

34th Int. Home Care & Rehabilitation Exhibition 2007



NEWS NO. 1

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Establishing the Foundation for Health & Welfare in the 21st Century

Moving Towards H.C.R. 2007

Last year, two major reforms in social security, the Revised Long-term Care Insurance Law and the Law to Support the Independence of Disabled Persons, were implemented. It is said that these reforms were put in place for restructuring the social security system into a sustainable one in the face of Japan’s depopulating society. On the other hand, the public at large appears to sense a growing anxiety from the abrupt reforms. This could be explained by the fact that domestic demand remains to be in extreme difficulty in recent years, although our economy is recovering with the help of foreign demand.

Furthermore, 2006 was a year in which securing labor in the big cities became an issue. Mandatory retirement of the baby-boomer generation has caused a problem for the year 2007 and will only aggravate the labor shortage issue. The problem has influenced the social welfare field also, as securing workers has become increasingly difficult. Meanwhile, with the graying of the Japanese society, people who need care are on the rise.

Under such circumstances, home care and rehabilitation equipment which expands possibilities for users to lead independent lives is now an essential part of everyday life for the elderly and physically challenged persons with reduced physical functions. In addition, there is a growing interest in home care and rehabilitation equipment that provides support to care givers.

Trends show that new technology is being incorporated into home care and rehabilitation equipment. It is expected that equipment utilizing IT and robot technology will further expand the world of the elderly and the physically challenged, as well as lighten the load of care givers. While anticipating that concerned parties understand the current situation and issues clearly, and continue in their efforts to develop and promote the use of home care and rehabilitation equipment, we would like to expend our best again this year so that the H.C.R. event will

serve towards this end. Through such efforts, we believe that we can make contributions toward a better world.



H.C.R. 2006 was held with 632 exhibitors from 17 countries and 1 territory and was attended by over 130,000 visitors. We sincerely express our gratitude to all exhibitors, organizations and related persons.

In December 2006, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted. It demands that measures be taken gradually to improve the accessibility of the physically challenged in areas such as transportation, education, employment, and recreational activities. In our country, progress is being made in the building of barrier-free homes, renovation of train stations and roads. It is hoped that further measures and policies for the realization of the concept of normalization will be forthcoming.

In order to promote social participation of the physically challenged and elderly, in addition to the implementation of measures and introduction of home care and rehabilitation equipment, it is believed that understanding the needs of those who live in the local areas is necessary for the future.

Through our Int. Home Care & Rehabilitation Exhibition, we will engage in public relations activities by disseminating information on the world’s home care and rehabilitation equipment, holding symposiums and seminars, and publishing the H.C.R. News. We will place special emphasis on health and social welfare issues related to the physically challenged and measures to foster the next generation of workers. This is an issue that should be shared by all in the 21st century, beyond national and regional borders.

This year, in 2007, we will endeavor all the more to promote the making of an environment for the independence of the elderly and the physically challenged. We thank everyone for their continued support and cooperation.

Health and Welfare Information Association

Next 34th Int. Home Care & Rehabilitation Exhibition 2007

This year, the H.C.R. 2007 will be held at Tokyo Big Sight from Wednesday, October 3 to Friday, October 5, 2007.

We will continue in our efforts to further the development and distribution of home care and rehabilitation equipment and look forward to everyone’s continued support and participation.

DATE October 3 (Wednesday) - October 5 (Friday), 2007

VENUE Tokyo Big Sight, East Exhibition Halls
3-21-1, Ariake, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0063 Japan

