Reviewer's report

**Title:** A Mycobacterium tuberculosis cluster demonstrating the use of genotyping in urban tuberculosis control

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 28 May 2009

**Reviewer:** Yasuhiko Suzuki

**Reviewer's report:**

- **Major Compulsory Revisions**

  This manuscript demonstrated the usefulness of the visualization of cases in a same RFLP cluster for the finding transmission location and so on. Their methodology seemed to be valuable for the control of tuberculosis. However, there exist some to be clarified, added and deleted.

  1. There is no precise explanation on the characteristics of RFLP pattern. Authors should mention where in the world does this RFLP pattern can be found and how many there are.

  2. Authors demonstrated that the visualization of cases in a cluster showing identical RFLP pattern is useful in finding transmission location and the similarity and links between patients. Although this is true, addition of one or more example might be required to generalize their conclusion.

- **Minor Essential Revisions**

  1. “Method” contained descriptions those should not be here. Large part of a paragraph from page 5, line 9 to line 17 should be moved to “Discussion”. A sentence from page 6, line 4 “Cases identified ….. isobiazide” should be removed.

  2. Description of “Figure 3.1 (this may be Figure 1)” in “Result” is not kind enough to make readers understand. Authors should rewrite.

  3. The meanings of table 2 are not easy to be understood. Precise explanation should be in the text. For example, what the difference between cases with parentheses and without it?

  4. Is “Figure 3.1” “Figure 1”? Figure 3.2, Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 are also seen in the text.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.