

## Japanese connection

**Professor Midori Kamizato, involved in setting up a nursing programme to serve hundreds of remote islands in the southernmost part of Japan, was so impressed with the CRANAplus Conference she attended in Alice Springs in 2009 that she has spent years planning a return visit.**

This year, she brought Associate Professor Tomoko Miyazato, a colleague at the Okinawa Prefectural College of Nursing.

Professor Kamizato, in 2009, was looking for factors shared between rural and remote health care in Australia and island nursing in Japan, as she strived to set up a nursing programme at the College of Nursing, a public university in Naha, Okinawa's capital.

"Your focus on rural and remote nursing is growing," she said during a break in the Conference. "This has been a very interesting Conference for me."

Associate Professor Miyazato was similarly impressed. "I am interested to learn about the kind of work that the nurses in rural and remote areas of Australia are doing, and the experiences they have when they graduate from university and start working in remote areas."

Okinawa is the southernmost prefecture of Japan, comprising hundreds of islands in a chain over 1,000 kilometres long from the southwestern most of Japan's four main islands to Taiwan. The Okinawa Prefecture covers the southern two thirds of that chain. ●



Midori Kamizato (Japan), Naomi Kikkawa (Brisbane) and Tomoko Miyazato (Japan).