

## PCCMS×TMDU Discussion Café on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

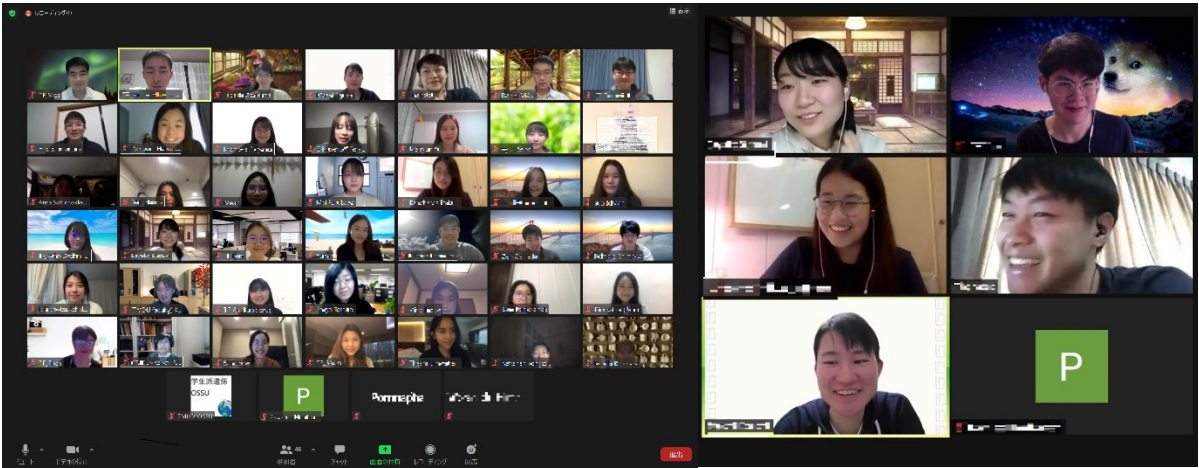
On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 40 first-year medical students from the HRH Princess Chulabhorn College of Medical Science (PCCMS) and Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) came together online in a 3-hour Discussion Café.

Discussion Café is an event where students can interact and network with other students in different universities and countries. Participants are encouraged to come out of their comfort zone and actively share their ideas, ultimately aiming to break down the wall between themselves and the world.

This was the first Discussion Café held between PCCMS and TMDU. 20 students (16 participants and 4 task-force members) from each university took part in the event. Since this was the first exchange between the two universities, students spent the first half of the event getting to know each other better; first, task-force members introduced their own universities in a short presentation; then, students were divided into groups of 4 (2 students from each university) for ice-breaking, where they talked about their daily lives and home countries. The second half was dedicated to academic discussions concerning medical issues in Thailand, Japan, and the international society. Each of the 8 groups were given different discussion topics, which ranged from COVID-19 related subjects such as anti-vaccination movements and mental health under the pandemic, to recent moral issues such as gene modifications and adequate healthcare systems. At the end of the session, each group shared the product of their discussion in a 5-minute presentation.

Overall, this Discussion Café was a success as a pilot project for the exchange between PCCMS and TMDU. Many students seemed to enjoy the cultural interchange and the high-

level discussions provided at this event. Based on this experience, we hope to have more collaborations between the two universities with a variety of contents in the near future.



Screen shot of the session