

Advanced Clinical Training in Radiation Oncology at National Cancer Center Hospital East, Chiba, Japan

Two experienced radiation oncologists and medical physicists from three government tertiary care hospitals in Tamil Nadu underwent two-week Observership training at National Cancer Center Hospital East (NCCHE), Chiba in Japan from 6th to 17th October 2025. The specialists, selected by the Directorate of Medical Education & Research (DME&R), were Dr. V. Srinivasan and Mr. G. Senthil from Government Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital, Dr. R. Ramya from Government Super Speciality Hospital Omandurar, and Mrs. S. Renugadevi from Coimbatore Medical College Hospital.

Training Objectives

The training aims to improve the clinical competencies of radiation oncologists and medical physicists in the following techniques, which contributes to the advancement of state-level capacity in radiation oncology treatment.

- 1) Stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT)
- 2) 4DCT & respiratory gating techniques
- 3) Surface Guided Radiation therapy (SGRT)

ATTACHMENT TRAINING at NATIONAL CANCER CENTER HOSPITAL EAST

During the two weeks, the radiation oncologists and medical physicists were attached to the Department of Radiation Oncology and Section of Radiation Safety and Quality Assurance, NCCHE and learned the above-mentioned radiotherapy techniques under the mentorship of Dr Sadamoto ZENDA and Dr Hidenobu TACHIBANA. Since SBRT has been performed at all of the institutions, they learned about Japanese techniques and guidelines to improve and fine-tune their daily practices. Considering that 4DCT and SGRT are new technologies and will be sanctioned near future, they obtained practical knowledge to start applying the techniques and skills to patients. The trainees stressed that “we have learned a lot not only in techniques and quality assurance of radiotherapy, but also teamwork, soft skills, and even work-life balance from Japanese doctors working here.”



Discussion with NCCHE staff



Trainees with Dr Tachibana (medical physicist)

SHORT VISIT to QST and NCCICC

In the first week, the Project arranged one-day visit to the National Institute for Quarantine Science and Technology (QST) in Chiba and the Institute of Cancer Control, National Cancer Center (NCCICC) in Tokyo. Because Japan is a pioneer in carbon ion facility and therapy in cancer patients, the trainees requested the visit. Dr Taku INANIWA from the department of Accelerator and Medical Physics, QST explained the system and function of the whole facilities utilising a scaled-down model, as well as took them on a facility tour.

In the afternoon, the trainees visited NCCICC. The session started with welcome remarks from Dr Yutaka MATSUOKA, Director, NCCICC, followed by the presentation on activities of NCCICC, network of designated cancer care hospitals, and cancer registry system in Japan. The trainees showed a deep interest in the cancer registry in Japan, and mentioned that the lessens learned from the Japanese experience can be useful in strengthening a system in Tamil Nadu.



Explanation of QST utilising the model



Discussion with NCCICC faculties

PRESENTATION and COMPLETION CELEMONY

On the last day of the training, a presentation session and completion ceremony were held with the presence of NCCHE doctors and JICA officials. The trainees explained (1) the key learnings through the training, (2) progress of standard operating procedures (SOPs) development, and (3) developed action plan to disseminate the skills and knowledge learned to other specialists in Tamil Nadu. With regard to the action plan, the trainees presented a plan of dissemination workshop in early 2026 targeting radiation oncologists, medical physicists and radiation technologists working at TN government tertiary care hospitals. At the end of the session, Dr Tachibana expressed his gratitude for this opportunity and indicated that he looks forward to continued collaboration in the future. Finally, following addresses by Mr Keiichi OSATO, Head of the Human Development and Operational Coordination Division, JICA Tokyo, certificates of completion were presented to the trainees.



Presentation session



Completion ceremony

KNOWLEDGE DISPERSION PROGRAM

After they returned back to Tamil Nadu, the trained experts delivered presentations on 15th November to radiation oncologists, medical physicists and radiation technologists within their respective institutions as an initial step of knowledge dissemination activities. In this session, they not only introduced their learning experiences in Japan to their radiotherapy multidisciplinary teams but also discussed how they could put these into practice and utilise them going forward. The Project and the trained experts will continue work together for further dispersion activities.



Session at Coimbatore MCH



Session at GAAMCH



Session at GSSH Omandur