Chernobyl Telemedicine Project

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"Radiation Biosciences," an "Information Network System for International Hibakusha" and "Medical research for radiation victims" are three key areas of focus in the establishment of an "International Consortium for the Medical Care of Hibakusha and Radiation Life Science" within a framework of our 21st Century COE program. We have contributed to the establishment of an "Information Network System for International Hibakusha" through the telemedicine system between Nagasaki, Chernobyl and Semipalatinsk. Furthermore, we have participated in the WHO-Sasakawa Healthtelematics Project, which is a joint project of WHO, the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation and the Ministry of Health in the Republic of Belarus, in order to strengthen the medical infrastructure of Belarus through the introduction of healthtelematics. An established system is currently utilized for the review of pathological and cytological images of thyroid diseases (telepathology) and for the remote-education of medical students and specialists through the Internet (tele-education). We also established a remote lecturing system between Nagasaki University and Gomel State Medical University, which is expected to be a "model case" of "e-health," a system recently advocated by WHO. Furthermore, we are preparing further network systems between Kiev and Korosten in Ukraine, as well as between Gomel and Hoiniki in Belarus, respectively, in order to improve the medical infrastructure of radio-contaminated areas.

In conclusion, the use of telemedicine technology is highly expected to facilitate not only the involvement of qualified experts in the strengthening of local health care system but also the education of medical staff and students in territories affected by the Chernobyl accidents.

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