

Paper Presentation

Topic: Volunteering of Professionals

International Ophthalmologic Services to Sri Lanka

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Abstract

To comply with the international cooperation policy of Taipei City Government, International Affair Unit of Taipei City Department of Health planned and extent its good will and friendship to those people or countries who need and appreciate foreign supports and relief. We have been planning a few ideal spots such as Mongolia, Thailand, Border of India and China and Sri Lanka for our first trip to foreign relief with medical support and friendship. Final decision was made to return and show our gratitude to their donation of almost 2000 eye balls during the past 20 years is a very good reason for us to extend our good will and friendship to Jaffna of Sri Lanka, a city ripped off by civil war for more than 18 years, situated 360 Kilometers from north of Colombo had been chosen on behalf of its urgent need of everything. Especially on behalf of more than a thousand near blindness caused by cataract had been waiting too long to be relieved by surgical intervention due to the lack of material (Intra Ocular Lens) and qualified Ophthalmologists. There is only one qualified Ophthalmologist in Jaffna and its neighboring area and has to serve more than 500,000 of its populations

right after the peace talk started from the beginning of 2002¹. Our counter parties Rotary Clubs of Colombo, Kent and Jaffna specially nominated this eye camp relief trip as “Sight through Peace” or “Peace brings Sight”. There were altogether 12 Ophthalmologists, 2 physicians of internal medicine, 2 OR nurses, 2 technicians and one administration personnel, led by our former Commissioner Dr. Chiou joined in this international aid trip from November 10th to 17th 2002. There were 190 cataract operations accomplished within 4 operation days. Average age of patients undergone cataract surgery was 65. The eldest patient was 85 years old. Among them 29%(74 cases) were male and 61%(116 cases) were female. 54%(103 cases) had their right eye operated and 46%(87 cases) on the left. As for the method of operation, 21%(39 cases) underwent Phacoemulsification with IOL implantation, 79%(151 cases) went through traditional Extra Capsular Cataract Extraction (ECCE) with IOL implantation due to those lens were too hard or over ripe to receive Phacoemulsification which was the first time that they had ever been experienced. As for the Leaders of both sides, Dr. Chiou, Mr. Sajith Premadasa (Deputy Minister of Health and Nutrition), Mayor of Jaffna, Chairmen of Board of Director of Monlai Hospital, Eye Center of Colombo Teaching Hospital, Jaffna Teaching Hospital, they met, held press conference together, communicated and exchanged opinions and experiences. Thorough communication and preparation between both sides involved individuals and their whole heartedly devotion, very detailed operation manual and clearly defined work description and responsibilities of each members of mutual operational team and their unselfish supports and cooperation ensured the success and safety of this operation.

Introduction

International Eye Bank established by Dr. Hudson Silva is well known internationally as well as the other famous products of Sri Lanka, such as sapphire, tin and tea. Major medical centers in Taiwan and City Hospitals of Taipei City had been using its donated corneas to re-establish more than 2000 eye sights since 1980 provided free of charge by Eye Bank Foundation of Republic of China. In return to Sri Lanka's past hospitality and support, ophthalmologic services by our City Hospital Volunteer Cataract Surgical Team to help Jaffna's cataract elderly to regain better eye sight. Jaffna¹, a city situated more than 360 kilometers north from Colombo, had been suffering from civil war for the past 18 years. It also expresses our good will and ability to support international community.

Objective

1. According to statistic information of WHO, major reasons of blindness among developing areas and countries is cataract, which can be prevented by timely and proper surgical intervention². But unfortunately, most of the

elderly of some developing areas and countries are so remote and poor that both material and technique seem to be impossible, that will lead to loss of eye sight³ in result of neglect and unavailability of timely and proper surgical intervention. This becomes one of the most important issues to prevent and correct blindness caused by unattended cataract among developing areas and countries⁴. Taipei City Hospital Volunteer Cataract Surgical Team will actively participate and involve in international medical relief services to those friendly and in need international areas and countries so as to gain back our international visibilities.

2. Other than returning our gratitude to Sri Lanka's hospitalities to provide more than 2000 corneas to several medical centers and Taipei City Hospitals during past 25 years, it also shows our willingness and abilities to serve and support those in need international communities.
3. Establish communications and friendship of medical related personnel internationally. Promote and enforce cities' and citizens' informal foreign diplomacy.
4. Express our good will and willingness to serve humanitarian relief internationally so as to regain public and international recognition.
5. Learn and practice international medical cooperation experience.
6. Explore possible medical relief or cooperation areas and countries for our medical relief force of Taipei City Hospitals.
7. Search and develop future international opportunities of technical support, teaching, training, or cooperation.
8. Continue develop from present cooperation to future substantial formal or informal and mutual beneficial linkage or cooperation.
9. Cumulate experiences of co-operate and communicate technique, international courtesy etc. to edit a handbook for future reference use.

Method

Led by previous Commissioner Dr. Chiou, Taipei City Hospital Volunteer Cataract Surgical Team started their first trip to Jaffna's teaching hospital from November 10 to 17, 2002 for an eight days ophthalmologic services to those unattended cataracts of Jaffna's elderly (fig.1 & 2). Within that 8 days period, we also visited Mayor and City Council of Jaffna; hospitals of Jaffna, Monlai, Colombo and Kendy; vocational training center sponsored by local Rotary Clubs; Deputy Minister of Health and Nutrition, Mr. Sajith Premadasa (Fig 3.) . We could sense the urgent need of resources, materials, funding, specialists and technique of rebuilding the City where there had been the center of 18 years civil war through a quick and brief visit. We are pure medical professionals, and cannot participate or evaluate for our city government colleagues of other different specialties, but we still highly appreciated by local officials and inhabitants for our provision of their currently in need of intraocular lens (IOL) and surgical technique. It was greatly and broadly covered by media during the first few days(Fig 4.). It also attracted thousands of inhabitants who wished to be taken care of in neighboring areas. Fortunately, this was expected and had been smoothly handled by volunteers from local Rotary Clubs and did not affect our emotion and schedule. We had also well prepared for this event by dividing our team into following groups to

ensure all surgical procedures will be smooth and safe:

1. Technical group: responsible for screening, suggestion and arrangement of surgical procedure of patients, detail explanation of pre and post op medication and important points (including slit lamp, funduscopy, measurement of IOL and conclusion of evaluation).
2. OP Group: responsible for surgical procedure, table and floor assistant. There will be 3-4 operations simultaneously to achieve maximum effectiveness.
3. Post OP group: responsible for post OP care and evaluation as well as health education.
4. Logistic group: responsible for preparation of all necessary equipment, material and medication before, during and post operations.
5. Administration group: responsible for all administrative work, transportation, board and meal, communication, news release, etc.

190 cataract surgical procedures were accomplished within 4 operation days. Average age of patients undergone cataract surgery was 65. The eldest patient was 85 years old. Among them 29% (74 cases) were male and 54% (116 cases) were female. 54% (103 cases) had their right eyes operated and 46% (87 cases) on the left. As for the method of operation, 21% (39 cases) underwent Phacosemulsification with IOL implantation⁵, 79% (151 cases) went through traditional Extra Capsular Cataract Extraction (ECCE) with IOL implantation due to those lens were left unattended too long and became too hard or over ripe to receive Phacosemulsification.

Suggestion

Other areas in Sri Lanka seems to be more luckier because they do not have to suffer the civil war for the past 18 years which halt all social progress and drove most of the professionals away. Areas where need time and resources as well as profession technique to rebuild, such as Jeffna, should be better off to receive continuously funding or donation to provide sponsorship of both material and charges of surgical procedure which cannot be afforded by local inhabitants. This will comparatively provide more lens and chances for their local inhabitants to regain eyesight than paying travel expense to foreign surgeon to do a job that some of their neighboring surgeons can and will do. Other than above review of the funding and manpower, team members particular for the future success of the same mission had raised following suggestions:

1. Collect information more detail before event will be more beneficial to the preparation and post op care, such as exophthalmia syndrome will cause pupil more readily miosis instead of mydriasis and stronger post OP reaction. This kind of information will help arrangement of material and manpower for post OP care.
2. If some of the medical material and medicine can be provided or purchased locally will save some trouble from buying and carrying them all the way from Taipei.
3. Arrangement of communication with those helping hands from the local hospital about the standard procedures of the operation and learn some simple instructive colloquial will sure make every working manpower easier and earlier to fit in.
4. The extra atropine and time taken for the patient to be myriad before the examination and operation should be told and well calculated before the planning.
5. One level higher than standard arrangement of surgical equipment and medicine should be prepared to increase the ability to cope with the unexpected situation.
6. Bring and use your own most acquainted and convenient OP equipments.

7. Surgical theater should be kept aseptic all the time to avoid any possible infection.
8. Safety should be the first priority, avoid any infection and complication to ensure a higher successful operation rate.
9. Enough time to communicate with local medical personnel should be arranged to ensure and increase understanding of mutual background and need.
10. Increase extra-professional activities or visit so that there will be more chance to understand local social and culture.

Conclusion

Other than the Taipei City Government's policy of city diplomacy, Taipei City Hospitals Volunteer Cataract Surgical Team extended their love and specialties to Jaffna, a city 360 kilometers north of Colombo of Sri Lanka, a country who had been donating more than 2000 corneas to Taiwan for the past 25 years. Volunteer Cataract Surgical Team consisted of 16 members (one leader and one administrative personnel, 14 medical and paramedic personnel) carried out 190 cataract surgeries from November 10 to 17, 2002. As for the Leaders of both sides, Dr. Chiou, Mr. Sajith Premadasa (Deputy Minister of Health and Nutrition), Mayor of Jaffna, Chairmen of Board of Director of Monlai Hospital, Eye Center of Colombo Teaching Hospital, Jaffna Teaching Hospital, they met, held press conference together, communicated and exchanged opinions and experiences. Thorough communication and preparation between both sides involved individuals and their whole heartedly devotion, detailed operation manual and clearly defined work description and responsibilities of each members of mutual operational team and their unselfish supports and cooperation ensured the success and safety of this operation. It also opened the possibility of future cooperation with financially through NGO and medical technique through local Medical Council or our City Hospital if the future development of non-governmental and humanitarian connection and relationship allows.

Acknowledgement:

Special thanks to the following organizations and people to their devoted help, support and information to ensure this mission successfully and smoothly accomplished: Special Funding Executive Committee, Department of Health, Taipei City Government; Taipei Fu Yung Rotary Club; Taiwan World Vision; Alcon Taiwan; ORBIS Taiwan; Eye Bank, Republic of China; Taipei Overseas Peace Service; Taiwan Root Medical Peace Corps; Cathy Pacific Air Line; Taipei Custom; Doctor Jih-Shiun Huang; Miss Rui-Mei Song; Rotary Clubs of Colombo, Kandy and Jeffna, Vocational Training Center, Lions Airway, and Teaching Hospitals of Jaffna, kandy, Colombo of Sri Lanka.

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Fig 1 : Taipei City Hospitals Eye Camp Team member and local hospitals helping hands



Fig.2 : Taipei City Hospitals Eye Camp Team members are carrying out pre/post and operating inside the surgical theater



Fig.3
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Deputy Minister health and Nutrition Mr.Sajith Premadasa (middle), Previous Commissioner Chiou(left), and Chairman of Colombo Rotary Club Mr. Bernie Dole(right) walking in Press conference venue held in the Galadari Hotel.



Fig.4 : Media covering news of Taipei City Hospitals International Eye Camp in Jeffna.

12-11-2002

உதயன்

பக்கம் 03

யாழ்.மக்களின் மருத்துவ தேவையை நிவர்த்தி செய்ய உரிய நடவடிக்கை!

தாய்வான் நாட்டு சுகாதார அமைச்சர் வாக்குறுதி

யாழ்ப்பாணம் நவ.12 யாழ்மக்களின் மருத்துவ தேவைகள் இனங்காணப்பட்டு, அழகுற நிவர்த்தியெய் உரிய நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்படும்.

- இவ்வாறு தெரிவித்தார் தாய்வான் நாட்டின் சுகாதார அமைச்சர் சூ றி சூய் (Shu Ti Chiou).

தாய்வான் நாட்டின் சுகாதார அமைச்சர் தலைமையில் அந்நாட்டின் பிழை மருத்துவமனைகளைச் சேர்ந்த கண் சத்திரசிகிச்சை நிபுணர்கள் அடங்கிய மருத்துவப் குழு ஒன்றுடன் சிகிச்சை முகாமை நடத்தும் செயலுக்கு தெற்று யாழ்ப்பாணம் வருகைத்தந்தது.

நேற்றுக்கூடல் 9.30 மணிமீளவில் வருகை தந்த இந்தக் குழுவின் தலைவர் மோட்டியா தலைவன் கணைத் தெரிவிக்கும் வகையில் 'உதயன்' கேட்கோ கூடத்தில் செய்தியாளர் மார்பொன்றைப் நடத்தினார். இந்த மார்பொன்றைத் தலைமை வகித்து உ.சுரையாறையையே தலைமை அமைச்சர் இவ்வாறு தெரிவித்தார்.

தான் பேரும் தெரிவித்ததாவது- இலங்கைக்கும் தாய்வானுக்கும் இடையில் மருத்துவ ரீதியிலான சேவைகள் தற்போது முற்றிலும் வலியாக அடங்கியுள்ளன. இந்தச் சேவைகள் தொடர்பும் நடைபெறாத ஒரு மோட்டிற்கு கடினங்கள் முதலிய அமைப்புகள் ஆறாவது வருடம் காலமாகும்.

சுமார் 100க்கும் மேலான அகலிய மருத்துவ இனங்களைப்பட்டி. நான் சத்திரசிகிச்சை முகாமை நடத்துவது

தமிழ்நாடு அரசின் கடினங்கள் மருத்துவமனைகள் மற்றும் உடனடிமருந்துகள் சிகிச்சை மருத்துவ மருந்துகளை 15 கண் வைத்திய நிபுணர்கள் இந்த மருத்துவ முகாமை நடத்துவர். மோட்டியான் திரிமண பரிசேதனைக்கு உட்படுத்தப்பட்டு அவர்களுக்கு சிகிச்சை மேற்கொள்ளப்படும். இந்த நிபுணர்கள் இந்த தரக்கட்டுக்கும் நாம் சுமார் 250 இறும் மோட்டியான் மருத்துவ சிகிச்சை அளிக்க வணிகியிருக்கின்றோம்.

இந்த கண் சத்திரசிகிச்சை முகாமுக்கு இலங்கை நாளைத்தின்று சுகாதார அமைச்சர் சூய் மோட்டியான் மருத்துவமனைக்கு யாழ்ப்பாணம் மருத்துவ தேவைகள் குறித்து விவரமாக எடுத்துக்கொண்டோம். இதன் பின்னர் மருத்துவ உடனடிமருந்துகளை மருத்துவமனைகளையே ஆலத்திரி களுக்கு அளிக்கப்படுக வழங்குவது பற்றிக் கவனம் செலுத்தப்படும் - என்று.

இலங்கையில் தற்போது மேற்கொள்ளப்படுகின்ற சுகாதார முயற்சிகள் பற்றி தாய்வான் நாட்டின் அமைச்சர் என்ற ரீதியில் தங்களின் சொந்த கருத்து என்ன? என செய்தியாளர் ஒருவர் அமைச்சரிடம் கேள்வி எழுப்பினார்.

இதற்கு பதிலளித்த அவர், தற்



KANDY METROPOLI

முகாமை விழும் அரசியல் ரீதியான தலை சேவை அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்டது என்று, சுகாதாரத் துக்கான தற்போதைய முன்னெடுப்புகள் வெற்றிமேலும் - வெற்றி பெறவேண்டும் என்று எதிர்பார்ப்பு எனக்கு உண்டு - என்று.

பத்திரிகைகளின் செய்தியாளர்களும் தென் இலங்கை செய்தி ஊடகங்களின் செய்தியாளர்களும் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

முன்னதாக நேற்றுக்கூடல் 9.30 மணிமீளவில் யாழ்மருத்துவ கண னை வேற்றுமம் நிபுணர் 'உதயன்' அலுவலகத்தில் நடைபெற்றது.

மேற்பு குழுவினரை யாழ்ப்பாண முகாமில் செ.கந்திரையன் 'உதயன்', 'உடனடி' பத்திரிகைகளின் நிபுணர் இயக்குநர் சுரையாவன் மற்றும் யாழ்ப்பாணத்திற்கு கடின உடனடிமருந்துகளை அளிக்கிறது வகியுறும். இந்தக் குழுவினரைச் செ.கந்திரையன் கடின உடனடிமருந்துகளை அளிக்கின்ற ஒருமனை ஒன்றைத் தலைமை ஒர்ப்பாடு செய்திருக்கிறது. (எ)

பின்னரும் எந்திருந்தனர்.

தொடர்ந்து 'உதயன்' கேட்கோ கூடத்தில் நடைபெற்ற செய்தியாளர் மார்பொன்றைத் தலைமைத் தலைவன் மோட்டியான் கலந்துகொண்டார். தொடர்ந்து யாழ்ப்பாணத்திரியில் மேற்பு குழுவினர் நடத்தும் கண் சத்திரசிகிச்சை முகம் ஆரம்பமாகவு. யாழ்ப்பாணத்திரியின் கண் சத்திரசிகிச்சை நிபுணர் எந்திருந்தார் சிகிச்சைக்கான மோட்டியானைத் தெரிவிப்பெற்றது.

மேற்பு குழுவினர் மேற்பு கடின உடனடிமருந்துகளை அளிக்கிறது வகியுறும். இந்தக் குழுவினரைச் செ.கந்திரையன் கடின உடனடிமருந்துகளை அளிக்கின்ற ஒருமனை ஒன்றைத் தலைமை ஒர்ப்பாடு செய்திருக்கிறது. (எ)

நேற்று 15 பேருக்கு கண் சத்திர சிகிச்சை

யாழ்ப்பாணம்-நவ.12 தாய்வான் நாட்டின் சுகாதார அமைச்சர் சூ றி சூய் தலைமையில் நேற்று யாழ்ப்பாணம் வருகை தந்த கண் சத்திர சிகிச்சை நிபுணர்கள் யாழ்ப்பாண வைத்தியசாலையில் 'கண் சத்திர சிகிச்சை முகாமையே' ஆரம்பித்தனர். நேற்று தலை 15 மோ சத்திரசிகிச்சைக்கு உட்படுத்தப்பட்டனர். ஏதிரியும் 15 ஆம் திதித் தெரிவிக்கிறமை வரை இக் கண் சத்திரசிகிச்சை முகம் நடத்தப்பட உள்ளது.

நவம்பர் 12 மணிமீளவில் யாழ்ப்பாண வைத்தியசாலையைச் சென்ற நிபுணர் குழு கண் மோட்டியானின் புகளாக மோட்டியான் அறிக்கையினை பரிசேதனத்து உறுதிப்படுத்தினார். பிற்பகல் 2 மணிமீளவில் 15 பேருக்கு கண் சத்திரசிகிச்சை மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டது.

இக் கண் சத்திர சிகிச்சை முகாமில் முதல் கண் இடம் நேற்றுக்கும் மேற்பு குழுவினர் பயன்பாட்டினர் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டது. (ஏ-8-9-12-15)

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