

## Conference Report

*Interpretation for Dr. Hempen in Kanazawa and our  
Activities in JTAMS*

JTAMS International Department Translation Team

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Association of Acupuncture and Moxibustion Society (in Kanazawa) was held in October last year. In the sponsored seminar (by Goto College), we welcomed Professor Moritz Hempen, an internal medicine specialist at the Technical University of Munich, Germany with the theme of "Cardiovascular and Traditional Chinese medicine: treatment options of acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine".

The International Department in JTAMS was pleased to work as an interpreter for that lecture. This initiative this time became a first step for the International Department.



An interpreting team was formed in June by acupuncturists with English language skills in the member of international department. We had repeated meetings and proceeded preparations until the event. First of all, undertaking the preliminary research is important when interpreting. Starting from obtaining background information such as expertise of the lecturer, past career, writing literatures, then, we researched the related literatures on Dr. Hempen's specialized field. The

theme this time was "Acupuncture Moxibustion and Treatment By Oriental Treatment Options", Expertize on Western medical diseases and professional medical English are required.

A manuscript from Dr. Hempen was sent to us 3 weeks before the conference and we started translating the manuscript from there. After that, we interacted with Dr. Hempen several times by e-mail, but it was extremely difficult to talk to details of the contents by e-mail alone. To assume every situation and cases, we prepared hand data and entrusted everything to a preliminary meeting on the day of presentation. Dr. Hempen's lecture was given in the form of a consecutive interpreting that interpret each time after Mr. Hempen's explanation.

The meeting just before the lecture was mainly confirmation of the contents, but it took well over 3 hours just for it. The lecture time was 50 minutes, but it was full of uneasiness whether we could finish within the set time while consecutively interpreting. We did not have a time for through practice, so it was exactly the first game of the presentation.

When the lecture started, we proceeded the interpreting while taking notes on the contents which are not listed on the manuscript. The primary concern was whether the presentation will end within the time. It finished in 50 minutes, within the scheduled time, though always checking the time with the timer at hand. Apart from this lecture, we also engaged in attendance at Dr. Hempen during the social gatherings and conference, and we kept on bridging communication with other teachers. And also, the day Dr. Hempen left Japan for Germany, we saw him off at the Haneda Airport. It was the first time for an international department to support this kind of activity but we got compliments from the attendees, which ended up with getting a good start.

Through this experience, we, the International Department, would like to focus more on inbound support in the future. As number of inbound tourists

is expanding towards hosting the Olympic Games in Japan, the demand for acupuncturists with backgrounds other than Japanese language will increase. There is no doubt that Japanese acupuncture and moxibustion has a distinctive merit, and its outstanding skill leads the world.

Many of the teachers who handle it belong to this traditional acupuncture and moxibustion society. However, we feel very sorry that these facts are not so known to the world yet. The fact that many of the researches and studies conducted in Japan are not yet translated into English, results are not widely recognized. We are so concerned about the situation where the treasures are buried within Japan and never be discovered. How unfortunate it is!

We would like to disseminate the art of Japanese acupuncture and moxibustion, including this wonderful techniques and EBM from the studies, from our international department. To the start, what we are now thinking is to first publish the English terminology of the traditional acupuncture moxibustion. Currently, each acupuncture organization has various expressions in unique acupuncture and moxibustion practices. Although it shows the same symptoms and condition, each group has their own phrases. For practitioners from foreign countries, this is extremely difficult to understand. In order to have a better understanding of Japanese traditional acupuncture and moxibustion, we are thinking about creating an Oriental medicine glossary in English that summarizes each expression clearly. Receiving the inbound visitors from all over the world, calls for support their stay have been increasing also in the field of acupuncture.

Patients from foreign countries will increase in clinics in the future. Even though foreign travelers want to receive acupuncture and moxibustion treatment in Japan, they do not know where they can receive treatment or are worried because of the language barrier. There may be many teachers who feel uneasy about making communication to foreign patients. The language barrier is towering up

between them. In view of this problem, we are also considering conducting conversation techniques seminars that include role-play practices in the clinic setting in the future.

As an international department of the traditional acupuncture and moxibustion society, we will be a bridge to spread this Japanese traditional acupuncture to the world even a little, and at the same time, we will strive to prepare for receiving inbound visitors from foreign countries.