




# From global health to Planetary Well-Being: Conceptual arrangement and future exploration

Center for Education in Liberal Arts and Sciences (CELAS)

Professor Sayako Kanamori

 <https://researchmap.jp/sayako.kanamori?lang=en>



## Abstract

The recent climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic have triggered the importance of the concept of "Planetary Well-Being", which aims to create a future in which people can enjoy a state of physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, but also considers the impact on future generations and the global environment. In this study, the researcher will organize the concept and definition of Planetary Well-Being, issues to be included, and comparative advantages of Japan and other countries, which will ultimately identify what kind of initiatives Japan could lead in the era of post-SDGs.

## Background & Results

Climate change, ecological destruction, conflicts, widening disparities, and the spread of infectious diseases...the world is experiencing a complex interplay of various issues, occurring simultaneously, that affect the very foundations of human existence. Global health is a relatively new interdisciplinary field of study, originally derived from two academic disciplines: public health, which aims to solve domestic health issues, and international health, which aims to solve health issues mainly in low- and middle-income countries. However, in the wake of recent climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, the concept has shifted from global health, which focuses primarily on human health issues, to a new discipline "Planetary Well-Being" that takes into account not only the absence of disease and infirmity, but also the impact on future generations and the global environment, so that all can enjoy a state of physical, mental, and social well-being.

The issues to be addressed in Planetary Well-Being are similar to those of global health, but differ in that they focus not only on human physical health, but also on their mental and social health, as well as their impact on future generations and the global environment including ecosystem and the climate. The way of partnership is also different from the traditional public-sector-led two-way flow between developed and developing countries. Interventions based on global solidarity, as symbolized by the SDGs wedding cake, vertical collaboration among global, regional, national, and local governments and horizontal collaboration among industry, government, academia, and civil society will be necessary. Furthermore, while global health has focused on population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care, Planetary Well-Being encompasses individual-level prevention (ME-BYO) and population-based well-being. The promotion of social and economic equity and the reduction of health disparities are also important themes in the pursuit of Planetary Well-Being. We, humans have suffered from numerous health crises in the past. However, the COVID-19 pandemic was different as it affected developed countries as much as, if not more than, developing countries, resulting in a vaccine distribution disparities and adverse psycho-social effects rarely seen in human history. The solution to these problems requires resources, knowledge, and experience not only from the medical, dental, pharmaceutical, social, and biological sciences, but also from the humanities, mathematical and engineering sciences, chemistry, informatics, and many other fields and sectors, which shows the interdisciplinary nature of Planetary Well-Being.

## Significance of the research and Future perspective

With just five years to go before the deadline for achieving the SDGs, discussions on the post-SDGs are beginning to take place. The international community has dramatically changed since 2015, including an unstable and uncertain world symbolized by the war in Russia and Ukraine, widening economic disparities, technological innovation and development such as AI, and an aging society. One of the lessons we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is the importance of global solidarity. In this context, it is extremely important to start discussions on the concept of "Planetary Well-Being" with experts from various fields and sectors to find solutions to the question of how Japan can pursue both global and national interests in the future.

	Public Health	International Health	Global Health	Planetary Well-Being
Geographical reach	Focuses on issues that affect the health of the population of a particular community or country	Focuses on health issues of countries other than one's own, especially those of low-income and middle-income	Focuses on issues that directly or indirectly affect health but that can transcend national boundaries	Focuses on issues that directly or indirectly affect human physical, mental and social health but that can transcend national boundaries and their impact on future generations and the global environment
Level of cooperation	Development and implementation of solutions does not usually require global cooperation	Development and implementation of solutions usually requires binational cooperation	Development and implementation of solutions often requires global cooperation	Development and implementation of solutions often requires global, regional and national cooperations and multi-stakeholder approach and strengthened global solidarity
Individuals or populations	Mainly focused on prevention programmes for populations	Embraces both prevention in populations and clinical care of individuals	Embraces both prevention in populations and clinical care of individuals	Embraces prevention of individuals (ME-BYO) and populations, clinical care of individuals and well-being of populations and individuals
Access to health	Health equity within a nation or community is a major objective	Seeks to help people of other nations	Health equity among nations and for all people is a major objective	Improved health and well-being and health equity among nations and for all people is a major objective
Range of disciplines	Encourages multidisciplinary approaches, particularly within health sciences and with social sciences	Embraces a few disciplines but has not emphasised multidisciplinary	Highly interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary within and beyond health sciences	Highly interdisciplinary multidisciplinary, and multi-approach within and beyond health sciences

Source: Revised by the author based on Koplan et al. Lancet 2009; 373: 1993-95

Figure 1 Transforming Concepts around Health Issues



Figure 2 Planetary Well-Being (Image)

## Patent

## Treatise

## U R L

## Keyword

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