Tokai University Medical Research Institute, Japan

E-HEALTH EXPERT TRAINING COURSE HOSTED AT TOKAI UNIVERSITY

Abstract:
Tokai University of Japan would like to propose an *E-Health Expert Training Course* to offer the opportunity of training in telemedicine and e-health to the medical and health care workers in developing countries. ITU/BDT is requested to make the necessary arrangement for potential participants to attend.
In accordance with the decisions of two World Telecommunication Development Conferences (Buenos Aires, 1994 and Valletta, 1998), the ITU/BDT has undertaken various activities related to the study of the potential benefit of telemedicine applications in the health care sector of developing countries as well as the demonstration of these applications in implemented telemedicine pilot projects in selected countries. Question 14/2 was dedicated to this subject.

During the past few years the ITU/BDT implemented a number of pilot projects in developing countries in order to gain experiences and to identify the suitable technologies and practicing models. In this context, the e-Health Expert Training Course, jointly launched by the ITU/BDT and Tokai University in Japan, offers an excellent opportunity for medical and health care workers from developing countries to understand the current trends and technologies in telemedicine and e-health, and provide the foundation for the introduction of telemedicine services. Tokai University is located in Kanagawa Prefecture, just 60 kilometres away from Tokyo. It is the only member of the ITU Development Sector representing the medical and health care community. The proposed course will be hosted by Tokai University with the financial support from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The attendants of the course will benefit from the expertise and facilities at Tokai University, which is an active player in the international telemedicine and e-health arena, as well as the experience learned from the implemented BDT/ITU pilot projects. At the first stage, the course will offer the following two programs:

(1) Post-doctoral training program;
(2) Short-term training program.

Tokai University consists of five campuses which are composed of 13 schools and colleges made up of 68 departments, majors, and programs. Its graduate school offers 44 programs in 12 disciplines. The University Hospital accommodates 1,133 beds and makes world-renowned achievements in both clinical and research fields. During the last few years, Nakajima Laboratory of Tokai University Medical Research Institute has been an active promoter of telemedicine in developing countries, as well as a robust developer of advanced telemedicine technologies based on satellite and wireless communications. There are 10 research and teaching staff currently at the Laboratory. Nakajima Laboratory has successfully implemented a number of telemedicine projects across the Asia/Pacific region. Long-term partnership has been established with the ITU and the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Isao Nakajima is Co-Rapporteur of Question 14/2. International cooperation on telemedicine and e-health was also established with institutions in countries like Thailand and Indonesia. Two researchers from Indonesia already arrived in August 2001 for the telemedicine and e-health training course. These progresses have laid down the foundation for the future development.

With the establishment of the e-health expert training course at Tokai University, the usage of financial contributions of both Japanese Government and NGOs will be optimised so as to make full benefit of the available resources to serve the developing countries. In order to enable participants from developing countries to attend this course, ITU/BDT is requested to make the necessary arrangements.