

## Historical Review of the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my great pleasure and honor to introduce the history of the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University just before an important and interesting symposium.

Our institute was founded within Nagasaki Medical College in 1942 when Japan met many difficulties, because it was the second year of the World War II.

At first the name of our institute was the East Asian Research Institute of Endemic. The purpose of establishment of this institute was for research and control of infectious diseases in East Asia including China.

However, the institute at that time was small, there were only two departments, pathology and bacteriology. Unfortunately the explosion of atomic bomb in August 1945 completely turned the institute into ashes and the President and Dean, Professor Tsunoo and all staff members died unfortunately.

After the end of the World War II, research activities moved to Isahaya, near Nagasaki city in April 1946. The name of the institute was changed to the Research Institute of Endemics. According to the change of education system in all over Japan, this institute was affiliated to Nagasaki University.

Moreover, that new institute again suffered severe damages during the unexpected flood of July 1957. The new institute building at present was built in 1961. Though there was some progress in activities but research activity was unfortunately not high.

In 1963 Professor Fukumi was invited as the dean, from the National Institute of Public Health to our institute. Our institute grew rapidly with the tremendous efforts of the dean, other professors and staffs.

From 1963 to 1966, the departments of epidemiology, parasitology and virology were opened in the institute. In 1967, our institute's name changed from Research Institute of Endemics to the present name, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University. Therefore I think, in 1967, our institute confirmed the activity and development, to do significant research on tropical medicine. Our institute was given a clinical ward in the Nagasaki University Hospital at the same time.

The memorizing event was that, our institute was up-graded to collaborating institute in 1989. Now we are able to collaborate with many researchers of tropical medicine in another university, and institute.

I would like to mention that in Japan our collaborating institute is the first medical institute affiliated to an university.

It is our great pleasure to hear that many researchers from other institutions have highly evaluated the collaborating studies. At present, our institute has ten departments, these are pathology, environmental physiology, parasitology, protozoology, medical entomology, virology, bacteriology, biochemistry, internal medicine and preventive medicine. Each department has important and attractive collaborating work.

The other characteristic features of our institute are each department have study point in tropical countries, such as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brasil, Kenya, Zaire, Uganda, Tanzania and so on. Of course, original and collaborating studies in our intitute are very wide from field work to molecular biological studies to do the best contribution to tropical medicine. On this occasion, it is also my great pleasure to inform you that recently many excellent papers from our institute are continuously published in United States, Europe and Japan.

Now, I would like to introduce two special medical courses in our institute. First is the training course on tropical medicine and related studies for Japanese, since 1965. The total number of persons who completed the course reached 144 in 1992. I heard more than 100 persons worked in the developing countries. These members included doctors, nurses and pharmacologists. Second is the group training course in research for tropical medicine since 1983. This course is arranged with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and also supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Every year 5 participants are selected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Asia, Africa and Latin America. These participants are able to select the department by themselves and study for nine months. After going back to their country, almost all participants continue to study their work and we also help them. The total number of participants reached to 54 in 1992.

Some participants are working with special collaborating subjects, for example, Kaposi's sarcoma, encephalitis, acute respiratory infections, AIDS and so on. Briefly I have introduced the history of our institute to the attending persons in this symposium.

By the way, after that, it is very important for us to realize, how to proceed as one of the institutions of tropical medicine in the advanced countries. In this sense, we expect sincerely this symposium will give us many important suggestions and teachings about the future trend of tropical medicine.

Thank you for your attention!!