

Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok,
Thailand

Date: 1st-26th April, 2013

Kobe University School of Medicine

6th grade

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1. Introduction

I applied for this exchange program for the following reasons.

First, I wanted to learn medicine from another point of view. I thought if I learned medicine in Thailand, I could learn the good point and bad point of medicine in Japan.

Second, I was originally interested in Thai culture. But a month is too short for me to know about Thai culture deeply.

I had been in Thailand for about a month, from 1st to 26th April with my classmates. We learned at Ramathibodi Hospital in Mahidol University for 4 weeks. I had studied Infectious Disease department for first 2 weeks and Trauma Surgery department for another 2 weeks. I had a great medical and daily experience in Thailand, so I'd like you to show the content of my exchange program.



2. Object

Learn diseases which are common in Thailand

Improve my English

See the difference of medical service and education between Japan and Thailand

Enjoy my life in Thailand

Broaden my horizons

3. Ramathibodi Hospital

Ramathibodi Hospital is located in the center of Bangkok. The nearest station is Phaya Thai Station, BTS Line. There is a huge palace and the Victory Monument near the hospital. It has about 1000 beds. Many patients comes from not only Bangkok but also rural area.

I was staying in the dormitory next to the hospital during my practice in Bangkok. It had four beds, four closets, two desks and an air conditioner. We couldn't live without an air-conditioned room because the temperature was more than 35°C in April in Bangkok.



4. Infectious Disease department

In this department, we usually had team round with a professor and fellows and sometimes they gave us small lectures. And on Friday, we went to OPD building and saw the HIV patients with the professor.

Doctors in Infectious Disease department saw many patient with fever or unknown origin infection which is difficult to cure. We went to many wards or ICUs of other department.

Many patients in the hospital had been infected by HIV and had pneumonia. It was a good opportunity for us to learn HIV and treatment for HIV.

In the department, we took charge of the patient infected by HIV and had PCP. We checked her SpO₂ and RR every morning and evening. At the first several days, she seemed to have difficulty in breathing. But the last 3 days, she got better and breath almost normally. Finally Her SpO₂ is almost 95%(room air).

We learned that correct medication helped HIV patients to live normally. And the medication is getting cheaper than before, also poor people can take medication.

Finally the professor gave us a good advice. “If you want to be a good doctor, you have to work hard.”



5. Trauma Surgery department

In this department, we usually had two team rounds with fellows, residents and students. I did simple treatment such as disinfection, removing the stitches and so on. There were many patients injured with motorcycle and car accidents. The morning round started at 7:00 and the evening one started at 14:00 or 15:00. Sometimes I had lectures or classes with students. The lectures were about not only trauma surgery but also general surgery. They were interesting to me.

In the operating room, I saw a patient with right arm contusion. Doctors debrided quickly. I had never seen such a large contusion before. And I saw doctors doing gastroscopy and colonoscopy. The teacher taught residents the way of scopy kindly.

The teachers, fellows, students were really kind. They taught me many things, and answered my questions precisely.



6. Activities

On weekends, we traveled to not only various area in Thailand but also Angkor in Cambodia. We enjoyed swimming in Emerald Pool and island hopping in Krabi. Thai friend's family took us to Ayutthaya and I rode on an elephant there. It was very hot in Cambodia, but Angkor was very beautiful.



7. Conclusion

Through this exchange program, I had great and wonderful experience. I could see infectious disease I had never seen before in Japan, learn a lot of medical treatment and the difference between Japan and Thai.

I made many friends. They are not only Thai people but also Austrian and Japanese. They were all really kind.

I great appreciate to everybody who gave me opportunities to have good experiences and memories.