

Tokyo Medical and Dental University and Chulalongkorn University
International Joint Degree Doctor of Philosophy Program in Orthodontics

External Assessment Report

Term of the Assessment
August, 2016 - July, 2017

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Purpose and Background

In 2015, Tokyo Medical and Dental University (hereinafter referred to as the “TMDU”) and Chulalongkorn University (hereinafter referred to as the “CU”) received authorizations from their Ministry of Education to establish a joint degree program (hereinafter referred to as “JDP”).

In 2016, the JDP specializing in orthodontics started, and it has been operated jointly by TMDU and CU. TMDU and CU, through this JDP, aim for training medical professionals with a rich international quality, and enhance the universities’ international profiles, presences and competitiveness.

The JDP focus on fostering professionals who understand the essentials of clinical dentistry and service, and who show promise as talented researchers and future leaders in ASEAN countries.

In the Program, which is different from the usual doctoral program, we offer a curriculum that will enable students to develop the high-quality research capabilities needed to qualify for an academic degree and the clinical skills necessary to become effective dental clinicians.

The Program will provide students high-quality supervision for research training, thesis development and writing. Students will be awarded one degree under the joint names of TMDU and CU after successful completion.

As a Quality assurance system of the program, we set three steps; 1. Self-assessment, 2. External assessment, 3. Faculty Development. Concerning the external assessment, we must undergo assessment by external experts to evaluate the status of program implementation and achievement and make improvements. To this end, we have set guidelines as below.

- University’s Quality Assurance System (hereinafter referred to as “System”) shall be established for the purpose of carrying out assessments of the JDP.
- The system shall assess the status of program implementation and achievement and suggest improvements.
- The system shall consist of persons with relevant knowledge, outsourcing veterans, professors from other universities who hold doctoral degrees in relevant fields and have experiences of granting doctoral degrees.

Dr. Koichi Kato, Dean, School of Dentistry of Hiroshima University and Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry of Prince of Songkla University undertake the external assessors. A meeting for the external assessment was conducted on February 22, 2018, and this is a report of the assessment results.

External Assessment Method

Two external assessors assessed the status of project implementation/achievement and made comments on project achievements that are organized into eight assessment categories.

Assessment criteria is the same as the self-assessment report for the four categories, as shown below.

IV	Achieved more than was planned.
III	Plan was achieved.
II	Plan was not achieved sufficiently.
I	Plan was not achieved.

1. Mechanism for implementation of JD Program

Assessment Category

1-1. Joint implementation structure (Self-assessment report page 1)

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appropriate committees for discussing important matters of education activities and examining curricula and educational methods are organized and active. (1-1-1) ➤ Appropriate communication method is established. (1-1-2) 				
Self-assessment	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Rating</td> <td style="width: 85%;">As per the report on the current situation, some committees with similar deliberation matters were merged. So, there are now specific committees for specific responsibilities related to education and research. This was carried out to conduct the program more efficiently, and is regarded as a good decision. There has been regular communication between the two universities via teleconferencing and e-mail. This makes it easy to confirm the agenda of upcoming video conferences, minutes of meetings, and solve pending issues or confirm their status. Thus, the current situation is considered appropriate with regard to communication between the two institutions.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">III</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Rating	As per the report on the current situation, some committees with similar deliberation matters were merged. So, there are now specific committees for specific responsibilities related to education and research. This was carried out to conduct the program more efficiently, and is regarded as a good decision. There has been regular communication between the two universities via teleconferencing and e-mail. This makes it easy to confirm the agenda of upcoming video conferences, minutes of meetings, and solve pending issues or confirm their status. Thus, the current situation is considered appropriate with regard to communication between the two institutions.	III	
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Assessment Category

1-2. Policies (Self-assessment report page 5)

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diploma Policy is determined based on the educational objectives and published, and completion of the program is approved in a fair and strict manner. (1-2-1) ➤ Curriculum Policy is clearly indicated and published based on the educational objectives. (1-2-2) ➤ Academic curricula are organized and implemented based on Curriculum Policy. (1-2-2) ➤ Clear Admissions Policy is established and entrance examination is conducted in accordance with the policy. (1-2-3) 	
Self-assessment	Rating	<p>The Diploma Policy, Curriculum Policy and Admissions Policy have been appropriately and firmly established and published on the website. Basic and specific subjects have been provided according to the academic curricula based on the Curriculum Policy. Entrance examinations have been conducted based on the Admissions Policy. Candidates in the program have satisfied the qualification requirements. Concordance of candidate selection by the Selection Committee, TMDU and CU was higher than 80%.</p>
	III	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Diploma, curriculum, and admission policies are clearly stated and disclosed on the internet. The consistency between the policies may be improved if the methods to cultivate proficiency in English and competency as a global leader are more clearly stated in the curriculum policy.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> All policies are correctly conducted, published, and carried on according to their policies.</p>

Assessment Category

1-3. Quality assurance system (Self-assessment report page 11)

<p>Criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Self-assessment is implemented and the results are published, and reflected in the educational and research activities. (1-3-1) ➤ After carrying out the external assessment, the results are published and reflected in educational and research activities. (1-3-2) ➤ Opinions of university members (students and faculty members) obtained in order to ensure proper use of the results in concrete, sustainable improvement of educational quality. (1-3-3) ➤ Opinions of external parties are utilized properly toward concrete, sustainable improvement of educational quality (1-3-3) ➤ Faculty development is properly managed, and leads to improvement of educational quality and coursework. (1-3-3) ➤ Information such as that on educational activities (including the items defined in paragraph 2, article 172 of the Enforcement regulations of the school education Law, MEXT) will be publicized. (1-3-4) 	
<p>Self-assessment</p>	<p>Rating</p> <p style="text-align: center;">III</p>	<p>The program has a complete quality assurance system comprising self-assessment, external assessment, feedback of assessment results and their publication. It is planned to carry out self-assessment of the program in January, 2018, and to carry out external assessment in February, 2018. The feedback from the external assessment will be published, and shared with faculty members via faculty development. Information on the program is published on the website.</p>
<p>External review</p>	<p>Rating (Please circle)</p> <p>Comments</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">IV · III · II · I</p> <p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Self-assessment and external assessment were suitably conducted as planned. In addition, the feedback and publication of assessment results are planned at both TMDU and CU. These efforts will serve to further attract students not only from Thailand but also from other countries.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> Since the program just started on 2016, some criteria do not happen yet, the rating would base on the criteria that already finished which had been performed very well in terms of self-assessment, opinions of university members, and faculty</p>

		development.
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2. Operation of JD Program

Assessment Category

2-1. Progress of JD Program operation (Self-assessment report page 15)

Criteria	➤ Program is operated properly as planned.	
Self-assessment	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A written examination, wire-bending examination and essay examination were conducted at CU, and joint interviews were conducted via the video conferencing system. CU and TMDU jointly conducted the entrance examination 2016, and 3 students matriculated for JDP. - Information on the laboratories of the 2 departments (Orthodontic Science and Maxillofacial Orthognathics) given by TMDU professors on their visit to CU was very helpful to the students in developing their research topics. - The qualifying examination for the students matriculating in 2016 was conducted ahead of schedule so the students had their own research projects before starting their research at TMDU.
	III	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	(IV) · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Entrance examination, research briefing at CU, and qualifying examination were appropriately and effectively carried out. As a result, 3 students (equivalent to the admission quota) matriculated in 2016. Scholarship, housing assistance, and other supports for students are well prepared. An adequate financial base will be important for the continuous and improved operation of these administration procedures and supports.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> All the activities and examinations according to the JDP were successfully conducted based on the plan. Since the QE was finished before the plan, the rating shall be "Achieved more than was planned "</p>

Assessment Category

2-2. Fulfillment of student capacity (Self-assessment report page 17)

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Admissions policy, Curriculum policy and Diploma policy are properly publicized and disseminated. ➤ Number of enrollments versus admissions quota is appropriate. 	
Self-assessment	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ratios of number of admissions/number of applicants were 3/9 in 2016 and 3/6 in 2017. Student capacity was fulfilled both in 2016 and 2017. - Information on the curriculum is easily assessed on the first page of CU's website. Applicants can find more details on the graduate school office website when they start the application process.
	III	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	<p style="text-align: center;">(IV) · III · II · I</p>
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> The 2- to 3-times larger number of applicants compared to the admission quota represents large interests in the program.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> All the policies were well published and handed to the students. The website is developing for wildly publicized. The number of enrollments is appropriate.</p>

Assessment Category

2-3. Syllabuses (Self-assessment report page 18)

Criteria	➤ Appropriate syllabuses have been prepared and are in operation.	
Self-assessment	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The syllabuses for JDP have been properly prepared in English and Japanese, but those for some subjects provided by CU are only in English. As the students are all Thai, this has not interfered with operation of JDP. - The syllabus on the CU website explains the course of study, curriculum structure, course syllabus, tuition fees, application requirements and entrance examination but not the Admissions Policy, Curriculum Policy, Diploma Policy or performance evaluation.
	III	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Syllabuses for the program have been well prepared and posted on the universities' websites in both English and Japanese.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> The syllabuses are appropriate and prepared well and in function.</p>

Assessment Category

2-4. Evaluation method and criteria (Self-assessment report page 20)

Criteria	➤ Evaluation methods and criteria (grading, recognition of credits, and completion of the course) are established for each subject. They are being conducted properly in a fair manner, and have been disclosed to students.	
Self-assessment	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conversion of the grading systems of TMDU and CU was one of the most critical processes in setting up the JDP program. However the conversion table and SBOs could be successfully established through extensive discussions and the mutual understanding achieved. - The grading systems of both TMDU and CU can be converted systematically with academic validity. Until now no problem has been found in the use of the grade conversion table.
	III	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> The grade conversion table and SOBs could be successfully and reasonably established and disclosed to students.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> The evaluation methods and criteria in terms of grading, credits, and completion are appropriately established for all subjects. They were conducted in fair manner and understandable. They were announced well for the students.</p>

3. Student Support

Assessment Category

3-1. Student support system (Self-assessment report page 22)

Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appropriate housing support for students is ensured. (3-1-1) ➤ Educational environment that provides education according to instruction goals is established. (3-1-2) ➤ Adequate financial support for students is ensured. (3-1-3) 				
Self-assessment	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Rating</td> <td rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;">Students are properly supported with respect to accommodation and research environment, and financial support has gone well. Potential problems that had been foreseen before the students' arrival have been prevented. Three rooms in the Ichikawa dormitory have been booked for the students, and three desks have been provided in the Common Research Room. All students have been able to obtain scholarships for Ph.D. students from the 100th Anniversary Chulalongkorn University Fund for Doctoral Scholarship. This has helped alleviate the students' financial burden. Scholarships, housing and other types of support have been very helpful to the students. ○</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">IV</td> </tr> </table>	Rating	Students are properly supported with respect to accommodation and research environment, and financial support has gone well. Potential problems that had been foreseen before the students' arrival have been prevented. Three rooms in the Ichikawa dormitory have been booked for the students, and three desks have been provided in the Common Research Room. All students have been able to obtain scholarships for Ph.D. students from the 100th Anniversary Chulalongkorn University Fund for Doctoral Scholarship. This has helped alleviate the students' financial burden. Scholarships, housing and other types of support have been very helpful to the students. ○	IV	
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Conclusion

Conclusion	Rating (Please circle)	(IV) · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> It can be concluded that the plans for the JDP have been achieved beyond expectation. The two universities have made great efforts to execute their plans, while improving the program in many aspects. Accordingly, 6 students have been enrolled and could smoothly commence their PhD studies.</p> <p>This JDP is the pioneering case in Japanese dental schools and will serve as a role model for other endeavors. The successful results documented in the self-assessment report are highly suggestive especially for the approach to establish an effective program by complementing resources possessed by both sides, while ensuring quality assurance.</p> <p>The method of dissertation defense will be a major focus in the coming years. In addition, the advantage of the program should be emphasized to attract Japanese students as well, if they are also assumed.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> This is the first JDP in Dentistry in Thailand with very high standards. It was very well implemented with excellent policies and reliable quality assurance system. The progression of the program was more than was plan in one sub category and as planned in 3 sub categories, rated within III to IV. For student support system, the rating is IV. So the overall ratings could be IV.</p>