

I was fortunate to Japan in autumn. The climate was cool and the leaves began to change color. It looked very nice. This is the first time I arrive to Japan. I have many good impression on Japanese people and country. I spent at University of Tsukuba Hospital in a short time, 5 days. In this short visit, I didn't have much chance to watch many cardiovascular operations. There were few cases of cardiovascular operations, but I am very satisfied with what I have observed. This 5 days internship experience has been very useful in increasing my career skills and greatly broadening my knowledge in organization modern cardiac operating room.

My weekly day at the Department of the Cardiovascular Surgery begins at 8:00 am with morning meeting in the 2th floor. All the staff discuss about the cases who operated yesterday and planed surgery for patient that day, one by one by the moderate of the dean professor Hiramatsu. All information of patient was recoded in great detail. It is very useful for future research. I learned a lot of experiences to analyze the plan operation for each case. Then, we moved to the ICU for visiting yesterday operated patients. There was 5 cardiac surgery patient in ICU. Besides, all the staffs have to visit patient at the Ward in 10<sup>th</sup> floor on the Friday. At nine o'clock, I entered the operating room.

As you knew, this is my first time in UTH. So, I came into the operating room I could not imagine that you possessed large operating room with too many modern equipment and well organization, given the extreme condition for surgeons and other staffs. There are all 16 operating rooms including 3 for cardiovascular department. My favorite is the hydrib operating room. It is useful for operating aortic surgery such as: TEVAR , EVAR, and TAVI,...In my hospital, we operated a lot of aortic diseases, top of country in this field. We also began Stent Graft procedure 3 years ago. However, we regret due to not yet hydrib operating room because it is very expensive. I watched 4 cases during my stay here include: CABG, aortic valve replacement, mitral valve repair and TEVAR with debranching O2 abdominal arteries. All operation was recorded by camera, we can observe the operation through the camera without having to stand on the surgical field. Then, patient was transferred to ICU. Patients was ex-tubed early and quickly recover. I was well impression about network system that is very good and efficient to control and follow-up patient's data.

There was the wonderful collaboration between cardiovascular surgeons, anesthetist and perfusionist. I knew to how to work together (teamwork). They would be excellent experiences for me in applying this technique in my clinical practice. I want to develop this technique for my hospital in the future. I hope that we will have a good collaboration more and more.

Besides visiting in UTH, I had the opportunity attend the annual meeting in Kobe: the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery. It was held very good with 3 specialized in the field of cardiothoracic: cardiac, vascular and lung. There were a lot of good reports about the development trend of cardiothoracic surgery in the future. So, I had a chance to approach new knowledge and knew a number of leading Japanese professors in cardiothoracic surgery.

In particular I would like to thank for the time you, all the staffs of Cardiovascular Surgery Department spent with me having one unforgettable welcome party, discussing the professional knowledges. All the staff were welcome, helpful and offered me terrific career advice. This 9 days internship has definitely increased my interest in pursuing cardiovascular surgery.

And the last, I would like to extend sincerely appreciate to:

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- Prof. Minoru Akiyama - Chief, Office for the Promotion of International Medical Affairs (OPIMA)
  - Prof. Hiramatsu: Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery Department
  - Assistant Prof. Chiho – Cardiovascular surgeon.
  - Ms. Megumi Fukaya, Alex - Coordinator of OPIMA
- Once again, thank you for the terrific 9 days!



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