

2019 年度 HICARE/IAEA Internship Report

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1. Overview

Period : April 1st, 2019 ~ June 28th, 2019

Dispatch source : Hiroshima International Council for Health Care of the
Radiation-Exposed (HICARE)

Dispatch destination : International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Assigned department : Director's office, Division of Human Health,

Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications

Purpose : To understand the significance and necessity of medical treatment for the victim of the atomic bomb at a global point of view. To develop human resources who will inherit the research results and results of medical treatment for the radiation-exposed in Hiroshima.

With the recommendation and support of HICARE, I experienced a lot of different things as an intern at the IAEA in Vienna, Austria. I used the four

months given as a medical research training period at the fourth year of the School of Medicine, Hiroshima University.

As I was born in Hiroshima, I learned about the atomic bomb every year from elementary school to high school. I also studied about radiation therapy as a medical student, so I was very interested in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In addition, when I had lived in the U.S.A. for three years, I learned that there are various thoughts about the atomic bomb. I wanted to know more about what other people think about nuclear weapons and to tell people what I learned. When I found out that there is an internship at the IAEA where people from all over the world work for some form of nuclear power, I thought this would be a valuable experience and applied for this internship.

2. My job during the internship

At the IAEA, I worked at the Director's office. I worked on writing an article under the supervision of Dr. May Abdel Wahab who is the director of the Division of Human Health, Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications (NAHU). At the same time, I also helped Mr. Uwe Scholz to prepare for the meeting held in May, 2019 at Fukushima Medical University and to make a booklet related to the meeting. I also made a presentation at the Interns' forum, which was held for all internships working at NAHU.



(Picture : With Dr. Wahab, the director of NAHU)

1) Writing an article about Borderline Resectable Pancreatic Cancer (BRPC)

On the first week, I talked with Dr. Wahab, the director of NAHU. She told me to work on an article comparing four treatments for BRPC during my internship period. The four treatments are; only surgery, neoadjuvant chemotherapy, neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy, and Stereotactic Body Radio Therapy (SBRT). Dr. Wahab helped me writing the article, and I worked on this article throughout my internship period.

After coming back to Japan, I prepared for a presentation about my internship, held in Hiroshima University with the guidance of professor Yasushi Nagata and associate professor Yuji Murakami of Hiroshima University's radiation oncology.

I am now still working on my article.



(Picture : My presentation at Hiroshima University)

2) Preparing for the Technical Meeting held at Fukushima Medical University and making a booklet published after the meeting.

At the end of May 2019, a technical meeting about the impact of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant was held. This was co-hosted by the IAEA and Fukushima Medical University. Mr. Takashi Oba, assistant professor of radiation health management at Fukushima Medical University, went back to Japan at mid-April, so I took over his work.

i . Studying about the past meetings through reading published booklets

IAEA had held several meetings on the Fukushima nuclear accident, and had published a booklet and the “Health in Disasters Handbook: A Science and Technology Studies Practicum for Medical Students and Healthcare Professionals.” I was asked to read, study and understand them until I was actually involved in the project.

At the time of the nuclear accident, I was fifteen years old and only knew the information provided by TV news and the Internet. I was able to learn more about the accident not only through the booklet but also from what Mr. Oba, who was actually working at a hospital in Fukushima at that time, told me.

ii . Editing data about the participants of the meetings in the past

The IAEA has been collecting data about the experts who have participated in the former conferences related to the Fukushima nuclear accident, so I added the data of the participants for the conference in January and May, 2019. The data was specifically, the information on gender, country of origin and continent, areas of specialization, and the number of participants. I was able to know how the data was used after the questionnaires were collected. I thought it was important and necessary that the participants' backgrounds and expertise are carefully considered so that there is no major bias.

However, the percentage of women is still overwhelmingly small, and I felt that women are not playing active parts in society even when viewed globally.

It was very impressive when Mr. Scholz said, “People who work for the IAEA, including interns like you, will be treated as a member of the IAEA, not a person from their native country,” when I asked what I should do about the origins of the participants from the IAEA.

iii. Creating a program

We created a program that included the time and the title of the speech and the social background of each presenter. There were changes in the number of performers until the last minute.

I faced a lot of difficulties, but there was also much to learn, such as realizing

the importance and convenience of conducting meetings via the Internet even without being able to meet in person.

iv. Japanese translation/data work of the questionnaire given after the meeting

I created the questionnaire which was given after the meeting in Fukushima. I also edited the data of the actually collected results and translated them into English. When preparing the questionnaire, I carefully checked whether the Japanese language was natural or not. As it was a digital questionnaire, I also checked the questionnaire after it was posted on the Internet by the programming department.

While preparing for this meeting, I often realized that each of the experts worked together in their own field of expertise.

v. Translating a booklet published in the Fukushima prefecture

I translated a booklet written in Japanese for the local residents in Fukushima into English. I was asked questions mainly about the author, for example, what kind of social background he/she was from and what advice he/she had.

vi. Creating the table of contents and editing the booklet published after the
Technical Meeting

A booklet including papers from various viewpoints on the Fukushima nuclear accident and subsequent residents' lives was published. This was written by presenters from the Technical Meeting and various experts who were listed as presenters but could not participate due to circumstances.

I had to be careful with delays in communication due to national holidays, and I realized the difference in thinking about deadlines in each country,

which was a very interesting experience. I also had to be very careful when editing the data because it contained many papers.

3) My presentation at the Interns' forum

A meeting called the Interns' forum was held once a month at the IAEA. This is a meeting for the interns working at NAHU. Each time one intern makes a presentation about whatever he/she is interested in. After the presentation, all the interns discuss something related to the presentation. I was selected to make a presentation in June because I was going back to Japan at the end of the month.

Before my presentation, I discussed what I should present about with the lady who was in charge. She said, “How did you learn about the atomic bomb at school? For example, do you learn that someone is bad or responsible for it?”

This question surprised me so much. I said, “We don’t learn who is wrong or responsible for it. We learn what happened after the bomb and what kind of health problems the victims have, and that we should never have another war.”

After this discussion, I decided to present about my home town, Hiroshima and what I learned about the atomic bomb at school. Before starting my presentation, the lady in charge asked the other interns how they learned about the atomic bomb. I was very surprised that everyone said they just learned the word “atomic bomb – Hiroshima/Nagasaki.” I also thought this might be a natural reaction because the atomic bomb is just a historical fact for them.

3. What I learned from the other interns and staff

There were many interns coming from various countries at NAHU. From the US,

Spain, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, Bangladesh, etc.

We had an international cuisine party, and everyone brought some kind of local cuisine. We learned a lot through enjoying each food culture and talking about what it's like in our own country. One thing I can't forget is that whenever someone asked Christina where she is from, she always answered she is from "Barcelona," not "Spain." The Catalan independence movement was a really important and familiar issue for someone from Barcelona like her. I thought this is something similar with the fact that the atomic-bomb is just learned as "atomic-bomb – Hiroshima/Nagasaki" in other countries, although it is a really important fact for Hiroshima citizens including myself.

I was asked where I came from the first time I met someone at the IAEA. When I said I came from Japan, I was also asked which part of Japan I came from. I was very happy to know that a lot of people are interested in Japan. Some of them even told me they have been to Japan, and others said they've always wanted to visit Japan. One intern from Bosnia-Herzegovina told me that a lot of people in

her country have a good impression of Japan, and Japan is called “The place where the sun rises.” That was one of the most memorable things for me.

I especially enjoyed talking with the two working in the same office, who were an intern from Mexico and a staff from Greece. They were often speaking in both English and Spanish and taught me how to say hello in many languages. I also taught them how to say hello in Japanese. We enjoyed saying hello in many languages every morning.

At the IAEA, many events were held at the common space on the 1st floor, such as showing culture from some countries or showing projects worked by a branch of the IAEA. From Japan, a children’s chore group from Hyogo prefecture was singing songs once and women wearing kimono were playing the *koto* at another time. There was also a kind of cuisine party to enjoy delicious food from various countries.

All the experiences during my stay in Vienna and everything I learned from communicating with the interns and the staff from all over the world are important and precious for me.



(Picture : With the interns from NAHU at the IAEA)

4. Acknowledgments

Through my internship, I was able to know what kind of projects the people at the IAEA are working for.

I would like to thank the other interns and the staff I worked with at the IAEA. I would also like to thank the staff of the Hiroshima Prefectural Office and Hiroshima University for giving me this precious experience.

I really appreciate it.