

Activity Report of Asia-Pacific Medical Network Project in Kyushu University Hospital : Vol.5

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11. Closing

Epilogue

2008 has become a memorial year in which TEMDEC was established in Kyushu University Hospital. I believe telemedicine will be one of the main medical tools someday. I think Kyushu University Hospital is taking the lead.

This activity has been supported by many people, such as Prof. Masao Tanaka, the director of TEMDEC, who always supervises us warmly, Prof. Shuji Shimizu and Prof. Koji Okamura who lead us powerfully, Mr. Nobuhiro Torada who plays the role of stage director at TEMDEC events, Mr. Shinya Kuwahara who was invited to help us from Kyushu Electronic Power Co., other engineering staff members Prof. Yasuaki Antoku, Mr. Toshitaka Yamanokuchi, TEMDEC secretaries Ms. Yoko Noda, and Ms. Michiko Nakamura, staff members in the Patient Service Sections, and other staff members of Kyushu University Hospital. I want to celebrate this departure with all. Also, we must appreciate those who have taken care of the activity so far.

Here I describe the one who took care of us initially.

At first, this activity was not something which would become medical standardization in Asia. Prof. Shimizu started the activity for communication with his Korean doctor friends, such as Prof. JS Hahm and Prof. HS Han, for discussion and mutual education on a daily basis.

I met Masaki Hirabaru sensei in ISIT in those days, when I exhibited my study poster in a science event in the Fukuoka Tenjin IMS building. He asked me that "why don't you use the Korea-Japan optical cable network (KJCN) in the medical field?", and, smiling, gave me a business card. That was in November, 2001. I met Prof. Shimizu in the same month and Hirabaru sensei introduced us to Prof. Okamura. Our first telemedical event was held using KJCN on February 2003. We also had much advice from Hirabaru sensei in APAN meetings afterwards.

Hirabaru sensei suddenly passed away while jogging on July 29, 2008. He was only 48 years old.

This activity is spreading through not only Korea and Asia, but also Europe and Northern America. It is beginning to be widely recognized as a tool for medical standardization. We have the aim to use the system for real telemedical consultation and treatment of patients, and the dream is expanding.

We wish that Hirabaru sensei could be with us to watch TEMDEC's ongoing activities.

Thank you very much, Masaki Hirabaru sensei.

March, 2009

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