It was our great pleasure and honour to have participated in the EAU-JJA International Academic Exchange Programme from March 5 to 9 this year. It was not only a very well-organised programme, but we also had one of the most wonderful experiences in our lives which deepened our perspectives.

For the first four days, we visited the SALK University Clinic and Paracelsus Private Medical University in Salzburg, Austria. Professor Karl-Dietrich Sievert and his faculty members have organised a special programme for us. We enjoyed a tour of their institutions and the informative briefing of the clinical and research work being done at SALK. We had the opportunity to observe excellent surgeries and procedures, some of which were new to us such as neuromodulation for bladder, UroKit® System for BPH, and photodynamic diagnosis for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. All of these procedures were so interesting and promising that we are eager to introduce them in our hospitals in Japan.

From Salzburg we visited the University Hospital of Tübingen, where we also had valuable experiences and insights thanks to the hospitality of Professor Arnulf Stenzl and his staff. The doctors performed various kinds of minor and major surgeries that required excellent surgical skills, such as the RadoTome-irrorated robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy, one of the techniques in nerve-sparing radical cystectomy for female invasive bladder cancer, en-block TUR-Bl using the HybridKnife®, and male-to-female transgender surgery. Their rigorous approaches for accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer using robotic biopsy or intraoperative frozen section were also very impressive.

During our free time, we also had the chance to be acquainted with Austrian history, culture and cuisine of Salzburg, and enjoy Mozart, visit the film locations of “The Sound of Music,” Salzburger Nockerln, schnitzel and Schnaps. A concert at the Mozarteum was one of the most amazing experiences we have had in Salzburg.

From Tübingen, we went to Munich to attend the 31st Annual EAU Congress (EAU16). We did not have the opportunity to have our own presentations at the congress but participated and attended many meetings of the Scientific Programme and social events such as the EAU President’s & International Friendship Dinner at the Munich Residenz. To end our 10-day visit memorably, we were granted honours during the International Friendship Dinner. Formally dressed and called to the podium where we received from EAU Secretary General Prof. Chris Chapple the citation plaques, and in the presence of so many prestigious experts and doctors, it was definitely a special moment that we will always remember.

Although the time in Austria and Germany was not so long, we have learned a lot and met doctors and experts who are doing inspiring work, and we will certainly treasure this experience. We give our thanks to all the hosts and faculties of the two hospitals and staff members of the EAU and JJA which made this programme a success. We hope to see you all again!

**European Tour 2016**

**Academic Exchange Programme**

**Memorable exchange visits in Austria and Germany for Japanese urologists**

**EAU Exchange Programme: The Taiwanese perspective**

**Prof. Chen Yi, Taipei (TW)**

**Visiting Professor, Department of Urology, National Taiwan University Hospital**

**Doc. Dr. Robert Chang, Taipei (TW)**

**Visiting Professor, Department of Urology, National Taiwan University Hospital**

**Dr. Kenji Onoe, Tokyo Women’s Medical University Tokyo (JP)**

**Prof. K.D. Sievert, Salzburg (AT)**

**EAU President, Chairman of EAU Congress**

**Dr. Atushi Okada, Nagoya City University Nagoya (JP)**

**Prof. W. Aicher, Tübingen (DE)**

**Chairman, Department of Urology, University Hospital Tübingen**

**Prof. S. Okada, Tokyo (JP)**

**Visiting Professor, Department of Urology, University of Tokyo**

**Prof. K. Sievert, Salzburg (AT)**

**Chairman, Department of Urology, Paracelsus Private Medical University**

**Prof. T. Kudo, Nagoya (JP)**

**Visiting Professor, Department of Urology, University of Nagoya**

**Dr. Lee Hsiang-Ying, Taipei (TW)**

**Attending Physician, Kaohsiung Municipal Ta-Tung Hospital**

**Ashun1009@yahoo.com.tw**

**Dr. Atushi Okada, Nagoya City University Nagoya (JP)**

**Dr. Lee Hsiang-Ying, Taipei (TW)**

**Dr. Lee Yen-Hsueh, Kaohsiung Medical University Chung-Ho**

**ashun2009@hotmail.com**

**Dr. Yeung-Hung Jiang, General Hospital, Hualien (TW)**

**redene0219@yahoo.com.tw**

**Dr. Bing-juin Chiang, Department of Urology, Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital, Taipei (TW)**

**8024-0054@ntu.edu.tw**

It was with great honour and gratitude that we have been selected as exchange programme participants from Taiwan and Japan, an opportunity that expanded our views and enriched our professional experience.