

Activity Report of Asia-Pacific Medical Network Project in Kyushu University Hospital : Vol.8

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1. Preface

The fields covered by our telemedical activities have expanded significantly. After our first application to digestive surgery, endoscopy provided a suitable platform, followed by respiratory surgery, transplants, hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, robotic surgery, urology, neurosurgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, medical informatics, and healthcare, in addition to cardiac intervention, fetus medicine, and nurse and medical student education. For these various applications, we organized special interest groups to create the new areas of interest and systematically find common problems and their solutions. Thirty groups were registered in this fiscal year.

Some of the more attractive events this fiscal year included international teleconferences for nurses, remote case presentation by medical students, and a live demonstration of cardiac intervention held at APAN in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Teleconferences connecting 14 national university hospitals in Japan and also one with three Malaysian hospitals again proved to be very promising events. The DVTS connection of three hospitals in Taiwan was also an exciting milestone with further connections expected within Taiwan.

Our focus in this project has mainly been to develop a good reliable system for the transmission of moving images suitable for medical purposes. Thanks to the rapid development of technology, this objective has become a little easier to achieve with more technological options. A practical high-definition transmission system called HD-SCR and the Vidyo system with a new H.264 compression algorithm could replace the DVTS and H.323 systems, which have been used thus far.

A number of new members were also connected this year. The University of Cape Town in South Africa was one of the more exciting additions, in that they succeeded in transmitting, via the DVTS, live surgery to Kyushu University merely 6 months after our visit there. Similarly, the Institute of Liver Biliary Science in New Delhi became connected soon after the APAN meeting in India. The World Institute for Digestive Endoscopy Research joined from Barcelona, Spain, with good image quality over the DVTS.

During the fiscal year, as many as 48 doctors and researchers from 18 different countries were invited to participate in our training programs. Special thanks must go to the Invitation Program for East Asian Young Researchers of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for supporting this initiative. Among the invitees was Mr. Minh, who spent a year with us, and also 11 individuals from Vietnam. In addition, we held a very successful 5th Asia Telemedicine Symposium with 127 participants from 17 countries.

We were awarded a JSPS Grant-in-Aid (A), and our activities are expected to expand further into all parts of the world during the next 5 years. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

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