

Activity Report of Asia-Pacific Medical Network Project in Kyushu University Hospital : Vol.2

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11. Closing

Conversion from Experiment to Business, from Collaboration to Cooperation

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The last year was a turning year for AQUA project. Our activity which used to be a BoF (birds of a feather) in APAN (Asia Pacific Advance Network), was formally approved by the voting in APAN Taipei in August 2006. This fact should suggest us to convert the view of AQUA project. We need to change it from experiment base, which allows to be quit anytime, to business base, which should have social responsibility.

AQUA project is accumulating outcomes and well-known as an experimental group so far. However, it has been unstable as an organization because it has depended on personal nature and effort. Now, AQUA has a social responsibility in international telemedicine activities in Japan, for example, it should manage and support for the new medical project from other research group in this area. We need to uncover the future plan to become a self-support project, to escape from the system depending upon subsidies and volunteer activity. Additionally, we need to show incentives for participation (economic, educational, academic, etc) for the domestic and international collaborators, and we need to ask them to be a cooperator for the self-supportive AQUA project, instead of a mere collaborator. Achieving these is necessary to keep social responsibility and to take over the assets of effort and outcomes produced by AQUA.

The conversion needs big efforts, time and abilities, although we already found in previous AQUA activities that there are bigger needs for international telemedical network in all Asia-Pacific countries. We also feel a favorable wind of developing information communication technology (ICT).

Aim of AQUA is “to develop an infrastructure for Asia-Pacific medical standardization” which means we support to provide standard medical care for people suffering from lower leveled medical system. Thus, AQUA is now asked quick conversion with the important social responsibility.