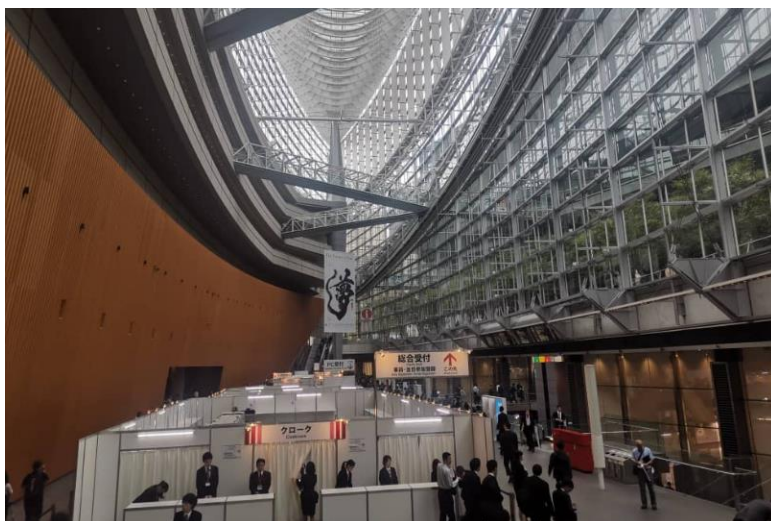


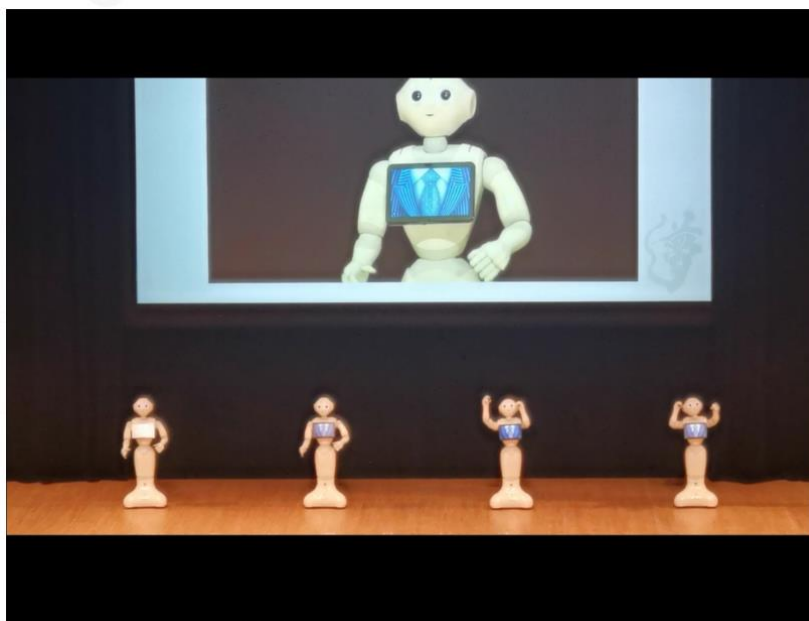
Report : 81st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Haematology, Tokyo

Date: 11-13th October 2019

First of all, I would like to thank Malaysian Society of Hematology for giving me the opportunity to attend the 81st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Haematology in Tokyo Japan. The event was held from 11th to 13th of October 2019 at Tokyo International Forum with theme of 'The Future is Now' and subtitle of "A fascinating era for hematology". The theme carried an important message: "The future does not simply come to us, but is the result of what we do today. Every one of us should keep this in mind, and act now in pursuit of one's ideal future, in other words, one's dream". The word "dream" is translated as "夢(yume)" in Japanese.



The opening ceremony was memorable. It was started with a very touching movie of a mother and daughter in which their relationship was strained due to the mother's occupation background as a bean curd maker. Subsequently the formal was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia and she was cured after 6 months of treatment. In between the treatment process, her daughter repented and helped with her mother's business while mother was receiving chemotherapy. Their bonding has improved greatly thereafter. The event was followed by opening speech by Professor Norio Komatsu from Department of Hematology Juntendo University and entertainment by four dancing AI robots.



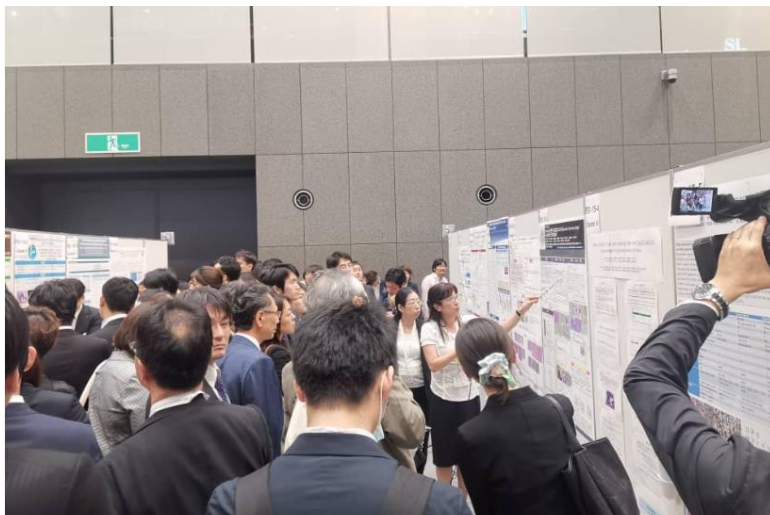
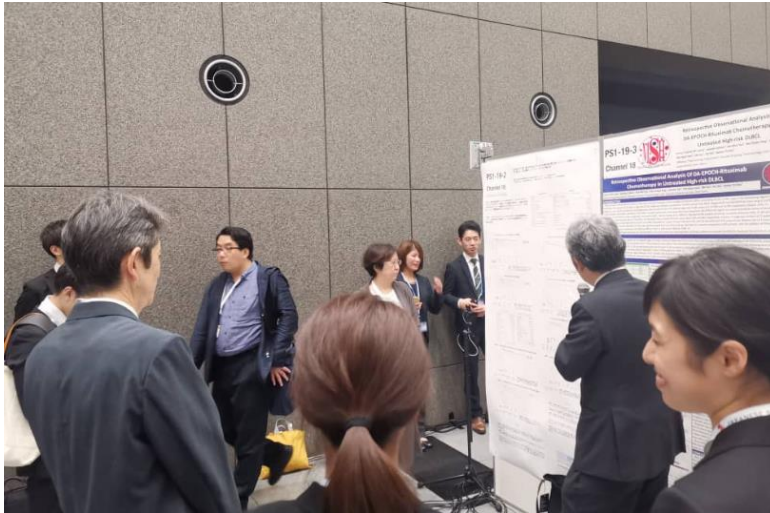
The conference was packed with many lectures and seminars including the ASH and EHA presidential lectures and Asian Joint Panel Discussion. It was a great opportunity to be able to observe

and listen to the world experts in sharing their opinions and knowledges. The topics consisted advancement in the investigation and management of malignant lymphoma, multiple myeloma, acute myeloid leukemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, chronic myeloid leukemia, and myeloproliferative neoplasms. Some speakers shared their research finding as well as the advancement in the molecular testing. As most of the seminars were conveyed in Japanese, we attended the seminars conducted in English. There were few lectures that I would like to share here.

- 1) Treatment strategies for transplant ineligible Newly diagnosed multiple myeloma was presented by Noopur Raje who is director of Multiple myeloma Center at Massachusetts General Hospital. She shared with us the importance of achieving MRD negativity as an important prognostic factor by next generation sequencing or multiparameter flowcytometry because it showed that MRD negativity has much better progression free survival and overall survival. She presented multiple different drug combinations that can be used in management of multiple myeloma in transplant eligible and transplant ineligible patients and also the superiority in 4 drugs combination than 3 drugs combination regime.
- 2) New genetic predispositions of MDS/AML, what does it change? by Jean Soulier who is professor in Saint-Louis Hospital and University of Paris, France has enlightened us with various inherited bone marrow failure syndromes. For example, he explained the pathogenesis and staging criteria in diagnosing Fanconi anemia in details. He also presented myeloid neoplasms with germ line predispositions that has been added to the WHO classification 2016. The main deficient genes such as GATA2, RUNX1, CEBPA, TERC, DDX41, SAMD9/SAMD9L, ERCC6L2 were associated with its own distinct natural history. He emphasised that recognition of the genetic origin is crucial to adapt treatment and family counselling.
- 3) Evolving Treatment Paradigm for MF and PV by Ruben Mesa who has involved in the MPN research for more than 20 years and led the development of NCCN panel guidelines, has shared with us the practical guidance and the optimal treatment strategies for MF and PV and how to incorporate the advances into our daily practices.

Poster presentations were held from 5pm till 7pm daily for the three days events in which all the presenters had the opportunity to present their posters. They would be judged by the judges and their presentation would be broadcasted to online system in which other participants would be able

to listen to their presentations. Majority of the posters were from Japanese participants and they presented them in Japanese.



I was grateful that my poster with the title of 'Epidemiology of acute promyelocytic leukaemia in Sabah and Sarawak from 2010 till 2018' was accepted for poster presentation on 12th of October 2019. Unfortunately, the day 2 event was greatly affected by the Typhoon of Hagibis which was predicted to be one of the worst typhoon in Japan in its 60 years old history. Most of the shops were closed and public transportation were suspended on that day as part of the Japan's government efforts in preventing casualties to the minimum. 90% of the flights were cancelled on that day. We were stranded in the hotel the whole day as we were advised to stay in the hotel for the safety reason. We encountered earthquake 5.2 richter at 9pm and fortunately our area did not encounter much damage from the typhoon and able to resume our day 3 conference the next day.

In a nutshell, it was a memorable and fruitful trip. We reached safely in Malaysia on 14th of October 2019. Once again, I would like to extend my gratitude to the MSH for the travel grant. Thank you!

Report prepared by:

Yong Kar Ying

30th October 2019