""From euphoria to pragmatism: The experience and potentials of eHealth in Asia"

Utility and shortcomings of dedicated <u>telemedicine</u> software when used in surgical operations based on research evidence

Presentation by Discussant: Jayantha Weerasinghe

Transfer of technology has been the key feature in learning. For this to be effective students and trainer should contact each other often. It would be difficult for a trainee to obtain specific instruction from a trainer living abroad due to several constraints. At the same time foreign trainers may not be able to visit local centres often.

Use of Real Time Internet Collaboration in the form of Telemedicine has a place in the transfer of skill between experts and trainees effectively. University of Peradeniya has been conducting telemedicine focused on training local surgeons from experts in Japan since 2001 under JICA project. ICT experts have been developing a dedicated software to run on low speed and it was possible to transfer data- voice, image and video effectively. There was a facility for interactive learning tools such as Shared Board.

By this method local surgeons could discuss patient details before and after visits by foreign experts. Patients also found it interesting. Experts could monitor progress with frequent Net meetings

This tool can be of use in developing programmes for skill development of clinicians in rural areas of Sri Lanka given the availability of adequate communication facility.

Contributors of the Project:
Saga University, Japan:
  ICT Engineering- Prof Yukuo Hayashida (Presently Dean)
  OMF Surgery- Prof Masaaki Goto and Prof Takeshi Katsuki

Peradeniya University, Sri Lanka:
  Prof N A De S Amaratunga
  Prof J.U.Weearsinghe