

EXCHANGE PROGRAM AT KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY

February 3rd – March 1st, 2024

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WAKAYAMA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, JAPAN – 6TH YEAR OF MEDICAL SCHOOL

Wakayama Medical University and Khon Kaen University have an exchange program, and every year students from both sides study abroad at each other's institution. In February 2024, Three students from Wakayama Medical University studied at Khon Kaen University. In the following report, we will share our experiences.



Obstetrics and Gynecology Department

Hanae and Maki spent 4 weeks rotating in the obstetrics and gynecology department. Although we chose the same department, we joined the different teams and learned separately. We received training in the outpatient department, labor room and operating room. Additionally, we participated in case discussions in the morning with 4th and 6th-grade students. During our time at the outpatient clinic, we observed skillful 6th-year students dealing with their tasks from history taking to diagnosing by themselves. While we couldn't understand the conversation held with patient in Thai, kind students and professors translated and explained them to us in English. In the operating room, we witnessed procedures for neoplastic gynecological diseases such as leiomyoma and dermoid cysts. In the labor room, we observed both cesarean sections and normal deliveries.



We found a lot of differences between Japan and Thailand in the field of medicine. For example, contraceptive implantation is one of the main contraceptive methods in Thailand, which is rarely seen in Japan.





Pediatric Surgery Department

Mana stayed at Pediatric Surgery for 4 weeks.

I attended outpatient department, operation, conference and evening round. For the first one, outpatient department. Thai students assisted doctors. They performed gastrostomy replacement and medical interview etc. In Japan, students rarely do that.

Next topic is operation. I could see many cases. Hypospadias, hernia, dilation of urethra, laparoscopic cholecystectomy and more. And I also saw endoscopy for stricture of esophagus. I had never seen endoscopy for children so it was a very nice opportunity for me. I thought there is no laparoscopic surgery. I could know that Thai medical system was more advanced than I thought.



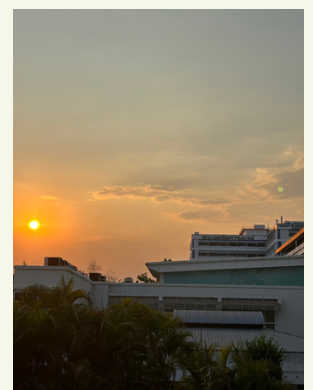
I went to Simulation center. I tried to do laparoscopy. There are many simulations of surgery. I also attended conferences. The slides were in English but the conference was in Thai. I tried my best to understand. Thai students in Pediatric surgery change every week, so I met many students and I could talk with them. Most memorable part was evening round which a Thai student invited me. That was totally different from ward round that I had attended in Japan.



I found many differences of medical system between Thai and Japan. The first thing that surprised me is washable and reusable operating gowns. In Japan, operating gowns are disposable. And there are much more cases of pediatric surgery in Khon Kaen than in Wakayama. One of the most surprising things is playing music in the operation room. A student was singing. It was funny.



And students assist doctors. What they do is same as intern doctors in Japan. I think Thai medical students have more skills and knowledge than Japanese medical students.





SIGHTSEEING

On weekends, we went sightseeing around Khon Kaen with Khon Kaen University students. They took us to many places such as Wat Nong Waeng, Ubolratana Dam, and school festivals. Every place we went was truly amazing.



SCHOOL FESTIVALS

In February, a lot of school festivals such as Agricultural festival, Art festival and Freshman festival were held at Khon Kaen University. Sports competitions were also held and we were able to watch the games and experience the lively atmosphere of Khon Kaen University. We felt very lucky to have experienced these events.



ICEM

During our stay, the International Challenge of Emergency Medicine (ICEM) was being held at Khon Kaen University. Six of our classmates from our university participated in the event. Although we didn't participate in the competition, we attended some events such as the farewell party. Maki performed by singing a Japanese song there.



ACCOMODATION



We stayed in a hotel located 1.5km away from the hospital. We used the school bus to commute to the hospital. This school bus is free of charge and allows us to visit various places within Khon Kaen University, such as gym, pool and museum. This gave us a sense of immersing ourselves in student life at KhonKaen university.



Our hotel was surrounded by restaurants, cafes, laundromats, and convenience stores. We could feel the lively atmosphere there.



FOOD

Our friends in Khon Kaen University took us to many restaurants and introduced us to the food culture.

We tried dishes such as Som Tam (Papaya salad), Thai noodles, and Thai BBQ among others. All the food we tried was very tasty and it was exciting to discover new flavors. Although it was a bit difficult to order food in Thai, every person we met in Khon Kaen was very kind and helped us a lot.



CONCLUSION

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who supported us throughout this incredible journey. To our professors, staffs, friends, and family. This opportunity not only helped us to grow academically but also offered a chance to broaden our perspectives. We are truly grateful for the opportunities we had to learn and grow in Khon Kaen.

