

Building an International Network and Developing Human Resources involved in Animal Diseases and Zoonoses

Report from Azabu University

The program was held from the 20th of January to the 29th, 2020 and mainly invited 25 young researchers from 24 universities in 21 Asian countries. The topic of the program was: "Harmony, Fraternity and Networking by learning together and from each other." The invitees were divided into five groups of researchers with different cultural backgrounds who, through practical exercises and experiments, learned about the latest diagnostic methods in veterinary medicine. They also learned how to diagnose and prevent zoonoses and animal diseases with precision instruments, and finally, after they shared their knowledge with each other, they reviewed what they had learned.

Most of the invitees were impressed by this global learning environment, where they learned and exchanged opinions with foreign researchers for the first time. All invitees were aware that they were acting as representatives from each of their own countries which made them nervous. However, they were still able to actively participate in and enjoy the exercises and discussions.



The exercises included creating cytological specimen of small animal diseases and conducting diagnosis exercises; identifying causative fungi of mammitis; culturing and identifying fungi on animal body surfaces; detecting avian influenza and BVD by the LAMP method without omission; freeze-preserve sperm and evaluating motility after thawing it; carrying out ultrasound imaging of circulatory and abdominal organs; detecting babesias in blood smears and using real time-PCR; performing oriental traditional acupuncture and moxibustion therapy for dogs; diagnosing tumors using computerized tomography (CT) scan; and experiments related to radioactivity prevention. There were also lectures on the diagnosis and treatment of horse diseases, the GIS-aided study on where diseases and arthropod vectors are happening, and how animal vaccines are developed and distributed in Japan.



Training for preventing mammitis (Dr. Kawai)

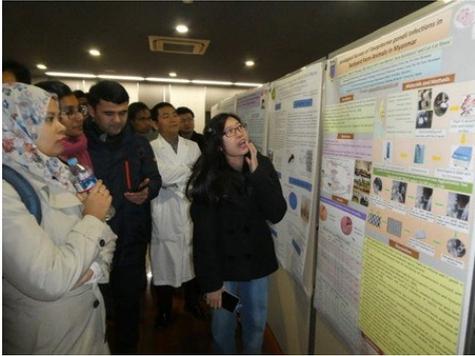


Training for diagnosing babesiosis using real-time PCRs (Dr. Sunaga)



Training for treating dogs using acupuncture and moxibustion therapy

Before the invitees visited Japan, we asked them to create posters regarding their main research and to send the file to us by email so that we could print the posters here. The posters created by all the invitees were displayed in the exhibition booth at the university throughout the period of the program. These posters gave researchers and other visitors at Azabu University insights into the veterinary research done by young researchers from Asian countries. The poster creators had an opportunity to make an oral presentation, which the invitees gave critique on and reviewed.



Presentations of research posters by the participants

We also asked the invitees to submit reports on herbal remedies and traditional veterinary therapies in their countries before they came to Japan. After they came to Japan, we discussed the reports submitted by them from a global perspective. We also exchanged information on veterinary education in each country.

Through the efforts in this program, the invitees transcended the barriers brought by their differences in culture and education, exchanged academic information and cultivated friendship among young Asian researches, and created a global network. We believe that this program was a meaningful opportunity not only for the foreigners but also for the participants from Japan as it helped them in developing an international mind as representatives of their own county.