



The 9th SIDS International Conference

June 1 - 4 2006 in YOKOHAMA

Co-sponsored by The Japan SIDS Research Society and SIDS Family Association Japan



We are pleased to invite you to join us in Japan for the 9th SIDS International conference to be held on June 1-4, 2006 in Yokohama.

This exciting conference will offer a wide range of informative lectures and participatory sessions that will be fascinating for our local constituents as well as those from overseas. We invite researchers, families, health professionals, counselors, educators, emergency responders and SIDS management to join us.

In Japan, this conference has the goal of increasing public awareness and improving the level of care for bereaved parents. As always, the conference will also offer the important opportunity for parents and researchers worldwide to exchange information on successful programs, activities and research.

Here in Japan we look forward to gaining insight and ideas by learning about the latest scientific research and the progressive programs for bereaved families that are already in place in many countries overseas. Similarly, Japan has much wisdom to offer. Japan is a country with a very low SIDS rate and the lowest Infant Mortality Rate in the world. This conference will be an opportunity to learn about the excellence of Japanese medical practices and traditional Japanese childcare practices.

The conference will be held at Pacifico Yokohama. This is a state-of-the-art convention center located on the waterfront in Yokohama. Besides the conference, for some this will be the journey of a lifetime. From the exotic and ancient temples to the neon-signed, lively city centers, visiting Japan is sure to be a mind-opening experience!

Mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you in 2006!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Fukui, Executive Director
SIDS Family Association Japan





Programs

Scientific Program

The Scientific Program will bring together world's leading scientists to ensure that exciting strides towards preventing infant death continue to happen. The Scientific Program will cover the most current research avenues on infant mortality and SIDS from around the world, these include:

- **Control Mechanisms.** The understanding of abnormalities in the major control mechanisms, such as breathing, heart rate or autonomic controls. This could prove useful for understanding some potential mechanisms of sudden unexpected deaths. The evidence from animal and human physiology, imagery and pathology on the role of intermittent hypoxia on the basic control mechanisms will also be examined.
- **Risk Factors.** The understanding of the role and limitations of identified risk factors in the evaluation of unexpected infant deaths is an important area to be studied. Sessions will address the significance of classic risk factors as well as new risk and protective factors emerging due to the amazing progress in the field. Sessions will also cover the legal consequences of these risk factors in cases of ALTE or SIDS.
- **Environmental Stressors.** The role of environmental stressors on infant physiology and coping strategies is another topic to be explored. This topic will cover the effects of noise, temperature, pollutants and other environmental factors on the cardiorespiratory, autonomic, autoresuscitative, sleep and immune systems. The effects of continuous stimulation by environmental factors and stressors will be evaluated on the short and long term development of infants.

Health Professional Program

The Health Professional Program will offer a multitude of information that will help to improve care for bereaved families in Japan and worldwide. The program will include:

- **Workshops.** Workshops for medical professionals and first responders will be given on how to provide care to bereaved families.
- **Research and Information.** The program will offer sessions for mental health professionals on recent research into bereavement and information on state-of-the-art bereavement care programs from around the world. The program will offer information for medical professionals and government and policy program developers on the many educational programs for reducing infant mortality.
- **Special Session.** The program will include a session on delineating cultural differences and similarities with regard to infant death, the comparison of coping strategies, rituals, bereavement and grief processes. A special lecture/tour will be offered on the ancient Japanese rites of bereavement that help the grieving process of Japanese families.

Parents Program

The Parents Program's goal is to offer support to those affected by the death of a baby. The parents program will include:

- **Inspiration.** Inspirational talks and workshops on how to cope with loss.
- **Information.** Reports on the activities of family support groups worldwide will be given as well as consulting sessions that allow parents the opportunity to ask medical questions.
- **Expressions of Grief.** The program will allow the bereaved to share through artistic expressions of grief, including music, drama, art and photography.
- **Support Sessions.** Sessions for sharing experiences with peer support and grief counselors will be provided as well as Health Rhythms sessions, an exciting new scientifically tested method of music therapy that helps the bereaved towards healing.



Conference Venue

Pacifico Yokohama

Pacifico Yokohama is a modern convention site located on the waterfront in Yokohama. The entire conference can take place at the one site, making it convenient and easy for our guests from overseas.

Yokohama is located on the edge of Tokyo Bay, 30 minutes from the center of Tokyo by car or by rail. The average temperature in June is 22 degrees Celcius. Please see www.welcome.city.yokohama.jp/eng/tourism/ for more information on the city of Yokohama and www.pacifico.co.jp/index_e.html for more information on the conference venue.



The Airport Limousine bus and JR Narita Express Train (NEX) are in operation from the New Tokyo International Airport (Narita) where there are 45 international carriers with more than 300 flights daily. The train ride from the airport to Yokohama takes about an hour and a half. Another airport called Haneda may also have flights from overseas. Yokohama can be accessed in about 30 minutes from Haneda by the YCAT bus.

Accommodation

The choice of accommodation for the conference is extensive with a wide price range to suit the budget of all delegates. The majority of hotels are located in the center of Yokohama with convenient connections to Pacifico Yokohama. Most hotels provide convention delegates with a special discount rate. See more detailed information on hotels and prices at <http://www.sids.gr.jp/invi/>. Japan Travel Bureau Corp. (JTB), appointed as the official travel agent for the 9th SIDS International Conference, will handle hotel accommodations <http://www.jtb.co.jp/eng/>.

Another alternative is the Convention Home Stay Program organized by Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau. This system provides overseas participants with accommodations of bed and breakfast at a volunteer home stay family for 2000 yen (approximately USD 18) per night per person. This offers an opportunity to experience the Japanese life style. Over 100 families who live within 60 minutes from Pacifico Yokohama have been registered.



Social Programs and Tours

Party!

On June 2nd Friday we will have a dinner banquet to welcome all delegates and to get to know each other better. This event will include a sumptuous dinner, powerful taiko drumming, rhythm fun and lots of laughter!!

Memorial Service

Whether you are a scientist or a bereaved parent, the exotic beauty of the Sojiji Buddhist temple, as monks chant to create the amazing calm of the Buddhist ceremony, is an experience not to be missed. The evening of June 1st will begin with a brief tour of the temple complex and then a delicious vegetarian meal prepared by the monks, after which participants will experience 15 minutes of Zen meditation that will be followed by the traditional ceremony to honor our babies that have died.

Tours

A selection of tours will be offered to conference goers. Please check our website in the fall of 2005 for information on tours and tour reservations. Besides the tours, check our website now www.sids.gr.jp/invi/ under *Social Programs and Tours* for detailed information about things to do and see in Yokohama.





Schedule and Contact

Dates

The 9th SIDS International Conference will begin officially with the Opening Ceremony at 9:00 a.m. on June 1st, 2006 and will close on June 4th, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

Call for Abstracts/ Official Language

Abstracts for the 9th SIDS International Conference will be accepted by on-line submission in early 2006. The official language of the conference is English, however, there will be some programs provided in Japanese. All sessions and lectures will be translated. The poster walk will be located in a strategically placed area that will allow for maximum exposure outside of the main auditorium.

Call for Artwork

The poster walk area will include an exhibit of artwork and photography by artists affected by the death of a baby. Portfolios of artwork to be exhibited will be accepted by on-line submission or by post to the address below. Artwork can be sent to this same address in the weeks before the conference.

Registration

Online registration will be available from the fall of 2005 at www.sids.gr.jp/invi/ . If you would like us to remind you to register, send the Conference Secretariat an email now at englishcontact@sids.gr.jp or send us a postcard to the address below.

Sponsorship and Exhibition

The 2006 SIDS International Conference in Yokohama will offer a tremendous opportunity to market products and services to a wide range of participants. Conference goers pass through the poster walk and exhibition hall on their way to the auditorium, making it a strategically placed area that will allow for maximum exposure. Contact the Conference Secretariat for information englishcontact@sids.gr.jp .

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