



media release

28 July 2008

Surgeons at cutting edge in Queenstown

Surgeons and medical researchers gathering at New Zealand's first international advanced networking conference will be demonstrating cutting edge approaches to telemedicine – removing the distance between patients and medical specialists through using advanced networks like KAREN, Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network.

A series of medical demonstrations will be presented at APAN26 Sustainable Networking conference, 4-8 August in Queenstown, highlighting the potential of high capacity networks for improving telemedicine and remote surgical techniques in New Zealand and Asia Pacific. This will be the first time that an advanced network, KAREN, has been used to carry out remote surgery and telemedicine in New Zealand.

APAN26 will see Dr. Shuji Shimzu (Kyushu University Hospital, Japan) demonstrate Colo-rectal laparoscopic surgery from Kyushu University Hospital to an audience in Queenstown, New Zealand. Medical specialists will also be connecting remotely from other parts of New Zealand, Australia, Manila and Japan to comment on the live surgery.

Dr. Stuart Gowland of Mobile Surgical Services, who has pioneered the sharing of medical technology within rural New Zealand, will presenting to the Asia Pacific medical community video conferencing techniques that will contribute to better delivery of medical care throughout rural communities in the Pacific Rim.

Donald Clark, CEO of KAREN, says "KAREN and other similar international advanced networks are assisting in improving health in rural and remote areas by allowing real time access to specialist surgical skills. The use of high-definition cameras and high capacity networks means that the 'watching and asking' can be done almost anywhere to where live surgery is taking place."

The medical groups will also be demonstrating, for the first time, remote surgery using an OptIPortal sponsored by AARNET. The OptIPortal combines ultra-resolution visualisations and high-definition video and audio technologies, allowing surgeons in Japan, Seattle and New Zealand to perform collaborative surgery in real time for the conference delegates.

APAN26 is the 26th gathering of the Asia Pacific Advanced Network Consortium that brings together over 250 people for showcasing advanced broadband networking applications and technologies for research, education and innovation

For more programme and conference information visit
<http://www.karen.net.nz/apan26/>

Contact: Julie Watson, Communities Manager, ph +64 4 913 1095,
mobile +64 21 674 954

Gold APAN 26 Sponsors



Silver APAN 26 Sponsors

