

Exchange program in Thailand report

Ken Yoshida

Period: April 1, 2013~April 26, 2013

Place: Mahidol university Siriraj hospital

I have stayed in Bangkok Thailand for about a month to study at Siriraj hospital, one of the most prestigious hospitals in Asia. I studied in Trauma surgery and Infectious disease medicine two weeks for each department. There I was able to spend productive days. In addition, since there are many holidays on April in Thailand, I could enjoyed and understood some Thai cultures and life of the people living there. So I would like to introduce my life in Bangkok.

Trauma surgery

I spent first two weeks studying in Trauma surgery. The types of cases were entirely different from those in Japan. Most patients' chief complaints were dog bite and cat bite because there were a lot of wild dogs and cats unlike in Japan. So I practiced disinfection, suture, dressing and sometimes even vaccination for rabies. But what I was most surprised was that Thai students did almost everything. Although doctors checked them, they did outpatient, prescribe, treatment and so on. I felt educational system was also different from Japan.

Infectious disease medicine

I spent last two weeks studying in infectious disease medicine. We were discussing the infectious diseases of the patients in the hospital. The doctors in the department were so instructive and enthusiastic that I could learn how to approach them. And what was most impressive for me was the fact that one in fifty people is suffering from AIDS. I could hardly imagine it because that rate is almost two hundred times higher than that of Japan.

Since there were many Thai students and other foreign exchange students from various countries like America and Germany in Siriraj hospital, I made friends with them. On holidays we went out to look around Bangkok city and sometimes drank together. Their motivations and ways of thinking stimulated me a lot. Although I stayed in Thailand for very short time, I was able to spend wonderful time. I'm sure that all these things will be really good and useful experience for me as I become a doctor.