

Activity Report of Asia-Pacific Medical Network Project in Kyushu University Hospital : Vol.6

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1. Preface

We have made another big step forward during this fiscal year. Our greatest achievement is establishing the new connections to various countries. We set up a new link to Cairo University in Egypt in May and to the University of San Paolo in Brazil in July, thereby linking Africa and South America for the first time. This means we are now connected to all continents, except Antarctica. In June, we established a link to Norway, the seventh country connected in Europe, and in October, one to Mexico for the first time. On the local front, Hokkaido University, the Cancer Institute Hospital in Tokyo, Kobe University, and Hiroshima University joined one after the other.

Our second achievement is the extensive expansion into mainland China through close collaboration with the China Education and Research Network, connecting leading institutions in major cities, namely Peking Union Medical College Hospital in Beijing, currently ranked the top Medical College in China, a new endoscopic training center in Shanghai (CTEC), and Xijing Hospital, affiliated to the Fourth Military Medical University in Xian. During the World Congress of the International Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists in Beijing in September, we conducted four very successful live surgical sessions inviting 10 sites in total. In December, during a well-known endoscopic workshop in Hong Kong, Xijing Hospital was connected for live demonstrations, while in November, we facilitated remote attendance from Japan and Korea at the 13th Endoscopic Ultrasonography Meeting. The China-Japan Medical Exchange Program was also established during this fiscal year as a teleconference system for exchanging information on the early detection of gastric cancers.

A third achievement is the increasing collaboration with large groups, such as in April at the Japan Surgical Society meeting with 13,000 participating surgeons, in May at Rome Live with remote presentations from Tokyo and Nagoya, and in November at the Kanto LADG Meeting where four cities were connected for informative lectures and interactive discussion. In January 2010, having established another new link to Rajavithi Hospital in Bangkok, two laparoscopic surgeries, a technique still new in Thailand, were broadcast as part of a postgraduate course at the Royal College of Surgeons in Thailand.

Our new lab is under construction in Kyushu University Hospital, one year after TEMDEC was formally established there. Even though it is only a small area, new challenges are anticipated with more equipment and an additional staff member. Your continued cooperation and support are very much appreciated.

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