



Professor Akira Senda: We all have a universal task and responsibility of contributing health and happiness to the oral health of all humankind in the world

Today in the DentArt Living Room is Professor Akira Senda, DDS, PhD, International President 2020, ICD, a talented teacher at the Hygienist School of the Junior College of Aichi Gakuin University.

Prof. SENDA is the author of more than 200 scientific articles on topical problems of dentistry and the author or editor of more than 20 textbooks.

He has extensive experience in managing professional dental organizations since he has been in so many scientific academies, serving as executive members and/or presidents, such as President of the International Federation of Esthetic Dentistry (IFED), President of the Japan Academy of Esthetic Dentistry (JAED), President of the Japanese Society of Conservative Dentistry (JSCD), Executive Directors of the Asian Academy of Aesthetic Dentistry (AAAD), the Japanese Society for Laser Dentistry (JSLD), the Japanese Society for Adhesive Dentistry (JSAD).

«We are waiting for colleagues in Nagoya in September 2021!»

– *Kon'nichiwa, good afternoon, dear Senda Akira-sensei! Congratulations on your election as President of the International College of Dentists 2020 and wish you success! How do you feel about being elected President of ICD?*

– I am so honored and pleased to be elected. And I am also so excited to work for such an esteemed international organization, the ICD. However, on the other hand, I am also humbled to have been placed in this very important position of leading and contributing to our worldwide organization. It is a very big responsibility, so that I sincerely request the support the Executive Committee (EC) team members, the College Office staff and all International Councilors as well as the leadership and Fellows from all of our Sections around the world. Please join with me in my desire to strive together for a wonderful future of our College.

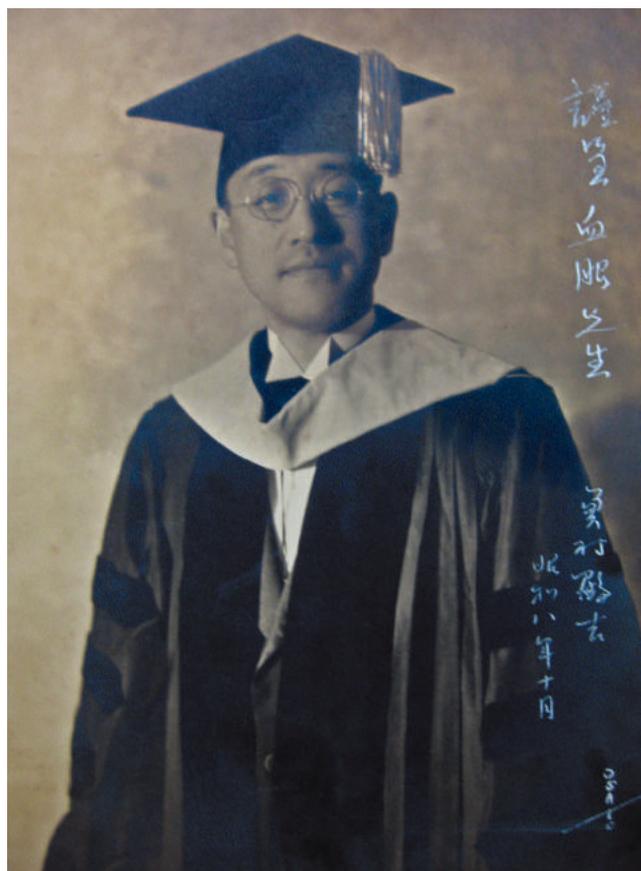
I greet you all readers of «DentArt Magazine» and ICD fellows from Ukraine, Moldova and other countries and areas as the International President of the ICD: International College of Dentists. First of all, I would express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Serhiy Radinsky, my friend from the ICD and the IFED: International Federation of Esthetic Dentistry to give me this opportunity to contribute to the magazine.

As you may know well, the ICD has been «Honoring the World's Leading Dentists» since 1920, and dentists who have been awarded the prestigious title of FICD (Fellow, International College of Dentists) are currently located in 122 countries worldwide. In Tokyo, Japan, in 1920, the founders, Dr. Louis Ottofy from USA and Dr. Tsurukichi Okumura from Japan have discussed the necessity of an international organization to study and exchange the progress of the dentistry and distribute the information to all countries of the world. So, we all fellows of the ICD are now so exciting to celebrate our «Centennial Celebration» next year in Japan where the ICD was born. The ICD has traveled such long «100-year journey», and now is completing it and on the way coming back to Japan, the birth place.

So, Fellows and Friends, let us cele-



Dr. Morinosuke Chiwaki, the 1st President of Tokyo Dental College



Dr. Tsurukichi Okumura, the 2nd President of Tokyo Dental College and the one of Founders of ICD.

brate it and join us for the celebration held in Nagoya, Japan. Please visit our website <icd100.org> now.

«There are 29 dental schools in Japan today»

– *Since Japan is one of the ICD centers and the celebration of the centenary will be held in your country, please at least briefly tell us about the history of the development of Japanese dentistry and dental education.*

– Japanese modern dentistry was initiated by Drs. Einosuke Obata, Kisai Takayama and others in 1870's. Dr. Obata passed the National Board Examination for medical doctor, then he preferred choosing «Dentist» as his specialty of medical field in 1875. So, we believe that he is the 1st officially registered «Dentist» in Japan.

They learned modern clinical dentistry under dentists coming from USA to practice in Yokohama where is nearby Tokyo. There were several American dentists' offices in Yokohama, as Japan has ended a national isolation firstly to USA at the port area, Yokohama at the time. Dr. Takayama has also studied under an American dentist and was recommended to study in USA. He came back from USA, then established a very small and private but the first institution of dental education in

1890. The dental school was followed by the 1st dental school in Japan, Tokyo Dental College (TDC). The 1st President was famous Dr. Morinosuke Chiwaki, and Dr. Okumura was the 2nd President of the College. They said the reason why Dr. Chiwaki has selected such young dentist, Dr. Tsurukichi Okumura as the successor of him was that he was young but very excellent dentist and teacher.

There were quite many dental technique institutions in Japan before the 2nd World War, but all of them were small «Colleges». There was no university for dentistry, however, just immediately after the War, 7 dental schools (1 government (public), 6 private schools including Tokyo Dental College (TDC) were administrated as Dental University. Since then, the number of dental education institute has been increasing until 1970's, and now there are 17 private dental schools, 11 government schools and 1 prefectural school.

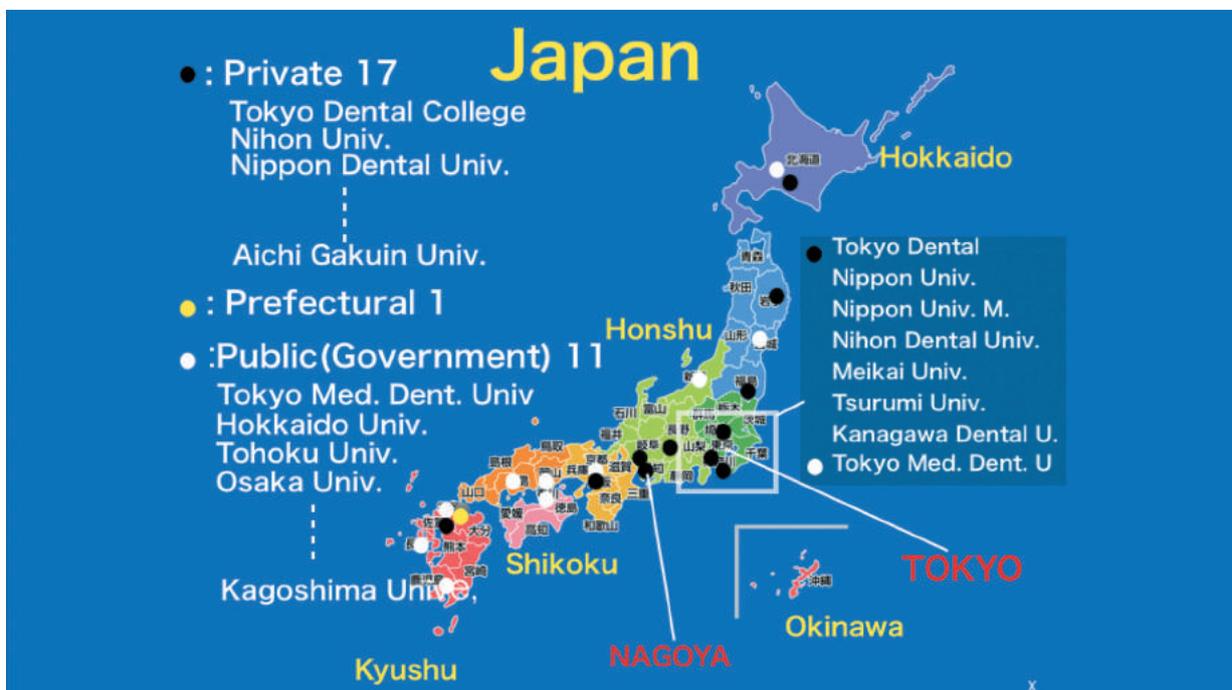
As shown in the history of Japanese dentistry, many of us have believed that dental education and institution in Japan has been extended and progressed with mainly private dental schools before. So still there are more private than public dental schools in Japan, and class size of private schools (about 80-120) are also more than public (about 40-80). There are now, hence 29 dental schools in total.

All dental schools in Japan have had «6-year education program», students graduated from high school get into each dental school by passing

administrative examination. And about 2,500-3,000 students graduate from their dental school, then they must try «National Board Examination of Dentists». In recent years, because of dentists' number control by the government, the passing rate has been quite low of about 70%. Only students passed the examination can be licensed dentists, then they must take course of clinical training for 1-2 years as a kind of resident.

– **Dear Akira Senda-sensei! Japanese wood-block prints (ukiyo-e) recorded the dental fashion of past centuries, this is the staining of teeth in black. Probably no one is doing this right now. Is the rule of Japanese etiquette, strictly requiring women to cover their mouths with a smile, a thing of the past?**

– Thank you for your information and inquiry of «O HA GURO» (O = just a honorific word, no meaning, HA= tooth, GURO(KURO) = Black). Of course, the customs, tooth dyeing was performing in 300-400 years ago. As you may know, main ingredient of the OHAGURO is ferrum (iron), and to prevent dental caries and/or other diseases, they were dyeing their teethe before getting merry (because of pregnant). However, these were performing between just rich family and people. We understand you, western people are interested in the treatment. So we, IFED members (academies) were once discussing the cultural differences on the topic title: «West meet East». Showing teeth when they (we, eastern people) were smiling and/or laughing is not because of OHAGURO, but just a manner! The culture is not simple issue. 😊



Locations of Dental Schools in Japan.



Engravings of ukiyo-e by the Japanese master Utamaro (1753-1806).

«Dental treatment in Japan is mostly covered by insurance»

– Are there any features in the organization of dental care in your country?

– The survey performed by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan in 2016 showed that there are 104,533 dentists (male:76.7%, female:23.3%) in Japan, and that the proportion of dentist to 100,000 people is 82.4 dentists. Number of 89,166 dentists are working for dental clinics, 9,308 dentists work for hospital affiliated with universities and/or institutions. Others are working for general hospitals. So, majority of dentists in Japan are working for at their own private clinics as owners or associate partners. In an unofficial report, it says that around 15 patients are visiting to a dental clinic (one dentist) a day in average depending on the location of the clinic.

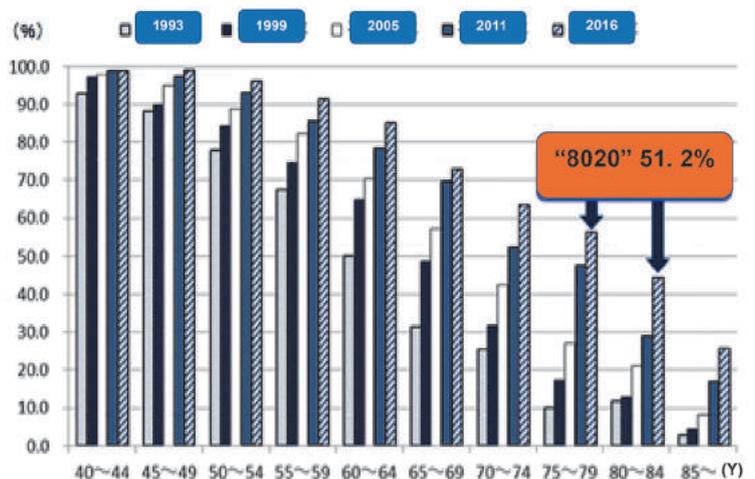
The most important characteristics of dentistry (and all medical cares) in Japan is that most of citizens are covered by «the Public Health Insurance», and dental cares are mostly covered by the insurance with the exception of Porcelain restoratives, Implants and so on. People pay 20-30% of the fare at any clinics and/or hospital and 70%-80% of those are paid by the public organizations. So, all fares of dental cares including restorations and prosthetic appliances are officially defined and prescribed.

– I had to read that the «8020» program was being implemented in Japan, aimed at preserving the dental health of older people...

– «Geriatric Dentistry» has been extended enormously in past decades. As it is well known, Japan is one of «the Top Runner of Aging Society» in the world. In addition, in Japanese dentistry, they have aimed to complete «8020» that means «Keep 20 teeth at 80-year old». Now, the statistical analyze shows that over 50% people at 75-84 years old have completed «8020». Hence, dentists have faced to such cases

to bear with many aged patients in daily practicing in Japan. Especially, to bear with «Root Surface Caries» is now a big issue, and «Geriaesthetic (Geriatric + Esthetic) Dentistry» is also one of highlight because «QOL» has been extended between such aged people.

To measure degree of «Oral Frail» and risks of dental caries and periodontal diseases are to be considered as very important for MI, preventive and geriatric dentistry. So, we have developed diagnostic apparatuses with major industries in Japan, and the apparatuses (Saliva Multi Test by LION and Bacteria Counter by Panasonic Health Care) has been launched in Japanese market. To employ these diagnostic machines, dentists are now allowed to educate their patients and control their



Accomplishment Rates of «8020» between each generation in Japan.



We see these cases in geriatric patients in daily practice. Especially «Root Surface Caries» is a big issue.

diseases objectively, successively and easily to get a small amount of saliva as a specimen from patients.

«I am always happy to see healthy children and make them healthy and happy»

– Dear Senda Akira-sensei, why did you choose the profession of dentist?

– I was born in 1948, it was just 3-year after the 2nd World War, so I was one of «Baby Boomer» children (they are now 75-70 years old) that mean there were too many children in the same ages, they have had always big competitions between them since they were born until die. So, it was quite difficult to get in medical and/or dental schools as too less seats for too many applicants in those schools. However, I really wanted to work to contribute to people suffering from their illnesses

and/or inferior oral health condition. I have decided to challenge getting through such «Narrow Entrance Gate» to enter medical or dental schools. I was very to be able to get in to my school in 1967.

When I graduated and passed the National Board Examination of Dentists, and became a dentist in 1973, all dentists had to work harder to treat over 100 patients a day, so they called dentists working as like butterflies flying from flower to flower, and their treatments were called «3-minute treatment». In addition, at that time Japan has been recovering even in economy after the war, people in Japan have started to consume wealthy foods, sweets and so on. Hence all of Japanese children have had very bad oral health, and they strictly needed «Dental Care» that was even though «3-minutes treatments». Under the condition, they were not allowed to focus prevention of oral diseases nor innovating oral hygiene of people, that meant all dentists in Japan were working in «battle



Charity mission in Mongolian rural area. At a Children House in their international volunteer group was taking care of smaller kids who were left by their parents and/or families. Professor Akira Senda has been taking care of them treating dental decays and also donating toothbrushes and funds since 1997.

field hospitals». I have never agreed with this approach to dentistry, and I decided to study more scientific and modern dentistry as a researcher and teacher in my mother school. Since then I have been keeping working at my school for over 46-year.

In 1995, I was selected as the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Operative Dentistry, School of Dentistry, Aichi Gakuin University, Nagoya Japan. I has been devoting in not only teaching and reserching in my school, but also contributing to adminstrative works as the Vice Dean (2011-2012, 2015-2016), the University Hospital as the Vice President (2006-2011) and the Acting Principal of the School of Dental Technician, Aichi Gakuin University (2018-2019). I has retired from the University in March, 2019. I'm continuausly teaching at the Hygienist School of the Junior College of Aichi Gakuin University.

– You are also known in the world for your volunteer activities. In 2001, you were awarded the title of Honorary Doctor of the National Medical Science University of Mongolia, marking your dedicated voluntary dental training and treatment of patients in this country. What motivated your interest in humanitarian projects?

– During working in my school, I was involved in a public dental service team at the rural islands in Okinawa Prefecture for few times, and I have experienced volunteer dental work as a team leader. I think that the experiences were succeeded to my humanitarian volunteer work in Mongolian rural areas. I am always happy to see healthy innocent children, and to make them healthy and happy, and also love to work for and with young students and dentists. This is the main incentive.

– Who are the people most influenced your personal and professional life?

– Of course, my father is the most important person, he was a typical and strict professional soldier, but after the war, he has turned to very gentle and tender person to love music, taking photos and drawing. He had several friends from overseas although he was strict Japanese military guy. They have been often visiting us as family. So, I think that my global mind has been inspired up by him.

My professional life has been influenced by my former boss of the department. He is Professor Hara graduated from Tokyo Dental College that is the school, ICD founder, Prof. Tsurukichi Okumura was worked as the 2nd President. Professor Hara was not only an excellent scientist, but also an artist in practice. When I was young, as I was asked taking pictures of his treatment, I always watched his techniques on restorative dentistry, and I was always impacted by his artistic techniques. When I was in the University of Western Ontario, London Ontario, Canada in 1987-1988 as a visiting professor, I was so influenced by Dr. Ron Jordan, the author of the famous textbook, «Esthetic Composite Bonding», and my big brother Dr. Mike Suzuki. I learned a lot, not only clinical esthetic and adhesive dentistry, but also real internationality in dentistry. They are all great «Canucks» means very good and lovely Canadian. Dr. Suzuki strongly recommended that I become involved in the ICD. After coming back to Japan, and when I was elected as a Professor and Chair of the department, I was fortunate to be nominated and inducted into ICD. I always appreciate these influential people in my life and try to follow their achievements in dentistry and life.

– Mr. President, do you have any hobbies?

– That is the big question for me! Since I became the Professor and Chairman of the Department (1995), I have had very little free times



At the Mongolian Charity Mission Professor Senda is teaching ART (Atraumatic Restorative Treatment: WHO recommends) to younger dentists from his school.



Professor Akira Senda with Mongolian and Japanese students after the volunteer mission in Mongolia.



With wife Mrs. Mayumi Senda in Milan during ICD International Council Meeting. October 2019.

«It is necessary to improve the exchange of experience between districts»

– What are your goals and/or plans you hope to realize during your presidency?

– As I have mentioned, as the ICD President of 2020, I really want make the Centennial celebration successful together with all fellows from all over the world. There will be no doubt between all ICD fellows in succeeding the success to next centennial celebration.

We all ICD fellows are under the one umbrella. I believe this particular umbrella means that we fellows are all «dentists»

to work harder with no Sunday nor holidays. One of my grandsons said that my grand-pa is a «traveler»! I have lost lots of hobbies such as playing tennis, golf and downhill skiing. When I was university student, I had a fork song band (copy band of Peter Paul and Mary) and played acoustic base and guitar. I was «Paul»! So that one of hobby is just enjoy music, and that my English has been coming from '50s and '70s songs! I also love driving cars, especially driving winding roads. But, a very few people including my wife like me to drive! I am now driving SUBARU LEVORG 2.0 STI!

that have a universal task and responsibility contributing health and happiness to the oral health of all humankind in the world. So, we should be tied up more tightly. We are «One Team» that means «One for all and All for One»! I would propose all sections and regions to enhance exchanges between sections, and to try to understand each together's approach to our universal goal of contributing to humankind. So, I would focus to motivate better communications between sections, and the College Office. I also would like to strongly to increase the contributions and impact on the College from the



At the Gala of the 10th World Meeting of the International Federation of Esthetic Dentistry (IFED) in Toyama.

Communication and Membership Committees during my presidency. I believe doing so would help our humanitarian projects to be better recognized to all over the world. We can advance this goal as well by means of collaborations with other related international organizations such as WHO, FDI, IADR and so on. Of course, I don't believe it would be carried easily, so I would take a first step during my presidency.

Again, I thank you all for giving me this fantastic opportunity to greet and introduce ICD that has been «Honoring the World's Leading Dentists Since 1920™». Please join us in Nagoya to celebrate the Centennial Celebration September 20-22, 2021!

*This Interview is modified from
«The Globe» № 1/2020,
(Journal of the International College of Dentists).
Prepared by Hanna Antypovych.
Photo from the archive of Akira Senda.*



**“One Team” being & working
“one for all, all for one”**

ICD fellows are under One Umbrella and in «One Team».



Nagoya Castle.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 on dentists and dentistry worldwide, the Nagoya Centennial celebrations scheduled for this November have been postponed. All the scheduled events including the International Symposium on Humanitarian and Educational Programs, the International Induction Ceremony and the Gala Banquet will be held along with the International Council Meeting from September 20-22, 2021 in Nagoya.