Editorial

Participants of the “Dialysis Situation in Asian Countries” symposium, held on February 25, 2017, in Japan.

The need for dialysis is increasing on a global scale. Over many years, Japan has acquired extensive knowledge of and experience providing dialysis treatments. It also has a long history of sharing this knowledge and experience with neighboring Asian countries, through knowledge transfer and direct support of clinical practice provided there. This support is organized by volunteer specialists and medical societies in cooperation with sponsoring companies.

By presenting how dialysis services have developed in Asia thus far and the challenges to be addressed going forward, this innovative and unique publication high-

lights the various circumstances surrounding dialysis in countries with developing economies in the region, namely, Cambodia, India, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, and Vietnam. The support activities provided by Japan are also described.

It is the editors’ aim through this publication to offer specialists from each of these Asian countries a platform to showcase their clinical know-how, through interesting case reports from their countries, and to underscore the challenges remaining to be solved, through country status summaries. These articles result from presentations and critical discussions held at the symposium “Dialysis Situ-

ation in Asian Countries,” which was made possible by Nipro Corporation. At the company’s iMEP Center in Japan on February 25, 2017, the symposium brought together key opinion leaders, specialists, and young clinicians to discuss the current status and challenges of dialysis in their countries.

We hope that this publication will be of interest to a wide variety of parties including, but not limited to, physicians and other healthcare professionals, patients, educators, governments, think-tanks, policy makers, insurers, NPOs, technicians, manufacturers of HD diagnostic and therapeutic devices, and pharmaceutical companies. To reach this broad readership, this publication presents information in different ways. Authors from each country have created a case report on how dialysis is used to treat either most patients or patients with in-

teresting rarer disorders or diseases in their country, as well as a country status report that summarizes, in infographic format, the current situation and challenges for dialysis. These infographic summaries are also available for download, to encourage wider discussion and education. We open this publication with a summary of the current status of dialysis across Asia and the challenges remaining for the future, and close it with two articles by Japanese specialists which discuss the support being provided by Japan.

We hope that this publication marks a starting point for discussions among the various stakeholders in dialysis treatment, on both the ongoing progress being made across the region and the developments still needed.

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