

For the Wider Dissemination of Sphere among Japanese practitioners: Implementation of ToT December 2023, Tokyo, Japan

Since 2011 East Japan earthquake, a turning point for the sector to actively engage in quality and accountability practice, main activity of Sphere Focal Point in Japan is regular provision of Sphere training for humanitarian and disaster responders. However, with less than a dozen active trainers involved in training/workshops and other advocacy activities, there was a need to bring in more individuals to hold more training as well as to widen the scope of outreach activities.

Under sponsorship from Japan Platform and advice from Sphere secretariat, we implemented a 4-day in-person ToT in Tokyo from December 5th to 8th, 2023. Trainer team was formed by three experienced trainers and had fourteen participants with various backgrounds.

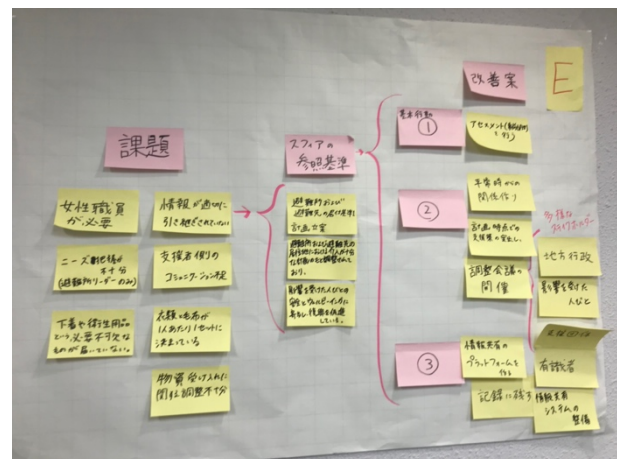
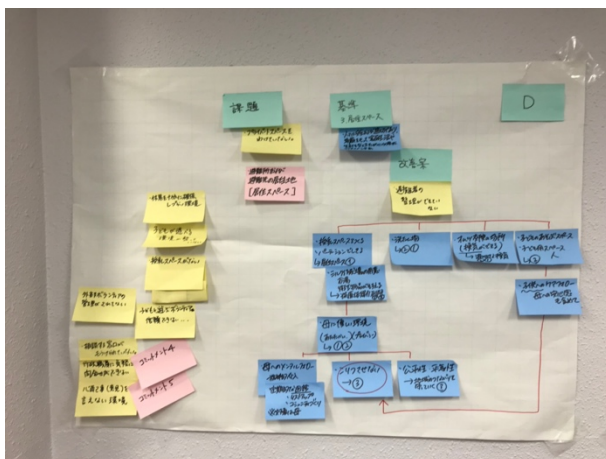


Also this training marked our first in-person training effort since the onset of COVID-19, and we took advantage of online (on-demand and real-time) and face-to-face training to enable busy participants to complete the rich program. The highlight was participants took part in delivering actual lectures or group work facilitation at 2-day Sphere Handbook training which was held in parallel.



ToT Contents included:

- Understanding International Standards I (Recap on historical background, stakeholders, and prospects)
- Understanding International Standards II (Recap on Sphere Handbook 2018, the Core Humanitarian Standard and revision content. Dissemination and prospects in Japan under disaster response mechanism)
- Development of Instructional Skills (Adult education, facilitation, moderation, online facilitation skills, and understanding of new teaching material)
- Engagement in Practical Training (Taking part in Sphere Handbook training)
- Setting goals as a Trainer (Goal-setting, exchange of opinions, mentoring and monitoring)



Overall ToT participant reactions were positive, particularly toward the devoted trainer team and the chance to have first-hand experience as a trainer under their guidance. In order to support the next steps of these new trainers, both individual and group consultation were added with Sphere secretariat's advice which is continuing in 2024.

JQAN is planning to use a portion of its training fees as financial support to trainers and regular mentoring next year. With these support, we anticipate to increase active trainers and more quality and accountable response work toward the people and communities affected by crisis.



Trainer team:

Go Igarashi, Program Manager, CWS Japan

Nahoko Harada, Professor, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering in Health Systems, Okayama University

June Okanoya, President, Japan First Aid Society



Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) /
Japan Quality and Accountability Network (JQAN)