

Japanese Transplant Tourism to China

by Yukari Werrell¹

The Law regarding transplants in Japan² clearly bans trade in organs, but no enforcement has been observed to control transplant tourism to China. Facts concerning this that the writer has come across are listed here.

1. Mediators' websites

Zoukiishoku (Organ Transplant) 119: by Mr. Hiroyuki Nagase, Japan Anbis International.³ He used to run the China International Transplant Assistant Center⁴ but was arrested in Shanghai on 11th September, 2007⁵. He is back in the mediating business as if nothing happened.

Association to Support Patients with Intractable Diseases⁶ refers patients to hospitals in the US, China or India for emergency treatment⁷. They claim that 30,000 Yuan (about ¥450,000 Yen or about US\$4500) is paid to the organ donor's family and most prisoners agree to sign the donation consent form so that they can leave some money to their family (under website section "About Ethical Issues").⁸

Japan NPO International Medical Information Center has currently no indication of their involvement on their website,⁹ but our archived file dated 11th April, 2017 includes transplantation procedures in China¹⁰ and another archived file dated 6th December, 2016 indicates that their operation costs are sponsored by individuals and companies.¹¹

2. Insurances

Public Health Insurance partially covers overseas organ transplants up to around ¥10 million (about US\$100,000).¹² The aforementioned Mr. Nagase features this insurance as good news on his website.¹³

Linkx Coins issued by Sompo Japan Insurance covers organ transplants abroad under Advanced Medical Insurance. Monthly premium is 500 yen (about US\$5) for up to ¥10 million.¹⁴

3. Politicians

Training Chinese doctors

A mediator helped former General Secretary of the Liberal Democrat Party, Mr. Kato (then the Chair of China-Japan Friendship Hospital) to arrange for training for Chinese doctors,¹⁵ which was revealed in 2009.

China-Japan Friendship Hospital

11 Japanese officials including the Minister of Health and Labour, visited the Hospital on 25th July, 2018. The Head of the Hospital, Mr. Yang Sun mentioned that 1) over 2000 Chinese students were sent to Japan through them, 2) academic exchanges with 12 Japanese organizations including Tokyo University and Kyoto University were established, and 3) agreements on strategical training were made.¹⁶

Having a Transplant in China

An article in 2006 mentioned a secretary of Mr. A, MP went to China for a transplant operation.¹⁷ Subsequent information obtained by the writer infers that Mr. A himself

travelled to China for a transplant. We are withholding the name from public dissemination at present, but will be ready to provide information on a confidential basis.

Appendix: Western Speakers' contributions for Japan

Dr. Jacob Lavee raised the Japanese issue at the Board of Councillors Meeting of Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group in 2018, and the co-chair Ms. Elmi Muller responded that Professor Egawa denied any knowledge of such a problem.^{18 19}

Mr. David Matas wrote two articles for Japan: "Japan and Transplant Abuse in China"²⁰ and "Spreading in Japan awareness of organ transplant abuse in China."²¹

¹ The writer has been working for raising awareness on the issue in Japan since autumn 2015, and was appointed as Manager, Japan Initiative for ETAC in autumn 2016, and escorted 7 English-speaking speakers on the issue between October 2016 and June 2018.

² The current Law on Organ Transplant in Japan with English translation inserted by the writer for Dr. Lavee.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pao-TpmUpABNdYGutPeCG3Ifp1hWis9E/view>

³ [臓器移植 1 1 9] (Zoukiishoku 119)<http://www.zoukiishoku119.com/>
<https://archive.is/BuO3I>
No Registered Address in Japan, but different companies owned by him are registered in Shenyang and Shanghai.

⁴ <https://web.archive.org/web/20070510132645/http://www.zoukiishoku.com/>

⁵ <https://www.epochtimes.jp/jp/2007/10/html/d42238.html>
「中国の臓器移植：逮捕された日本人斡旋業者、当局の支援アピール」 (“China Transplant: Arrested Japanese mediator was appealing how Chinese Government was supporting him”) published on The Japanese Epoch Times on 20th October, 2007.

⁶ The English name is not official but translation of [難民患者の会] (Nanmin Kanja Shien no Kai)
<http://www.npo-online.org>
<https://archive.is/k5ctS>
Registered Address: Wise Next, Shin-Yokohama 901a, 2-5-14, Shin-Yokohama, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 222-0033 Japan.

⁷ <http://www.npo-online.org/s/voyage.html>

⁸ <http://www.npo-online.org/s/ethics.html>
<https://archive.is/iSZyq>

⁹ <http://medsos.jp/en/> <http://www.medsos.jp> [海外医療情報センター]

¹⁰ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gMuopW2tXes5gtC0GkT1t9jmlOrDykXe/view>
(English translation has been inserted for this report.)

¹¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_Oz-f5ax36e23di9ULYXNPZHemyUcVnY/view
(English translation prepared for this report with original website inserted at the end.)

¹² It was announced by Japanese Minister of Health and Labour, Katsunobu Kato in December 2017. Sankei Newspaper article dated 12 Dec 2017: 「海外臓器移植、一部保険給付へ 1千万円程度」
“Overseas organ transplantation will be covered through partial insurance benefit up to around ¥10 million”
Japanese original text with Google English translation touched up by the writer:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bERye900AWAfZ122Ncxn5Ht2pWik-htr/view>

¹³ <http://www.zoukiishoku119.com/2018/02/18/緊急！心臓移植、肺移植、肝臓移植に朗報です！/>
<https://archive.is/6wuEM>

Featured video on this insurance on Mr Nagase's website:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=152&v=m6W0WE_S1_E

For archived purpose, downloadable link was created. (one cannot watch it from this link)

<https://web.archive.org/save/http://www.zoukiishoku119.com/category/kaigai-ishokujoho/china/>

¹⁴ <http://www.himawari-life.co.jp/goods/coins/>
<https://archive.is/rCVUa> (Japanese Only)

¹⁵ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RePouTmffuO1QxaXJANgEebaiFLbmQeO/view>

Kyodo News, on 7th Dec 2009 02:02. (Articles translated for Mr. Matas.) The first article of the four is relevant. 「移植仲介業者が口利き依頼 加藤・元自民幹事長に」 (“*An organ transplantation dealer asked the former LDP General Secretary Mr. Kato for training connections*”)

Two Chinese doctors learned Japanese organ transplant technology from a Japanese doctor in the professional position in the Japanese Society for Transplant. Mr. Kato passed away in September 2016 from pneumonia.

¹⁶ <https://www.epochtimes.jp/2018/08/35363.html>

「中日友好医院へ加藤厚労省と日本人 WHO 幹部が視察」 (“*Japanese Minister of Health and Japanese WHO executive visited China-Japan Friendship Hospital*”), Japanese Epoch Times dated 13th August, 2018. The article is based on the website of China-Japan Friendship Hospital.

¹⁷ 「ベテラン政治家には『女より我が国の臓器を...』安倍政権に『臓器移植勧誘』の赤い工作」 (“*Fresh organs rather than women' to veteran politicians - Red (China) Scheme of Attracting Organ Transplant' is approaching to the Regime of Prime Minister Abe*”) published on Shukan Post (Weekly Post) dated 8th Dec 2006. English translation has been inserted by the writer.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XytHAEVIUo1Yrceh3dUxzjG_4DSyXNzy/view

Photos of the original article:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MLZ4Bx1S2XqciSW-rqwsclSvdYO1kql/view>

¹⁸ The email, which confirms Dr. Lavee raised the issue at DICG board meeting, was sent to the writer on 30th June, 2018.

¹⁹ According to email corresponding from Ms. Maryn Reyneke (then the Executive Officer of DICG) to Dr. Lavee, “Elmi wrote to Professor Hiroto Egawa and he has been corresponding to her on this subject quite extensively. He claims that the situation is misunderstood by some individuals and media. We are now going to write formally to Professor Egawa to ask for an English statement from the Japanese Transplant Society to clarify the matter.” This email was forwarded from Dr. Lavee to the writer on 30th March 2018.

On 3rd July 2018, Dr. Lavee gave the writer a new contact point, the new DICG Co-Chair Dr. Eric Rondeau from France (eric.rondeau@aphp.fr), who should be able to reinforce Dr. Lavee's report to the DICG Board of Councillors.

²⁰ <https://endtransplantabuse.org/japan-and-transplant-abuse-in-china/>

Extracts from “An Updates” in 2016, which focuses Japanese collaboration with China (the latter half of the article).

²¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wh0NjHzdypKr9BeQMF-elBusxyQtbgM5/view>

Mr. Matas points out lack of media report in Japan, and recommends stronger guidelines for medical ethics, and compulsory reporting by health professional to the health officials.

This last point was also suggested by Dr. Torsten Tray of DAFOH to a Japanese Epoch Times reporter on 10th August 2018: “The Japanese Parliament could make it a law that EACH transplant hospital and EACH transplant surgeon and dialysis center has to report if there are NEW transplant patients or, in the case of dialysis centers, if patients disappear from the patient list. This is an approach that is done in other countries.”