F4.0: Asian Women’s Health Research Network (ASIA-WH): Developing an International Collaborative Organization

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Abstract:
Overview: Background: Researchers from the U.S., South Korea, and Taiwan initiated efforts to develop an international collaborative organization that promotes Asian women’s health research across the countries through encouraging and facilitating communication among the researchers. Purpose: The purpose of this symposium is to present the issues in developing the international organization across three countries and to provide directions for future development of international collaborative organizations among researchers. This overview presentation will discuss the overall issues in the development efforts and provide directions for future international collaborative efforts. Each presentation will present unique issues found in each country and make suggestions for future international collaborative efforts from the perspective of each country. Methods: Memos on issues raised during the development process were written, and group discussions on the issues were conducted through emails and conference calls. The written memos, the minutes from the conference calls, and emails were analyzed to categorize the issues. Findings: First, each country has different infrastructures and policies related to developing an international organization. Second, each country had unique needs, which made each country to seek for a different focus through the organization. Third, while the two Asian countries have been developing the organizations separately from other existing organizations, the U.S. side has aimed at developing the organization by affiliating with an existing organization as an incubator. Finally, the pace of developing the organization has been significantly different in each country. The Korean side has already developed their by-laws and executive board, and had the first research conference to initiate the organization, yet the U.S. side has just joined the Asian American Pacific Islander Nurses Association as a research interest group. Conclusion: The findings suggest that future international collaborative organizational efforts need to consider different situations and needs in different countries and adopt strategies to incorporate the differences at an early stage of development.

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