

The Asia Pacific Psychology Alliance

“Psychological Regulation across Asia Pacific: The Work in Progress”

Legislation and Regulations of Psychology Licensure in Japan

Hana Suzuki, Ph.D.

Ritsumeikan University

Japanese Psychological Association



History of Legislation Process

1980's~: Organizational level certificates were being created

~2005: Ideas of legalizing a license in professional psychology

2005: A bill (2 licensures) was created but not submitted to the Diet

Examples of Organizational Level Certifications

Certified Clinical Psychologist

- Since 1988
- Over 30,000 Certified Clinical Psychologists
- Master's level

Certified School Psychologist

- Since 1997
- Over 7,000 Certified School Psychologists
- Master's level or equivalent

Certified Developmental Clinical Psychologist

- Since 2001
- Master's level or equivalent

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2012: “Gathering for legislation of professional psychologists“

(for members of the Diet)

“Group for legislation of professional psychologists“

(Democratic Party/ Liberal Democratic Party)

2013: Japan Center for Professional Psychologists is founded

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2015: The bill for the Certified Public Psychologists was passed

2017: The Act of the Certified Public Psychologist went into effect

Certified Public Psychologist

公認心理師

“The purpose of the act is to define the licensure of the Certified Public Psychologist, to ensure appropriateness of its roles and duties, and to promote mental wellness of our citizens.”

“... is a person who has obtained registration in the certified public psychologist registry and engages in services in health care, welfare, education, or other fields, based on specialized knowledge and competency with regard to psychology, under the title of certified public psychologist.”

(The Act of Certified Public Psychologist)

Certified Public Psychologist

公認心理師

“...works in the areas defined as below:

1. Assessment of the psychological states of persons needing support with regard to psychology, and interpretation of the results
2. Consultation, advice, guidance, and other psychological services for persons needing support with regard to psychology
3. Consultation, advice, guidance, and other psychological services to those around persons needing support with regard to psychology
4. Providing education and information to promote knowledge concerning mental health”

(The Act of Certified Public Psychologist)

“Major Five Fields”

Medical/
Health

Educational

Welfare

Correctional/
Justice

Industrial/
Organizational

Basic Tenets of the Act of the CPP

- Title Protection
- Master's level licensure
 - ✓ 4-year Bachelor's + 2-year Master's education (+ practicum)
 - +
 - ✓ Licensing Exam
- Overseeing ministry
 - Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
 - Ministry of Education

Educational Requirements

- Bachelor's + Master's degree (both in psychology)
 - Course work in psychology
 - Practicum (80 hours + 450 hours)
 - Post-graduate internship is not required

[Alternative route]

Bachelor's degree (psychology) + 2-year Internship

- Course work
- Practicum (80 hours)
- 2 years of work at one of the 9 accredited organizations

Curriculum Requirements

<Undergraduate>

- At least 24 lecture courses (48 credits)
e.g.) Introduction to the CPP; General Psychology; Statistics; Experimental Psychology; Developmental Psychology; Neuropsychology; Psychological Assessment; School Psychology, etc.
- Practicum (> 80 hours)



<Graduate>

- At least 9 lecture courses (18 credits)
e.g.) Theories in Medical/Health Fields; Theories in Welfare Fields; Psychological assessments; Theories and Applications of Psychological Services; Theories in Family, Group, and Community Psychology, etc.
- 6 practicum courses (12 credits, > 450 hours)

Licensing Exam

(Defined by the law)

- Governed by 2 ministries
- Administered by the Japan Center for Certified Public Psychologists
- At least once a year

- 4 hours
- 154 questions (theories, assessments, cases, experimental, stats etc)

Benefits to the Public

- Services by the CPPs is defined in the Medical Fee systems and covered by the health care insurance system
- The CPPs became the central role of the school counselors
- Psychological factors related to child maltreatment, poverty, social isolation, NEET, young carer issues are being recognized
- Psychological services to crime victims, trauma, and gambling issues are delivered

Benefits to the Public

- CPPs become one of the designated stress check administrators, in addition to occupational physicians, public health nurses, etc
- Providing knowledges and interventions to issues related to mental health, suicides, crimes, addiction during the COVID-19
- The competency of the professional psychology is guaranteed, which promotes psychological services to the public

Benefits to the Psychologists

- The validity and quality of psychological services is being recognized as a result of legislation, which elevated the professional status of psychologists
- CPPs are able to work in a team with other national level licensed professionals
- CPPs are getting similar wages to other licensed professionals
- The places for CPPs to work and provide psychological services are expanding

Benefits to the Psychologists

- CPPs are being invited to legislation processes of health-related issues and health promotion
- CPPs themselves are becoming more aware of and responsible to psychological knowledge and competencies, ethical issues, and related laws
- Programs are attracting more motivated and qualified students

 Improving the quality of psychological services

Issues and Future Directions

- Still low rate of full-time positions (58% of CPPs)
- Need more full-time positions
 - → more recognitions in the Medical Fee systems
 - → early interventions and preventions
 - → coordination with other professionals
 - → promotion and improvement of mental wellness, work engagement
 - → better over all services
- Low salary for CPPs in part-time positions
- Lack of diversity in educational backgrounds

Issues and Future Directions

Ensuring quality and diversity of the field

- Needs for continuing education opportunities
- Needs for evidence-based clinical practices
- The future direction of “Certified Clinical Psychologists”

Thank you!

Questions & Comments...

Hana Suzuki, PhD

suzukih@fc.ritsumei.ac.jp