

Exchange program in Thailand report

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Place: Mahidol University Siriraj hospital

I studied medicine in Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok for one month. That was my first stay in Thai for me. Everything was new to me. I was worried whether I could live in Thai before I went. But everyone in Thai are very kind and Thai food is delicious. And Thailand is not dangerous. So I had no difficulty in living in Thai.

In Siriraj Hospital I studied in the department of trauma surgery and infectious disease. In department of trauma surgery, I had opportunities to suture a wound, inject local anesthetics, or proceed debridement of burned skin. I've never done these procedures in Japan. In Thai, medical student can try much more medical procedures than we can do in Japan. And they know more clinical thing. For example they know for patients with hyponatremia how much saline solution of how much concentration they should give. I was really jealous of them. So I decided to study more clinical medicine that is directly helpful to practical clinic even after I went back to japan.

In the department infectious disease I saw a lot of HIV patients. I was really surprised that in Thai one out of 50 people are HIV positive. In Japan I had never seen HIV patients. But HIV patients in outpatient clinic look so healthy and look like almost normal people. I really admire the effectiveness of anti-HIV drugs. On the other hand, some of hospitalized HIV patients were very sick. I saw a 20 year old boy who was HIV positive and had cryptococcal meningitis, pneumocystis pneumonia and salmonella enteritis. I was really shocked. I studied a lot about HIV infection. I should learn more about HIV in order not to mistake diagnosis of HIV infection that will be also common in Japan in the near future. I heard that in Thai patients don't have to pay for medication of HIV. Thai medical system is very established despite of developing countries. That is one of a great aspect of Thai medical system.

On the other hand, in Thai there are two types of hospital, private and public. Most people in Thai go to public hospital. Only Very rich people and foreigners go to private hospital. Public hospitals look not clean and have no air-conditioners in some patient's room. But private one looks like a hotel and so high building and beautiful. I don't know how different about medical care, but I was surprised that it depends on their income whether they can choose beautiful hospital or not. In Japan most patients can go to any hospital they want to go to. And everyone can take almost the same medication. It's a good aspect of Japanese medical system.

In this stay in Thai, I learned a good and bad aspects of both Japan and Thai. I think this will be helpful for me to work as a doctor in the future in Japan or other countries.