



AARNet Supports Innovative Surgical Events

Surgeons from around the Asia Pacific and Australia Operate Together

SYDNEY, Australia

— 3 September, 2007 — AARNet has assisted with an advance in medical technology by facilitating a live, two-way digital connection between Korea University Hospital in Seoul, Korea and seven other hospitals in Australia, China, Japan, Singapore, Philippines, India and France. The participation by Concord Hospital in Sydney allowed leading Australian Surgeons to collaborate in a shared surgical event, hosted at the 24th APAN (Asia Pacific Advanced Network) Meeting in Xi'an China. APAN provides a forum for exchange on high-level internet interactions between countries in Asia Pacific and surrounds.— higher than the traditional videoconferencing facility, across SXTraNSPORT using the Southern Cross Cable Network (SCCN).www.aarnet.edu.au.

AARNet's high speed network can provide doctors access to a high quality, high-resolution videoconferencing system which allows them to participate virtually in surgical procedures.

The capacity to bridge vast geographical divides is a significant tool in enabling medical specialists around the world to learn and teach each other advanced procedures.

Chris Hancock, CEO of AARNet said, "The link over the AARNet network is a breakthrough for Australia and quite possibly the world. Now we can virtually transport a surgeon, neurologist or cardiologist anywhere around the globe, using video quality that is of greater fidelity than traditional videoconferencing. Image and colour quality is an extremely important factor where surgery is concerned, because it's critical to be able to view correctly the important aspects of the procedure."

The system allowed participating hospitals to view the laparoscopic surgery as it was performed in Seoul, and discuss the procedure as it was occurring. The link-up occurred via a 30Mbps link

"We think it's an incredible thing," Hancock said. "To be able to easily tap into advice from specialists worldwide in real-time, is an extraordinary feat and extremely beneficial to the medical community".

Professor Shinju Shimizu, Chairman of APAN's Medical Working Group, and Professor at Japan's Kyushu University, said, "The surgeons at the eight sites shared valuable insights about their surgical experiences. This is our most successful collaboration so far and shows the power of such interactions."

Professor E.L. Bokey of Concord Hospital, Sydney, said, "This has been an outstanding technical session and we are looking forward to participating with this group again in the future."

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About AARNet

AARNet Pty Ltd (APL) is the company that operates Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNet). It is a not-for-profit company limited by shares. The shareholders are 37 Australian universities and the CSIRO. AARNet provides high-capacity leading edge Internet services for the tertiary education and research sector communities and their research partners. AARNet serves more than one million end users who access the network through local area networks at member institutions. For further information, please visit:

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