

Exchange Program

Ramathibodi hospital, Mahidol university,
Thailand



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1. Introduction

I have had an elective course practice at Ramathibodi hospital in Thailand for one month. I spent first 2 weeks (September 1~11) in pulmonary medicine department, and other 2 weeks (September 14~25) in family medicine department. I planned to join this elective course practice with two friends. But because of the terrorism in August they canceled it. So I went to Thailand alone. In Thailand in order to avoid the terrorism police officers checked our baggage at the station.



2. About Ramathibodi hospital



It is located at the near place from the central city. It takes 20 minutes to the victory monument station from it. It has almost all the departments and is one of the biggest hospital in Bangkok. Actually, there are more patient in it than Kobe University

Hospital. Most 5 or 6 grade students of Mahidol university live in the dormitory. They have night work and on call system though they are students. There are 4 beds in my room. It was clean and there is air conditioner. House keeper cleaned my room every Friday for free. But I had some trouble. The shower can not be warm. So I went to gym every day and took shower there.

3. About pulmonary medicine

I belonged to pulmonary medicine from September 1 to 11. I want to learn about tuberculosis. So I chose it. Unfortunately, there is no student. But many professors and fellow took care of me. I went to the hospital at 9 am and followed the fellow every



day. I ate lunch for free at the seminar. The seminar was like “kennsyuui-seminar” in Kobe university hospital. The professors taught me the ventilation system and respiratory sound and so on. The fellows are so kind that they took me to the market and gave me some souvenir.

4. About family medicine department



I belonged to family medicine department from September 14 to 25. There is no family medicine department in Kobe university hospital. So I want to know what is the family medicine and how the doctors work. There are 2 things which I am interested in at family medicine

department. First thing is home visit. In Japan Many elderly patient die at the hospital or nursing home or hospice. So I have no chance to visit patient’s home in Kobe university hospital. When I visit the patient’s home in

Thailand, the patient had many problems, such as physical, psychological, social and financial problems. Their care giver also had many burden. The team of family medicine discussed about them in the car. I felt that they cured not only the disease but also living environment. Second thing is 1:1 OFM teaching. In this activity, I took the patient's history and physical exam myself and then think about the diagnosis and assessment. It was very difficult for me, and I felt I have to study hard. The students at family medicine department took care of me and I went to lunch, dinner, shopping, sightseeing with them. I really enjoyed.

5. Conclusion

I went to Thailand alone. So during first week, I was a little bit homesickness. But Thai people are so kind and I could make friends easily. They took me to dinner, some famous temples and so on. Now I am "Thaisickness". Because of their kindness, I could learn about Thai culture and medicine. I had precious experience. I want to use this experience and then be a good doctor

