

Prof. Matsumura, Director of the Bonn Office visits the Director of the Ruhr University Clinic



On Friday, July 5, Prof. Matsumura Akira (Faculty of Medicine), the Director of the Bonn Office, visited the Ruhr University Clinic in Germany. The clinic was built in 1890 for the mine workers in the Ruhr area, once the biggest coal and steel industrial area. Now it is a university clinic with 23 specialist clinics and 662 beds.

First, Prof. Schildhauer, the Director of the Ruhr University Clinic, reported to Prof. Matsumura the results of their experiments with the “Robot suit HAL”. “HAL” was developed by Prof. Sankai (Center for Cybernics Research) at the University of Tsukuba, with the goal of expanding, amplifying and supporting bodily functions.

He reported that rehabilitation results were great and that using “HAL” during walking exercises enabled patients who sustained leg injuries to walk again with help of a walking aid after 4 months.



„HAL“ Training Centre ①



„HAL“ Training Centre ②

Prof. Matsumura then visited the brand new Rehabilitation Centre which uses „HAL“. After that, Prof. Schildhauer showed him the hospital for more than two hours. With this visit, it has not only been confirmed that the robot suit is in fact in practical use in Germany, but the visit itself was also an opportunity to discuss future cooperation between Ruhr and Tsukuba in further developing “HAL” and improving its use in rehabilitation.