The International Summer Program (ISP) has proven to be an increasingly important way for TMDU to reach out to the international community and connect with promising students and young researchers in Asia. Through this annual program, TMDU brings approximately 25 students and young researchers to the Yushima campus for four days of lectures, lab visits, cultural and social events, and other activities.

As of May 1, 2013, there were 206 international students studying at TMDU, 19 of whom are ISP alumni. With the increasing influence of the ISP Special Selection program, which was introduced as part of ISP2012, we look forward to ISP and the alumni of the program enjoying even deeper integration with our graduate schools and the TMDU community as a whole.

In late 2012, a working group to organize the fifth TMDU International Summer Program, ISP2013, was convened under the leadership of Prof. Kikuo Ohno, the Trustee of the Planning/International Exchange. Prof. Kazuo Takakuda of the Institute of Biomaterials and Bioengineering was chosen to chair the ISP2013 Working Group. This included representatives from several departments, especially those involved with biomaterials, in either basic science or clinical applications.

The faculty and staff of the International Exchange Center also participated actively in the planning of ISP2013. As one of its first orders of business, the working group set the theme of the ISP2013 program, Biomaterials: From the Laboratory to the Clinic, and invited leading researchers such as Prof. Dennis Discher of the University of Pennsylvania, and Professor Karl-Heinz Kunzelmann, of the University of Munich, to speak at ISP2013. As with previous ISPs, ISP2013 featured a two-day Lecture Course, a Poster Session and an International Symposium. ISP2013 also marked the second year for the ISP Special Selection, which allowed participants to take an examination to enter a PhD program at TMDU, and be considered for a full scholarship on admission.

ISP2013 attracted 75 applications from 17 countries in all. Of these, 25 applicants were selected, representing 16 countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. ISP2013 was held from 26 to 29 August 2013. Along with Professors Discher and Kunzelmann, featured speakers at ISP2013 included Professor Masaya Nakamura from Keio University, and several of the TMDU-based researchers who are conducting leading-edge research in the field; Prof. Takao Hanawa, Prof. Shohei Kasugai, Prof. Kenji Yasuda, Prof. Aki Kishida, Prof. Akiko Nagai, Prof. Atsushi Okawa, Prof. Atsushi Sadr, Prof. Kazuo Takakuda, Prof. Atsushi Tamura, and Prof. Kenji Yasa.

The participants of ISP2013 enjoyed meeting the researchers of TMDU, attending the various social functions, touring the Institute of Biomaterials and Bioengineering, visiting other labs on campus, and getting to know other invitees and presenters, as well as attending the presentations that are the core of ISP. In addition, many invitees and TMDU graduate students made poster presentations. Winners of the Best Poster awards were ISP2013 invitees Iris Liew Ee Juan (Malaysia) and Nadeep Bhushan (India), and fourth year PhD student Turki Bakhshi (Saudi Arabia), of the Cardiology and Operative Dentistry Department at TMDU.

At the Social Hour, which was held on the third evening of ISP2013, the TMDU faculty and students and guest participants and speakers gathered at the Faculty Lounge on the top floor of the M&D Tower. After President Ohya officially welcomed the participants to the reception, the window shades were raised, revealing the beautiful night view from the 26th floor. Later in the evening the audience was treated to performances by Ochanomizu University students, including comic skits by the Kysugen Club, and a dance performance by the Japanese Traditional Dance Circle. Everyone enjoyed a night of talking, eating and snapping pictures. The next day was reserved for the ISP Symposium, where the lecturers shared their current research and answered many questions from the invitees, graduate students, and professors in attendance.

The day after ISP2013 concluded, the Special Selection participants took an entrance exam for the TMDU Graduate School. Three of these participants plan to enter TMDU from 2014 if they pass the exam and are eligible to be chosen to receive a full scholarship to support their PhD studies.

The sixth annual ISP, ISP2014, will be held from 25 to 28 August 2014, with the theme Ageing and Metabolism. The planning for ISP2014 will be led by Prof. Kikuo Ohno, the Trustee for Planning/International Exchange, and Prof. Yoshihiro Ogawa, Professor of Molecular Endocrinology and Metabolism, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, who will chair the ISP2014 Working Group. As the detailed plans for ISP2014 are finalized, the information will be posted on the International Exchange Center website. The ISP2014 website also has full information on the first five ISPs, which helps students and young researchers across Asia learn more about this increasingly popular international outreach program.
Project for Promoting Medical and Dental Education and Research in Southeast Asia

The Faculty of Dentistry at TMDU has concluded academic exchange agreements with 39 overseas dental schools, of which 30 are in Asia. The first academic exchange agreement was with Chulalongkorn University in Thailand on January 18, 1991. Since that time, academic exchange agreements have been concluded between the TMDU Faculty of Dentistry and 15 dental schools in eight Southeast Asian countries.

Workshop and Exchange seminar was held because it was understood that sharing information and holding discussions among the affiliated universities in Southeast Asia is very important for achieving the first purpose above. Although there have been active exchanges of students, staff, and information with affiliated universities on an individual basis, this workshop marked the first time for TMDU to invite such a sizable group of deans and associate deans for academic or international affairs to Tokyo for a meeting at one time.

Ten ASEAN-member countries agreed to approve professional licenses, including for dental practitioners, by 2015 according to the mutual recognition agreement (MRA) concluded in 2009. The mutual recognition of professional licenses, which has been achieved in the European Union (EU), will also become a reality in Asia.

In Japan, discussion of new accreditation systems for dental and medical education has recently begun. As is clear from the fact that TMDU has constantly updated its curriculum to meet its responsibility to provide the best undergraduate education at all times, it goes without saying that TMDU has also paid close attention to global trends in systems for assuring the quality of dental education.

Against this background, TMDU invited 27 deans or associate deans for academic affairs from affiliated universities and three specialists from the ASEAN community to the symposium on October 29, 2013 to talk about standardization, (2) Exchange of research outcomes, academic publications and other academic information, (3) Exchange of faculty members, (4) Exchange of students, (5) Other academic and educational exchange programs.

We have had annual meetings from 2011 to realize our mission. The 1st and 2nd consortiums were held in Bangkok and Beijing, respectively, and the 3rd Tri-University Consortium on Oral Science and Education was held on November 6 and 7, 2013 at TMDU. Following the Opening Remarks by Professor Junji Tagami, Dean of Faculty of Dentistry, Chulalongkorn University, and the School of Biomaterials, Peking University, concluded a Tri-University Consortium agreement in 2010 to promote the following programs: (1) Joint conference on oral sciences and education, (2) Exchange of research outcomes, academic publications and other academic information, (3) Exchange of faculty members, (4) Exchange of students, (5) Other academic and educational exchange programs.

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