

Activity Report of Asia-Pacific Medical Network Project in Kyushu University Hospital

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<https://doi.org/10.15017/8300>

出版情報：「超高速ネットワークを利用したアジア遠隔医療プロジェクト」 TEMDEC活動報告. 1, pp.1-114, 2005-03. AQUA事務局

バージョン：

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11. Closing

Brothers! Let's Unite to Spread Benefits across Borders by Broadband!

We look forward to the era of the ubiquitous society with the next generation Internet communication technology. In the fields of healthcare, medicine and welfare, we will be able to manage daily life for the elderly and those suffering from dementia, to effect life-style management, to provide education through e-learning concerning life-style related diseases such as diabetes mellitus and to provide a remote medical consultation service for those patients at home. These should provide the environment necessary for realization of a user-oriented, highly efficient, low cost and precise healthcare system.

Our project, which comprises the Asian medical network, is based on a concept similar to that described above. Even from your seat in your own office, you will be able to see and learn even detailed finger movements involved in the newest medical techniques in the world; you will be able to understand in concrete terms conditions of an emergent infectious disease which you have never seen and you will be able to prepare for the approaching spread of the disease; you will also be able to make clear presentations at international academic meetings from a remote location 5,000 km distant from the venue 30 minutes after your medical consultation with your outpatients. Thus, we are aiming to provide the essential environment to acquire the best and newest healthcare techniques without placing additional stress on medical staff (cost, time, anxiety regarding the risk of infection, etc).

In rivalry with United States, the European Union (EU) is developing rapidly. Accordingly, many of the world's industries and dense information networks are becoming bipolarized. On the other hand, unification of Asia is slow due to such factors as political instability, economic disparities and religious differences, although Asia contains some of the most populated and/or rapidly growing countries in the world.

The delay in development of information services will prove a major factor in the widening of the gap between Asia and US/EU, will contribute to difficulties in making good use of resources and will exacerbate the "brain drain" phenomenon. In the field of medicine, the slow development of information sharing of advanced medical techniques (e.g. endoscopic surgery, robotic surgery and measures against emergent infectious disease or acts of bio-terrorism), medical ethical consensus (e.g. transplantation, regeneration therapy and genomic therapy) and medical peripherals (e.g. medical devices and medicines) will also be a major contributing factor to disadvantages for

medical practitioners, patients and citizens alike. In other words, the promotion of unification of the Asian medical society may contribute to world-wide medical development through the creation of a third medical pole.

Our goal in this project is to promote the unification of the Asian medical society and to share medical information and attitudes towards medicine including friendship between medical staffs fostered by information communication technology

Asian brothers! Let's unite to spread benefits across borders by broadband!

March 2005

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