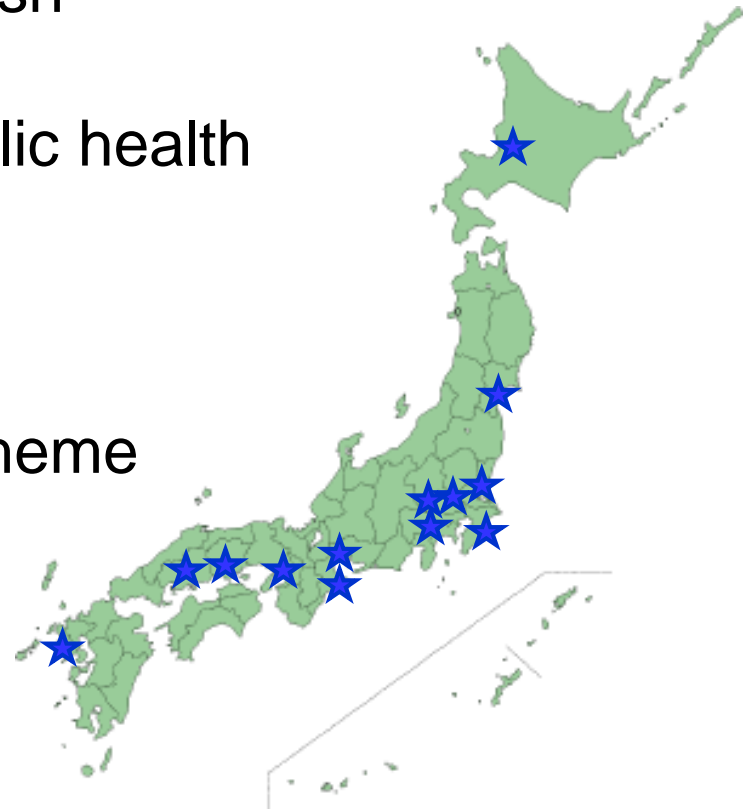
Degree in Japanese

Master of Medical Science in public health  
can be translated in English

Master of Public Health

No MPH programs accreditation scheme

Peer-reviewing accreditation trial  
will be started (is being planned).



# SPH Paradox



# Public Health Education in Japan until 2000

- ◆ Undergraduate education

Required courses to educate health professionals:

82 Schools of Medicine, 263 Schools of Nursing, among others.

→ National qualifying exam to obtain a license

- ◆ Graduate education available is only

- ◆ On-the-job training

- ◆ National Institute of Public Health

→ Certified Public Health Professionals (called MPH before)

**MPH & DrPH holders**  
= Persons who studied abroad

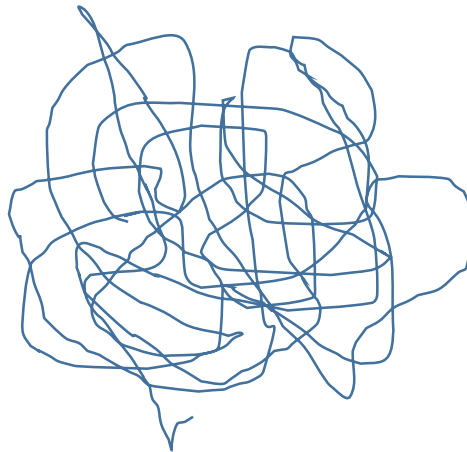
**License, writing papers, and nonacademic training**

# Summary: Challenges of public health education in Japan

1. Limited scope in public health education
  - One of the subjects for qualifying exam
  - Research-based PhD
  - Nonacademic practical trainings
2. Vicious circle
  - Low name recognition
  - No united understanding of MPH roles
  - Not accepted in the society well
3. Maintaining the quality of education for MPH degree
4. Current and future public health problems in Japan and the world

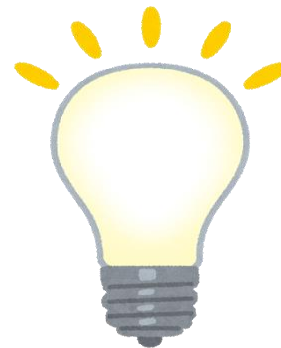
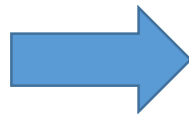


Issues regarding  
MPH education that needed to be  
resolved ...



# Bottom-up discussion on MPH education

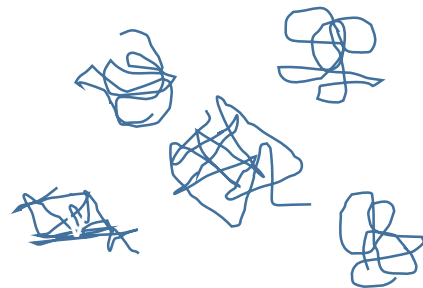
- 2010      5 SPHs ★  
Japanese Association of SPH  
(collaborated with Japan University  
Accreditation Association)
- 2015      5 SPH + 13 program ★ + ★  
Japanese SPH & Program Network



# Matters necessary for MPH were identified in Japan

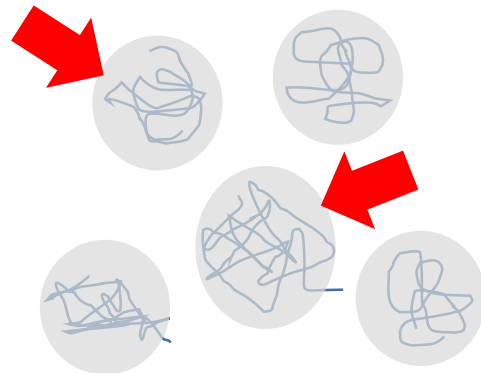


Before 2014



2015

Japanese SPH & Program Network  
- Identified topics that needed to be improved



Japanese SPH & Program Network  
Working groups  
2017-2019 - MPH Competency  
2019- - MPH course quality  
- Expanding (Marketing)

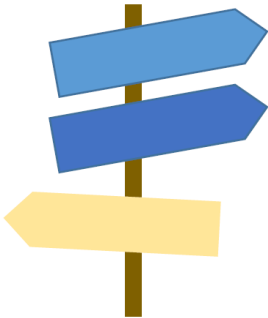
To be continued



# **MPH**

## **Made in Japan**

**(educated)**



What kind of ability, skills, and competencies are necessary for MPH holders in Japan?

# 1. Five core fields of public health

Epidemiology

Biostatistics

Health Policy &  
Management

Social and  
Behavioral  
Sciences

Environmental  
Health

## 2. Global Trend: Public Health Graduate Education



“Meet global standard”

(Ministry of Education (MEXT))

# 3. Competency for MPH in Japan



will be presented in  
October 2019.

Blank at first



# 3. Competency for MPH in Japan



will be presented in  
October 2019.

What kind of ability, skills, and competencies are necessary for MPH holders in Japan?



**MPH**  
**Made in Japan**  
**(educated)**

This is a huge faculty development process in Japanese SPH and program schools for MPH education.

This is for our society now and future with respecting the past achievement both in Japan and the world.

# Images of Japanese Health System



Long  
Life  
Expectancy

rapid  
ageing

disaster

Universal  
Health  
Insurance

disparity

Good  
Health  
Outcomes



# **Professional Degree Education (MPH and DrPH) in Japan**

Mariko Inoue

Graduate School of Public Health

Teikyo University, Japan