Medical supporting activity for Surgical Department of National Pediatric Hospital in Cambodia

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Objective
To report our experience of long-term support for Surgical Department of National Pediatric Hospital (SD-NPH) in Cambodia.

Activities, achievements, and problems
Our organization set up SD-NPH in 1996 and has conducted its projects to promote the development and improvement of medical service. Its activities include the installation of medical facilities and equipments and continuous education and training to the local staffs. Nowadays basic medical facilities and equipments have already been installed, but most of them were donated abroad due to lack of fund of NPH. It is also difficult to keep them in good condition because of the poor conception of maintenance. While some local surgeons have obtained advanced knowledge and skills through local and overseas training, the achievement level in the other staffs still needs more progress. The speaker has been working as a surgeon and also as an aid worker to educate and train local staffs through lectures and on-the-job training. There is the difference in the profile of diagnoses characterized by many cases of orthopedics, and it sometimes makes the speaker difficult to assist the specific treatment. The speaker is also responsible for facilitating the project as one of the medically trained aid staffs since our organization is not fully specialized in the medical field.

Suggestions
Medical supporting activity should be programmed for the improvement of the department/hospital as a whole. It is important for aid organizations and medical specialists to cooperate with each other especially in long-term activity.