

## Activity Report of Asia-Pacific Medical Network Project in Kyushu University Hospital : Vol.9

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## 1. Preface

This year commemorates the 10th anniversary of our telemedicine activities. We started this project in 2002 when Japan and Korea co-hosted FIFA World Cup Soccer and were connected with superfast Internet. It was fortunate for us at Kyushu University that the connection was made to our city, Fukuoka; it was why our team was the first to be involved in this Industry-Government-Academic collaborative project.

Our team, comprising both medical and engineering staff, established a new system that enabled the clear and smooth transmission of medical content using affordable and commonly available equipment. Being revolutionary and easy to use, this system rapidly expanded into the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The Asia Telemedicine Development Center of Asia was created at Kyushu University Hospital, which made its overall management more reliable and effective. Professor Masao Tanaka resigned as Director this year and I succeeded him - a great honor and responsibility. The 6th Telemedicine Symposium was held in Fukuoka to commemorate this occasion; it was a pleasure to meet old friends and collaborating members.

New connecting sites that have joined this year include the Fiji School Medicine and State University Hospital in Rio de Janeiro. Although there are still some technical problems to resolve, we expect there will be further collaboration with these hospitals, from which doctors visited us a month for training during the year. Domestically, one of the most exciting achievements was that the National Cancer Center in Tokyo collaborated with us for the first time and had successful DVTS transmissions to Seoul, Korea. Yonago Medical Center also joined our initiative to actively lead the nursing programs. In terms of technology, the Quatre-16, a multi-point connection unit for DVTS, proved to be capable of connections up to 14 stations; this was a huge advance and it is expected to be used in a variety of settings. The Vidyo system is recognized, within our upcoming programs, as being one of the more powerful systems to which mobile devices can be easily connected. In addition, we have been pleased to find articles in a special New Year edition of a newspaper, and Nature magazine, which have introduced our activities to the general public.

The last decade saw us establish our system and introduce our activity to various countries and regions. What will happen during the next decade? I sincerely hope that our work will produce even better results and educational programs in accordance with the continuous development of new technologies, which will see an even better organization in another 10 years.

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