

Activity Report of Asia-Pacific Medical Network Project in Kyushu University Hospital : Vol.4

清水, 周次
九州大学病院

中島, 直樹
九州大学病院

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11. Closing

Epilogue

The “IT strategy of Fukuoka prefecture 2008” notes that Fukuoka prefecture will support AQUA’s activity. The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Fukuda, referred to the activities of AQUA’s in the Japan parliament in January 2008. This showed that the national government recognized AQUA as a major international telemedical activity for Japan. Following these expressions of support, the Kyushu University Hospital determined to establish a formal telemedical center by March 2009. This will be the second university telemedical center in Japan, following that at the Asahikawa Medical College. However, this will be the first telemedical center to mainly work in the international arena. We believe that AQUA’s steady efforts have made this possible and we appreciate all of those who have supported our activity in the Asia-Pacific area. AQUA will continue its activities under its new name of “Asian Telemedical Development Center (tentative)”.

On the other hand, the activities of APAN-medical have stabilized. New relationships have been created with North America and Europe. Participants in the twice-yearly APAN-medical meeting, are increasing year by year. The contents of the meetings are becoming more sophisticated and diversified because the medical field has real needs for such a system. As well, the engineer field has the potential realize the aims. Indeed, we are very pleased to have this collaboration.

Although AQUA participated in most of the events in APAN-medical, some recent events have been held without AQUA. This movement from a mono-central to a multi-central organization is a sign of the autonomous development of APAN-medical. This is the correct way for development to proceed and is what Dr. Shimizu and I have expected from the very beginning of the project.

We hope APAN-medical manages activities of international events as free and open as possible in the future. AQUA will always support APAN-medical and will pay efforts to connect Asia-Pacific countries and especially local area in Japan.

These turning points for AQUA and APAN-medical highlight the transition of the project from a trial stage to a practical stage. For the past four years I have written the epilogue for this annual report during the spring season. This year I feel everyone’s wish for medical standardization in the Asia-Pacific region has begun to bud.

17th March, 2008

Naoki Nakashima MD, PhD

Department of Medical Informatics,
Kyushu University Hospital