

Activity Report of Asia-Pacific Medical Network Project in Kyushu University Hospital : Vol.7

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1. Preface

The highlight of this fiscal year was winning a special education and research grant for “the development and proof of a next-generation telemedicine system with high-quality moving images for the local and international community”, which will be our main project for the next 6 years. Furthermore, we have had our own room, despite it being small, since last April, and a special teleconferencing room has just been installed with a variety of the latest equipment. In addition, a new technical member joined the team, which added to the fulfillment of both staff and hardware conditions in our center.

Our activities have moved forward as well, reaching Morocco, Lithuania, and Chile via DVTS. We also welcomed 24 new member institutions both domestic and international, including the Univ. of Hong Kong, Univ. of Malaya, Viet Duc Hospital (Hanoi), Gifu Univ., Kanazawa Univ., Tokushima Univ., and the National Center for Child Health and Development.

We have made another big step forward this year by adding new field, that is still rare in the Asian regions, fetal medicine, which was included in our activities. Also an international meeting was successfully held in Kamakura, Japan, with the first interactive teleconference. Similarly, Peking Union Medical College in China convened a teleconference on early gastric cancer, showing many pathological images with a newly developed annotation system.

We invited many visiting scholars in the fields of endoscopy and surgery, from a variety of countries, to learn about the most advanced medicine, at the same time deepening existing friendships. For the first time we invited doctors from Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Argentine, Uruguay, Nepal, making a total of 20 doctors from 14 countries. Taking advantage of these human networks, we would, in the near future, like to expand our activities, particularly to our colleagues in Latin America and Africa. In addition, an engineer from Vietnam joined our team as the first foreign technical trainee, and we hope that he will further expand the activity in his region when he returns home in a year's time.

Teleconferences using conventional systems have increased substantially this year, and we are happy that the demand for telecommunication itself is growing rapidly. Despite connecting 150 centers in 27 countries and regions, there are still many more medical institutions that cannot join in our activities due to insufficient network bandwidth.

Although the Core University Program between Korea and Japan, which was our main project for the past 8 years, is coming to an end this month, the second stage is about to begin. We will continue with our challenging research on high-definition systems and to expand our community by providing even more attractive programs and solid organization. We sincerely appreciate your kind and continuous cooperation.

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