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1. Preface

In Japan the Heisei era has changed to Reiwa, meaning “beautiful harmony”. Locally, the Kyushu University Institute for Asian and Oceanian Studies (Q-AOS) has been formally organized, creating a new stream for globalization. The Medicine and Health Cluster is one of six groups, and our team will have a major role in the activity.

Two new projects have begun. “A Human Resources Development Project for Filling the Gaps of Medical Standards in Myanmar” is supported by the National Center for Global Health and Medicine. By combining local training and remote education, the aim of this project is to establish continuous and effective teaching programs across Myanmar. The second program is the “Japan–Russia Medical Cooperation Accelerating Project”, whose purpose is to promote preventive medicine and advanced medicine in Russia using a Japanese-style check-up system and early detection of cancers. Kyushu University Hospital and Marubeni Company signed a memorandum to jointly facilitate this government-supported project.

Our domestic telemedicine workshop represents another giant leap in expansion. The first workshops were organized in Kyrgyzstan in June and in Bhutan in October. Annual workshops were held in Nepal (March), Vietnam (April), Indonesia (November), and Myanmar (January), where active discussion was held among doctors and supporting engineers.

Various new programs have been created during the past year. One of the most attractive programs was a teleconference on Japanese cuisine conducted by six nutritionists working in Japanese hospitals in Brazil who also held a hands-on training program in Kyushu University Hospital in June. A program for endoscopic ultrasonography was actively organized, and another for brain attack was organized together with Vietnam. As genomic medicine has become accepted by medical insurance, a weekly teleconference was organized for intensive discussion about candidate patients. Another new direction is the expansion of remote education beyond medicine, and new programs with other departments on the main campus are coming soon.

Teleconferencing can be useful and can remain active, once an in-person network has been well established between participants. We have invited many foreign doctors to Japan and have visited many countries, to improve mutual understanding. The Olympics will be held in Japan this summer, and we sincerely hope that we will be able to work together with more people in many more countries.

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