

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

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1. Preface

A commemorative 100th teleconference event was held last June, just four years and four months since our first such event in February, 2003. During the past fiscal year, one of our notable achievements was to make a successful connection to Europe. Live demonstrations were held with participants in Germany, France, and Italy. New technical achievements saw a system for simultaneous 8-station live demonstration with a security system established and successfully used in actual settings. Twenty-six teleconferences were performed during the past year; 16 countries were connected with 65 leading hospitals and meeting venues. Another important achievement was the organization of the “Asia Telemedicine Symposium.” Over 150 medical staff and engineers joined in discussions of standardization of local set-ups and made plans for future activities. It was our great honor to invite guests from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. As well, having the Deputy President of Kyushu University and the Director of Kyushu University Hospital was an honor.

During these past 5 years, our project has rapidly expanded into a wide area of the Asia-Pacific region. There is no doubt that this expansion will continue. In parallel with the growth of the associated infrastructural, we need to move on to the second stage. This is one where we work on making the content of the conferences more attractive. We initiated our “Early Gastric Cancer Conference” to share our knowledge about making accurate diagnoses and how to provide appropriate treatment for a patient. We are planning to have large-scale regular teleconferences in the field of surgery and endoscopy. We are also exploring new fields like remote medicine and cardiac catheterization. We have a plan to establish a new department called the “Asia Telemedicine Development Center” at the Kyushu University Hospital. A working group has been formally organized. Technically, we need to investigate new research regarding the transmission of high-definition quality, and have even more stations at a multi-site teleconference, a possible application of the Conference XP and annotation system, and more. In this Olympic year, China is the main target for new connections as there are still just a few medical institutions connected.

The APAN medical working group is at the center of our field of activity. We always keep in mind that good harmony and comfortable friendships between our medical and engineering staff is crucial for this projects success.

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