

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

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1. Preface

The year 2002 is a historical year for both Korea and Japan because the World Cup Soccer event was successfully co-hosted by the two countries for the first time in history. This was when our medical team joined the Hyeonhea/Genkai project, which was established by cooperation between governments, academic institutions, and companies, in order to promote mutual relationship in such fields as culture, education, business and sightseeing using broadband Internet via the Korea-Japan submarine optical cable.

It was both fortuitous and a kind of coincidence that the medical team started to work on this project. Hanyang University in Seoul was a common friend for both engineering and medical teams. In addition, three surgeons (HS Han, BI Moon, and YW Kim) had been invited to a local surgical meeting in Fukuoka in the same year. All these doctors are now key counterparts leading the project.

This joint project seems to be best suited to medical use. In contrast to the conventional telecommunication with the narrow band, high-quality motion images do not deteriorate during transmission and exactly the same quality of pictures can be seen at the receiving end of the network. Thanks to this fact, doctors can recognize precise anatomy to make an accurate diagnosis and can provide good educational materials for remote medical students.

We are proud to say that we have accomplished more than we expected in the course of these last couple of years. Here we summarize our achievements both as a record for our own benefit and as a reference for interested friends.

This year commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Korea-Japan friendship treaty. We believe that our project will go beyond the borders of the two countries and will be ultimately beneficial to patients throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

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