

【LGS Report: Oversea Training 2018 (WHO, Geneva)】

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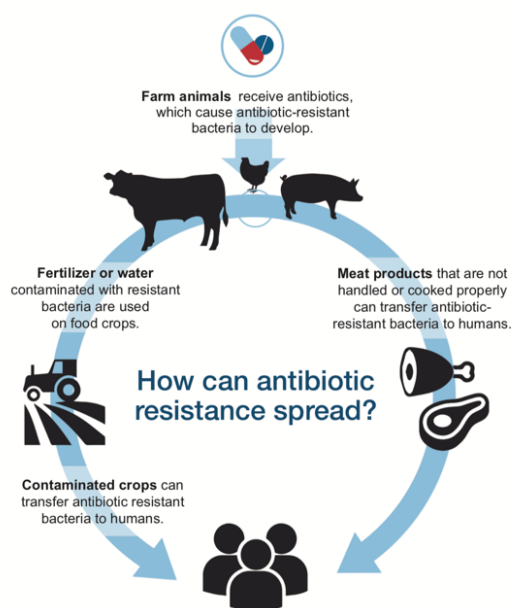
【Summary】

I participated in the overseas training program in Geneva from September 9 through September 15. We visited not only World Health Organization (WHO), but also International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We could receive lectures from the people working there, which was a really valuable experience for us.

Establishment of a global standard is challenging. It should be fair to every country regardless of their culture, background, creed and wealth. Establishment of policies for their own countries is much easier than that. Then, do we really need a global standard? We definitely do. Without it, we could not judge whether our own policies are correct or not.

Japan is a land of abundance. We have to give aid to developing countries. There is so much poverty and suffering in the world, with people not having access to safe water or living in war zones. The roles we have to play are essential.

【Important content】



The most impressive lecture for me was about usage of antibiotics for farm animals. A massive amount of antibiotics was given to farm animals, which cause antibiotic-resistant bacteria to develop. Then, meat products that are not handled or cooked properly can transfer antibiotic-resistant bacteria to human.

I had some experiences relating to this while working as a doctor in the hematology department. Patients who had never taken any antibiotics have antibiotic-resistant bacteria among normal bacteria flora in their intestine. Those resistant bacteria are often produced from farm animals. If the patient undergoes stem cell transplantation, we have to choose a medicine which is effective to those bacteria because they are infectious to immunodeficient patients, e.g., post-transplantation.

These days, doctors avoid prescribing unnecessary antibiotics. I realized this movement alone is not sufficient. However, it seems to be necessary for farmers to use antibiotics. Without these drugs, farm animals would get sick. Therefore, solving this problem is challenging.

【Development of your research activities】

I study hematological diseases such as leukemia and myelodysplastic syndrome. The number of patients of these diseases is not many, but they are all over the world. Although WHO does not conduct basic research in this field, they make guidelines and conduct epidemiologic studies. The contents of this training program are not directly related to my research theme, but I could learn global views. The treatment for leukemia has made a big progress while the cost of this has become tremendous. I hope my research will be of value to people in the world regardless of their national origin or wealth.