

WMA seminar in Reykjavik

The WMA held a concentrated seminar on task shifting in Reykjavik, Iceland in March, 2009. It was interesting to listen to the various aspects of the issue. I presented recent trial by the JMA as a successful example for extending Japan's pre-hospital care with medical control.

Each country sought to find their own solutions, even with the present serious world-wide economical crisis, through lively discussions on the latest topics in the field of health management. It seemed important to share common approaches to health system strengthening in community health management at a nationwide level. Discussions about human and monetary resource shortages must be based upon an appropriate background knowledge of such approaches. Instead, recently in Japan we have seen health management placed in tremendous jeopardy as a result of simple monetary economization. I strongly hope that these intensive efforts by the WMA will bear fruit in the near future.

During staying in Reykjavik, I was greatly impressed by the human efforts to utilize nature's gifts that we saw in the city, highly ecological geothermal power generation and seafood gastronomic culture, co-existing with the spectacular



Presentation by Dr. Ishii in Reykjavik

backgrounds of the sea, volcanic mountains, oceanic spreading center between the North American and Eurasian plates, and geysers, with great hot spas like Blue Lagoon. All these wonderful cultures and nature helped to ease my excited mind by the discussion in this seminar.

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