

# CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration center

Newsletter vol. 1

4/1/2013



## Thailand Newsletter

Our university has overseas collaboration centers in Thailand, Ghana and Chile. We have cooperated with the Faculty of Dentistry at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand on research and training for over 20 years. TMDU has had more than 100 international students from Thailand. In 2002, our Medical Department concluded an academic exchange agreement to invite international students and to send our students for a project semester.

For further exchanges and development between our universities, Chulalongkorn University opened CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center on November 23, 2010.

The Center has sought to advance medical and dental training and joint research, inform those who are interested in overseas study at TMDU, support alumni, give health education support and provide services to Japanese nationals.

In 2011 Thailand experienced its heaviest floods in fifty years, with its capital Bangkok also incurring flood damage. As a result, we didn't have a full-exchange program that year, but we were able to make use of teleconferencing technology to continue communication and cooperation between our two universities. After the floods subsided, we were able to resume full-fledged cooperation from 2012.

It's my hope that this newsletter will keep you informed of the activities at the Center. In this issue, I'd like to deepen your understanding of Thailand by introducing you to the activities of the Center and to Thailand's reputation as the Land of Smiles.

Lastly, in an effort to improve the Center and make the newsletter more interesting to read, we would like to ask you to send us any comments or requests that might help in this regard. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



“Ribbon cutting ceremony with President Ohyama and President

Thailand Base Facility Management  
Graduate school of medical and dental Sciences  
Health Promotion  
Professor Yoko Kawaguchi

## **Brief summary of the CU-TMDU Collaboration Center**

The CU-TMDU Center was established on the 11F of Navamaracha Building in the CU Medical Department on November 23, 2010. The nearest station is Siam Station, a central station of sky train. The Center is located in back of Novotel Hotel next to Siam Station and it takes five minutes by walking. The center provides a teleconferencing system, OA equipment such as PC and publication including pamphlets, Annual News and a brief summary of our university. It is available for seminars featuring presentation meetings or using the teleconferencing equipment.

### **Main usages**

- (1) Development in medical and dental training and joint research
- (2) To provide information to those interested in studying abroad in Japan
- (3) To support reunion of Japanese international alumni in Thailand.
- (4) To provide information for health education support and medical concerns to Japanese nationals in Thailand.



### **Past Action**

◆2010/11/23

#### **Opening ceremony of the Center**

The attendance of TMDU President Ohyama, President Pirom of CU, Japanese Ambassador Kojima, Mr. Ohashi Director of the Japanese Association in Bangkok, and others.

◆2011/6/2

#### **Teleconferencing at the Center**

We put a teleconferencing system in our Center.

- 1) Hookup of symposium at our university “foresight and evidence of oral health promotion in Asia” where the Thai Ministry of Health and dental health manager has attend. (2011/6/14)
- 2) Hookup of ISP (2011/8/29)
- 3) Lecture at graduate college on Pulp Biology and Endodontics at both universities (2011/9/30)
- 4) Meetings to exchange information between teachers



from both universities. (2011/6/22, 23, 27, 29, 7/1, 5, 6, 10/18 and others)

◆2011/7/7

President Ohyama granted an honorary doctorate by Chulalongkorn University

President Ohyama was awarded an honorary doctorate by Princess Sirindhorn for his efforts to strengthen the partnership between our universities, such as establishing the Center, volunteering in the Royal Family Project, and contributing to the development of dental health in Thailand.

◆2011/8/3

Convention of young researchers

Young researchers in departments at both universities, including the Department of Dental Prosthesis, held a joint research meeting at the Center. Dr. Tagami, chair of the department, and three researchers from our university attended the meeting and exchanged future ideas on research.

◆2011/10/1-2012/2/23

Dispatch of medical student

Yuko Adachi and Yoko Taketani, 4<sup>th</sup>-year students from the medical department, received research training at the CU medical department during a project seminar. They temporarily returned to Japan during the heavy floods that hit Thailand, from Nov. 27, 2011 to Jan. 4, 2012. They later returned to finish their research.

◆2012/10

Graduate school lecture on Department of Pulp Biology and Endodontics

TMDU shared its graduate school lectures from the Department on Pulp Biology and Endodontics with CU-TMDU Center, on four separate occasions, for teachers, graduate students and students in the Department of Pulp Biology and Endodontics at CU (Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>).

◆2012/10/9-2013/2/19

Dispatch of medical students

Yohei Funayama and Mai Nakazawa, 4<sup>th</sup>-year students in the Medical Department, received research training in the CU Medical Department during a project seminar.

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**“Cultivating Professionals with Knowledge and Humanity” President Ohyama  
volunteers in the Royal Family Project in Thailand**

President Ohyama attended the Royal Family Project in Thailand from Dec.16-20, 2012. In this project, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand proposed free dental clinics for districts without dentists, to be led by the Faculty of Dentistry at CU. President Ohyama has volunteered for this project over the past ten years, including this year, from Dec. 16-20, when it was held in Nakhonphanom, 750 km from Bangkok, in



the Northeast part of Thailand, bordering the Mekong River which separates Thailand and Laos. Thai participants numbered over 400 people in total, including 150 people from among both active and alumni dentists, nurses, clinical technologists, and dental technicians from the Faculty of Dentistry at CU, and 250 dentists and volunteers from local areas.



every day, with more than 100 people on the waiting list for denture surgery. The local people were very kind and cooperative providing food and drinks, and local high school students volunteered to assist with the dental surgery. Even though it was their first experience, the high school students eagerly helped President Ohyama. President Ohyama performed medical surgery carefully and politely.



had little problem establishing friendly communication with the people while he was there. He looked like he enjoyed his conversations with the high school volunteers.

For Thai dental surgeons and dental technicians, President Ohyama's denture techniques were something they really want to have, and so they gazed carefully and respectfully at his dental surgery.

President Ohyama was careful and polite when he performed surgery. And all his patients were

Every morning President Ohyama went to a make-shift clinic at a local middle school nearly one hour from the hotel. Many people had been waiting in the reception room before he arrived; he performed dental surgery from eight thirty in the morning to past six o'clock in the evening almost without any break. Since this was the first time for dental surgery in ten years in this area, about 1,500 people gathered there



President Ohyama worked with other volunteers and ate meals provided by local people with Thai doctors, and performed dental surgery with almost no break. He spoke in fluent Thai and had no problem communicating with patients. Laotian and Vietnamese people, other than Thai, also lived in this region, and old people spoke a variety of languages including Vietnamese, Laotian and Isan, a tongue from northeast Thailand. Despite the language gap President Ohyama



happy with the results and thanked him.

By coincidence, President Ohyama happened to meet a young dentist who ten years before had assisted him on a different occasion.

There is a Japanese idiom, “keizoku ha chikara nari,” meaning continuing on one thing for long time makes one stronger. President Ohyama personified this idiom by performing dental surgeries with Thai dentists in poor and underdeveloped Northern East Thai. It’s clear that he actually puts into practice the university motto “Cultivating Professionals with Knowledge and Humanity.”

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### **International student training and “dental” health education collaboration with Japanese nationals in Thailand**

For seven days from Sep. 3-9, 2011, as part of TMDU overseas training incentive scheme for student dispatch training and “Project to Promote Dental Education and Research Bases in Southeast Asia—Aiming to Standardize Dental Education”, there was health education collaboration with Japanese nationals in Thailand, intercommunication between Japanese and Thai students led by dental students, and standardization of dental education based on research investigation and intercommunication led by academic researchers.

#### **<Overseas training for TMDU students>**



Preparation for TMDU student overseas training starts from May 2012, including student selection, pre-English training, pre-health education training and risk management. Students and faculty members reached Bangkok on Sep. 3. On Sep. 4, they attended Dr. Ton Chai’s lecture in English on the dental health system in Thailand and the current conditions of dental health there. Afterward a networking event was held with students of CU school of dentistry, and afterwards the TMDU students toured the newly opened Human Body Museum

located on the 9F of the same building as the CU-TMDU Center. On Sep. 5, the students held a networking event with students from Srinakharinwirot University, a tour of the facilities, and a networking event with students who studied Japanese in the Department of Anthropology. According to persons concerned, it was vibrant, even though it was the first time to have a full-fledged networking event with Japanese students.

On Sep. 6, TMDU students coached students at Rainbow Kindergarten on brushing their teeth and later visited dental hospitals where international alumni of TMDU worked. Many of those hospitals had plenty of Japanese guides due to the large number of Japanese nationals who go there. On Sep. 9<sup>th</sup>, the students attended a dental consultation meeting and taught dental health education and coached children on how to brush their teeth.

Every student there was satisfied with the training, but they felt there still remained some problems in communication.

### <Guidance for brushing teeth at Rainbow Kindergarten>

Rainbow Kindergarten held a health education activity—guidance for brushing teeth—on Sep. 6. Despite rain that day, the principal of the kindergarten, Asami, several fathers and mothers, and many Japanese children waited for the TMDU students. Faculty members and students separated into two groups for 4<sup>th</sup>-year kids and 5<sup>th</sup>-year kids, and coached children how to brush their teeth. While students creatively performed skits of “Anpan man” and “Little snow white,” the TMDU students gently taught kids the importance of their brushing teeth. In her feedback, one mother mentioned that the cartoon characters used in the presentation helped change her child’s fearful image towards dental doctors into a positive image.”



### <Dental health seminar>

A dental health seminar and health consultation meeting were held on Sep. 9 at the Imperial Queen’s Park Hotel. In the seminar and meeting, with the cooperation of the Bangkok Japanese School, targets were Japanese school students and their parents, and since it was also the first time for the school to have such a large meeting, many Japanese families attended there.



In the opening ceremony, President Ohyama greeted the audience and spoke about TMDU’s educational motto “Cultivating Professionals with Knowledge and Humanity.” The CU-TMDU Center was established after long cooperation with the Thai university; the main mission of the Center, going forward, is to support health education, provide information to Japanese nationals in Thailand, and hold dental health

seminars and dental consultation meetings for Japanese school students and their parents. President Ohyama committed himself and the university to ongoing support for Japanese residents in the future.

In the dental health seminar, speeches were given on eight themes including “dental prophylaxis,” “orthodontics,” “cure for bad breath,” “whitening teeth,” “bruxism,” “preventive periodontal procedure,” “oral cancer” and “dental implant.” Many associate participants showed keen interest in “dental prophylaxis” and “orthodontics” and listened to the speech intently.

### <Dental health consultation meeting>

In the dental health consultation meeting, 77 parents and children attended and received individual counseling. Academics from our university and Thai dental doctors from “The Japan Dental Alumni of Thailand: “JDAT” counseled together. Of the consultation cases 40% were dental prophylaxis, 30% were child dentistry, and the remaining 30% were in other dental disciplines. The dental counselors were eager to help and put in many hours of consultation beyond what was originally planned.



While the visitors waited in line, our university students took the opportunity to teach children and their parents how to brush their teeth, which was very much appreciated.

Participants commented “the consultations were very easy to understand and students were very polite,” “I had a favorable impression of the students,” and “there was plenty of help and I think the consultation meetings should be made more widely known.”

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### Dental education curriculum



On Sep. 7<sup>th</sup>, as part of the new initiative “Project to Promote Dental Education and Research Centers in Southeast Asia—Aiming to Standardize Dental Education” which began this fiscal year, we drew up a guideline for standardizing dental education. TMDU faculty heard the views of counterparts from the CU School of Dentistry on this issue and exchanged opinions on dental education generally. The results of these exchanges were used as basic information for

the dental education workshop held in Southeast Asia in November 2012.

### **Intercommunication with Thai international students of TMDU alumni association**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, a dinner welcome party was held at Queen's Park Hotel for students participating in the international training and faculty members who participated in a health education initiative hosted by Japanese dental alumni from JDAT. At the start, President Ohyama greeted and introduced Dr. Thodsaporn, an international student at TMDU, who assumed the post of Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at Naresuan University; the participants celebrated his induction. Some alumni participated with their family, chatted about old days and caught up on each others' lives. The atmosphere of the party was like a "TMDU family party," and everyone was engaged in friendly conversation throughout the entire time.



### **Academic exchange meeting with affiliates from CU School of Dentistry**

On Sep. 26, 2012, Dean Sophon, with six others from the Medical Department at CU, visited TMDU and participated in an academic exchange meeting with Dean Yuasa and fourteen other TMDU personnel. In the meeting, they discussed cooperative initiatives between the two universities. Yoko Taketani, a 5<sup>th</sup>-year student in the Medical Department at TMDU, who was dispatched to the Medical Department in CU last year on a project semester, gave a presentation of her research results. In addition, Yohei Funayama and Mai Nakazawa, both 4<sup>th</sup>-year students in the Medical Department at TMDU, who were going to be, dispatched in autumn of 2012, gave presentations on their research plans. Lastly, both universities confirmed their commitment to advancing cooperative initiatives in the future.



## Introduction of Staff Members at the Center

### Katsuji Onoda, a Project Associate Professor in the TMDU International Center

I have been in charge of CU-TMDU Center from August 1, 2012, and I will be making round trips between Thailand and Japan in the immediate future. With your great support, I will dedicate all my efforts to the development of the CU-TMDU Center. I am affiliated with the International Exchange Center, which is located on the 4Fof Building No. 1. Please feel free to come and see me anytime.



### Dr. Atiphan Pimkhaokham from the Faculty of Dentistry at CU

It is a great opportunity to be the first coordinator of the CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center. I have high hopes that an increasing number of activities will be continued by the Center and supported by everyone. I also believe that the Center will be the first place that Thai dentists visit whenever they are curious about TMDU. In the same way, I hope it will be the premier spot for Japanese dentists to consult with if they need information about CU. Please feel free to get in touch with me.

### Street talk in Bangkok

What is the color of the day of your birth?

Did you know there are colors for each day of the week in Thailand? Thailand is a devout Buddhist country where everyone values the day of their birthday. The colors of the week go like this: Sunday (red), Monday (yellow), Tuesday (pink), Wednesday (green), Thursday (black), Friday (blue), and Saturday (purple). King Bhumibol was born on Monday and so his birthday color is yellow. He is 84 years old now. Until recent years, citizens wore yellow shirts on Monday to wish a long life for their king. However, there was an airport hostage by the anti-Thaksin faction wearing yellow shirts from November 25 to December 3. From then on, people stopped wearing yellow shirts to avoid being falsely identified with the anti-Thaksin faction. One day when I wore a yellow shirt, a Thai friend of mine shot me a serious look to change my clothes. Everyone, please be aware when you wear a -yellow shirt in Thailand.

#### Base location

CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center,

11 floor Navamaracha Building, Faculty of Dentistry, Chulalongkorn University, Henri-Dunant Road, Bangkok, Thailand

#### TMDU office

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