

Entering a New Era of Quality Assurance

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Vice-Chairman of the 6th GQAC

The COVID-19 epidemic is still going on. Thanks to the efforts of companies developing therapeutics and vaccines and the hard-working healthcare professionals in the medical field, people are stepping forward to restore a peaceful life. However, "Haste makes Waste". I think everyone at QA once again is reminded of the importance of collecting reliable data, objectively judging the facts, and making life-saving medicines.

It has been more than half a year since the 6th Global Quality Assurance Conference (6th GQAC) held in Sendai from February 17th to 20th, 2020. About a year before the meeting, I was appointed Vicechairman. Dispatched to the 35th SQA Annual Meeting (Atlanta, USA, late April to early May 2019) and the 3rd European QA Conference (Dublin, Ireland, November 2019), of each QA organizations and authorities. Prepared for the 6th GQAC with the representative. These were precious and fun times for me as well. In addition, many people supported us at the 6th GQAC Conference. Thanks to you, all the lectures, sessions, exhibitions and banquet have been completed successfully. In addition, we received valuable opinions from many people in the questionnaire after the conference. We will utilize them for future JSQA activities. I would like to ask all JSQA members for their more active research. We would also like to ask all QA organizations in each country for their continued cooperation and support.

Unfortunately, the 36th SQA Annual Meeting (from end of March to early April 2020) was canceled due to COVID-19, but the SQA's September Conference & Quality College will be held virtually from September 21 to 29, 2020. The RQA International QA Conference, from November 10th to 12th, 2020, is scheduled to be held as the first virtual conference and are calling for participation from all over the world. The good thing about getting together at "real" is that people can meet and talk in person. On the other hand, the good thing about "virtual" is that you can meet at times, regardless of physical distance. In the future, hybrid meetings that leverage both "real" and "virtual" may become commonplace. Let's work together to deepen the connection between us more closely and globally.

We will never remember 6th GQAC and COVID-19 independently. What should be the quality assurance that will affect human life, such as pharmaceuticals and medical devices after the COVID-19 pandemic? I think you are thinking from each standpoint. And, as the world expects, there is an increasing need for QA organizations and authorities to be more closely connected than ever before.

I'm looking forward to the 7th GQAC at National Harbor, Maryland, USA, March 12th-17th, 2023.

Fall 2020

Solidifying the GQAC Ties

Makiko Azuma

6th Global QA Conference Steering Committee

Secretary-general of JSQA Secretariat Office

Nine years after the success of the 3rd GQAC in Kyoto, the baton of the Global Conference was passed again to JSQA. We had organized the 3rd Global Conference through trial and error. After that, we embarked on the preparation for the Sendai Conference with the knowledge of the reputation of the successful Kyoto Conference.

In the process of this preparation, one of the most noticeable differences was the new connection between the QA professionals in Japan and those overseas. Not only the host societies (SQA, RQA, and JSQA), but also so many other QA professionals from around the world expressed their desire to see the success of the Sendai Conference. This was very great incentive for us to succeed.

At the Kyoto Conference, we proceeded cautiously with the preparation, because we did not know who we should contact overseas. Fortunately, this time, we had the connections with FDA and MHRA. On the occasions of the SQA and RQA Conferences, we had face-to-face meetings with Dr. Chrissy Cochran from FDA and Dr. Andrew Gray from MHRA, and asked for their support. They provided us with constructive advice, and served as lecturers and panelists themselves.

Other than SQA and RQA, our colleagues from the QA organizations in China, France, Germany, India, Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and Taiwan provided us with strong support for the PR activities. Because of their dedicated efforts, we could organize the Regulator Round-Table Session on the last day of the conference, in which 10 regulators from Asia, Europe, and US were on the stage.

In addition, we enjoyed the opportunity of meeting each other for lunch on the first day.

We also had meetings with MHLW, MAFF, PMDA, and FAMIC, who assisted us by sending lecturers, and collaborating with many sessions.

So many invited lecturers from Japan and overseas who have been active in the front lines gathered in Sendai and gave superb presentations.

Our colleagues from SQA and RQA Secretariats gave us generous help to promote the conference. Together, we have been able to organize conferences hand-in-hand for many years. As the head of the administrative office, I would like to thank Ms. Alison Cockrell, Executive Director of SQA, and Mr. Anthony Wilkinson, Director of Operation of RQA, for their unstinting help given to me personally, and also to JSQA.

The Novel Coronavirus was spreading rapidly inside and outside China shortly just before the conference, and a lot of people were very skeptical about holding the conference.

If the conference had been planned one week later than originally scheduled, we could never have held the conference.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped us with the conference, directly or indirectly. Global Conferences create new and valuable networking opportunities, not only in the business area, but also in the personal sphere. I believe these treasurable ties enrich our further activities, communications, and friendship.

The next Global Conference in Washington D.C. in 2023 might be held under consideration of the new normal. I hope I will be involved in the conferences of the future, to keep and enhance the ties with people gathering together under Quality Assurance.

February 17(Mon) -20 (Thu), 2020



Participants

489 participants from 25 countries/regions

Japan	386		
United Kingdom	21	Russian Federation	2
United States	13	Australia	2
Germany	9	Bulgaria	1
Taiwan	9	Colombia	1
Malaysia	7	Italy	1
Hungary	6	Netherlands	1
India	6	Poland	1
France	5	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Switzerland	4	Singapore	1
Korea	3	Slovakia	1
Belgium	3	Spain	1
China	3	Sweden	1

JSQA 6th GQAC Steering Committee

* 推進事務局 6th GQAC Sub-Steering Committee

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