

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

Shimizu, Shuji
Kyushu University Hospital

Nakashima, Naoki
Kyushu University Hospital

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1. Preface

There is no doubt that the most important achievement in this fiscal year was that the “Telemedicine Development Center of Asia” (TEMDEC) was formally established in Kyushu University Hospital in October, 2008. We had been working under the name of Asia-Kyushu Advanced Medical Network (AQUA) without any authorization, but all our activities will be transferred to this new organization. Therefore, this activity report is issued under the name of both of these entities this year. The staff consists of 11 members; a director, a deputy-director, three medical doctors, an information technology facilitator, three engineers, a guest engineering facilitator, and a secretary. However, there are problems in that all personnel except for our secretary are not full-time staff and that our room is planned to be only 65m². It is a big step forward that TEMDEC has been newly established, but it will take some time until it becomes a true center of telemedicine in Asia and beyond.

Looking back on our activities, there were a lot of new achievements. There were seven hospitals or institutions connected to our network in Japan; Kyoto U, Yamaguchi U, Tokai U, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Fujita Health U, Sapporo Higashi Tokushukai Hospital, and J&J Medical Innovation Training Center. Overseas, India, Australia, America, France, Italy had new stations, and New Zealand, Belgium, Czech Republic, and Spain newly joined our activity. One of the exciting trials was a live surgery that was broadcast from Korea to medical students in Kyushu U. The aim of this broadcast was to stimulate the students' interest in medicine as well as in international communications within their class using new medical technology. In addition, a live demonstration of interventional cardiology was performed for the first time, which had been requested for years. Also, the second Asia Telemedicine Symposium was successfully held in Seoul National University Bundang Hospital in Korea.

We were also appointed as chair of the telemedicine group in the International Organization of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists (IASGO) when their 18th meeting was held in Istanbul, Turkey, last October. The World Gastrointestinal Organization (WGO) is also planning to collaborate for remote education. Many new connections are under preparation in Japan and abroad, including Norway, Brazil, Fiji, Greece, South Africa, and others.

Our next target is to apply new technology for transmission of high-definition quality, and to have even more attractive content in various fields of medicine.

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Kyushu University Hospital
Shuji Shimizu, MD. PhD