

## Preface

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Diseases caused by flavivirus infections have been serious health problems in the world. Especially in Asia, which comprises both Western Pacific and Southeast Asian Regions of the World Health Organization (WHO), dengue fever (DF)/dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) and Japanese encephalitis (JE) have been affecting a number of people resulting in substantial death and residual sequelae. These diseases have not only been serious problems in medical sector but also imposed substantial economic loss which hindered development of the affected countries and regions. In order to achieve the control of these diseases and enhance economic development in these countries and regions, laboratory diagnosis should provide accurate informations to the epidemiologists and clinicians for appropriate control measures and case management.

The Workshop "Epidemiology and Laboratory Diagnosis on Dengue Fever (DF) / Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE)" was organized by the World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The Workshop was held from 9 to 15 August 1994, following the Inauguration Ceremony which commemorated the designation of our Department of Virology, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University as the WHO Collaborating Center for Reference and Research on Tropical Viral Diseases. In this Workshop, 13 participants were invited from China, Vietnam, Lao, P.D.R., Cambodia, Philippines, and Fiji. Besides, 15 official observers and 75 audiences have attended the course. In the Workshop, presentations by participants and 6 lecturers were made at Pompe Hall in the Campus of Nagasaki University Medical School. While, laboratory practicals on virus isolation in cell cultures, ELISA for viral antigen detection and IgM-antibody assay, and PCR detection of viral genome were carried out in the Department of Virology, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University. The presentations from participants and lecturers were all informative and interesting and followed by active questions and discussions from attendants. It seemed important to keep these presentations in printed records for future references.

It would be my great privilege that the Institute of Tropical Medicine Nagasaki University agreed to publish these presentations in a special issue of "Tropical Medicine" which is the official publication of the Institute. Special thanks should be directed to Dr. Nobuhiko Okabe, former Regional Advisor for Communicable Diseases of the World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific, who took great deal of effort for the designation of our WHO Collaborating Center and to organize this WHO Workshop. It should be pointed out that these printed papers are not Official Publication of the WHO.