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**The Past/ Present/ Future of the Medical Cooperation in Nephrology
between South Korea and North Korea**

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1. North and South Korean officials are charging ahead with the recent momentum for peace and cooperation between their respective governments. South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jung Un have met twice last year followed by Kim's separate meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump last June. Although the second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean dictator Kim Jung Un had ended without denuclearization, further relationship will be continued. Especially the medical cooperation between South & North Korea can be more encouraged because those activities are very essential in humanitarian aspects.

I would like to share my experience of medical service for North Korea for almost 20 years. 1998-2000, I had supported for hospitals in Rajin & Seonbong city of North Korea which had been opened to foreign countries and companies as free economic zone.

2000-2007, I had supported for hospitals in Pyongyang including establishment of Hemodialysis center in Pyongyang University Hospital.

2005-2012, I had participated in Friendship Hospital of Kaesong Industrial Complex in Kaesong city of North Korea.

After 2007, South Korean Government prohibited for South Korean to enter to North Korea. How do we enter to North Korea? There was a miraculous opportunity which had been prepared by Korean American doctors group. It was Pyongyang Univ. of Science & Technology (PUST).

PUST was approved by the DPRK Education committee on Mar. 2001 and approved by the ROK unification department on June 2001. Initial stage of PUST buildings construction was finished on Sept. 2009. PUST was opened on Oct. 2010.

2010-2012: The PUST Division of Medical Sciences began as a small clinic, for the students and staff of PUST. Additional foreign and local staff joined the clinic, and dental teams from the U.S. also started regular short-term visits. During these visits, the dentists initiated the development of a dental clinic at PUST.

2013: Discussions began to formally open a Division of Medical Sciences at PUST and began to recruit supporters from all over the world. The first school, the College of Dentistry, was opened in the Fall of 2015 and The College of Medicine was opened in the Fall of 2016. The College of Pharmacy, the College of Public Health, and the College of Nursing is scheduled to open.

Mission Statement of DMS is Educating, Equipping and Empowering the future healthcare leaders of North Korea.

Coincidentally the dean of medical college of PUST is an American nephrologist, so 3 nephrologists including Dr. Cho are working for DMS at PUST.

The situation of nephrology division in North Korea is still terrible. Except Pyongyang, there

is no dialysis unit in North Korea. Even Pyongyang University Hospital has 5 hemodialysis units, the indication of dialysis is limited to emergent ARF patient due to shortage of dialysis unit. So CRF is one of the most common cause of death in North Korea.

How to activate the relationship between S. & N. Korea in health care service?

- 1) Agreement between S. & N. K. government
- 2) Legislation for medical support to N. K.
- 3) Prepare New health system after unification
- 4) Study & Research for United Health System
- 5) Empowerment of medical NGO in S. K.
- 6) Pilot study of Exchange Program
- 7) Global collaboration for North Korea

Role of Korean Medical Workers are Frequent Visiting & Fellowship, Establishing Network of Health Care Centers between Provincial Hospitals in North Korea and University Hospitals in South Korea., Study & Research, Empowerment of N. K. health workers and Small Group Relationships.

There are 5 steps of Cooperation between South and North Korea.

1. Contact
2. Connect
3. Communication
4. Collaboration
5. Community

For Inter-Korean Medical Cooperation, KSN should prepare; (In North Korea)

- A. Nephrology Training Center In Pyongyang
 1. Fellowship Training Center
 2. Specialist, Clinician, Nurses, Engineers etc.
 3. Approved by International Society of Nephrology
- B. Provincial Nephrology Centers in North Korea
 1. Dialysis Centers (Education for Medical Students)
 2. Co-related with Univ. Hospitals in South Korea
 3. Tertiary Referred Hospitals in Nephrology

For Inter-Korean Medical Cooperation, KSN should prepare; (In South Korea)

1. Foundation of Inter-Korea Exchange & Cooperation in Nephrology
2. Recruit Expeditionary Doctors for N.K.
3. Network of Government/KSN/NGO/Company/Hospital
4. Collaboration with ISN
5. Partnership with International NGO
6. Network of Overseas Korean Nephrologists
7. Sister Relationships of Cities/Hospitals between South and North Korea in Nephrology

Conclusion:

Now the Korean Government has a desire to encourage for Korean Medical Society to support for North Korea. I am convinced that a network among ISN, KSN, NGOs and Hospitals can be a wonderful collaboration network for supporting to North Korea in nephrology area. I suggest that the establishment Foundation of Inter-Korea Exchange & Cooperation in Nephrology (FIECoN) can be a first step for Inter-Korean collaboration.