

Exchange Program 2013 Mahidol University Ramathibodi Hospital

DATE:4/1~4/26



Kobe University School of Medicine 6th grade

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1, Introduction

From April 1st to 26th, I went to Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University in Bangkok. I practiced in the department of Infectious Disease, and Family Medicine.

I have 3 reasons why I chose this program.

First, I'm interested in infectious disease and general medicine. Second, I've never been to Thailand. Third, my seniors who chose this program told me that it was very nice.



2, Department of Infectious Disease(4/1~4/11)

In Infectious Disease department, I had two activities, group round and observing outpatient department.

- group round

I joined the round and discussed about the history, examination findings, diagnosis, and treatment. I was assigned two patients, PCP and bacterial meningitis. Everyday I went to see the patients and took physical examination. In this department, I was able to experience the patient of HIV, syphilis, brucellosis, which I can't see often in Japan. Through this practice, I gained the knowledge about these diseases.

- outpatient

I observed the outpatient department of the professor who specializes in HIV. He taught me about the basic knowledge of HIV infection. HIV is uncommon in Japan, so it was a good chance for me to learn about HIV infection. He also told me about HIV-related problems in Thailand. HIV is common disease in Thailand. It is said that 1~2% of Thai people have HIV infection, and the percentage is higher especially among sex workers.



3, Department of Family Medicine(4/15~4/26)

In the department of Family Medicine, we had many lecture and activities.

- case conference

Every morning I joined the case conference. Residents present some cases which they experienced. I was very surprised because their presentation is much better than Japanese. They were very good at speaking English, and their presentations were very attractive.

- home visit

We visited patient's home as a member of the team. I was surprised to see patients live in worse environment than I thought, such as no air conditioned, poor hygiene. This is because we have lived in the dorm in Rama, and we have been to only tourist spots. The Patients had many problems, such as physical, psychological, social, and financial problems. And the family of the patient who care them also had many problems. The member of the team was discussing about such multiple problems, not only the physical. Then we can see with our own eyes the team holistically caring patients and their family.

- 1:1 OFM teaching

In this activity, we had a chance to take the history, physical examination, think differential diagnosis, assessment from real patients. In Japan, I don't have so many opportunities to do such things. So it was good experience for us.



4, Daily life

On weekend, we went to many places in Thailand, Krabi, Ayutaya, sonkuran festibal in kaosan and enjoyed very much. And we got to know many people in Thailand, such as student and doctors in Rama, Siriraj. This is a good fortune for us.

We also enjoyed Thai food. It was very delicious and cheap. Some food is too spicy for Japanese, but most of Thai food matches our taste preference. At the food court of Ramathibodi hospital, it costs only 100yen per meal.



See food



sonkuran festival



phat thai



Krabi



with Siriraj students



with Ramathibodi doctor and student

5, Conclusion

Through this program, I learned many things and gained a lot of valuable experience. Before this program, I didn't have confidence in my English skill. But in Thailand I had to communicate in English and it was a good training for me. After the program, I can say what I want to say to some extent and I got to have confidence in my language skill.

In Thailand I got to know some students and doctors. They are very kind. I will always remember their generous hospitality. And Thai student were also eager to learn. I respect their attitude, and I was inspired to study diligently. This encounter will be a lifelong treasure.

I really think I was happy to join this program. I appreciate all the people who supported our program.