

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, 2019 - July, 2020

Evaluators:

Dr. Koichi Kato and Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote

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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, School of Dentistry of Hiroshima University and Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry of Prince of Songkla University undertake the external assessors. 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

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	Rating	The joint implementation structure was revised to be the well-designed one. Usual communications between the two universities have been well carried out regularly once a month.
	III	
External-assessment	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Appropriate committee meetings have been conducted regularly even under difficult conditions due to COVID-19 outbreak worldwide. Facilities and equipment appropriately installed at TMDU and CU have been effectively used for communication between them.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> All established joint committees were still active and regularly carried on their responsibility tasks very well.</p> <p>Communication by means of video conference and e-mail was very well performed in a CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center in Thailand with a JDP coordinator to manage the communication. The communication was conducted regularly according to the important activity occurring.</p>

Assessment Category

1-2. Policies

<p>Criteria</p>	<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) 				
<p>Self-assessment</p>	<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;">The current policies, both diploma, and curriculum are performed very well. The Diploma Policy, Curriculum Policy, and Admissions Policy have been well applied and conducted. Some high conditions such as the high score of English proficiency was adjusted to the sufficient level to recruit more candidates.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">III</td> </tr> </table>	Rating	The current policies, both diploma, and curriculum are performed very well. The Diploma Policy, Curriculum Policy, and Admissions Policy have been well applied and conducted. Some high conditions such as the high score of English proficiency was adjusted to the sufficient level to recruit more candidates.	III	
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III					
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Assessment Category

1-3. Quality assurance system

<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>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Rating</td> <td rowspan="2" style="padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program has had the complete quality assurance system comprising self-assessment, external assessment, feedback of assessment result and publication for the first time as the following timeline. Self-assessment was undergone in January 2020, and external assessment was undergone during January to March 2020. The complete external assessment report was reported in March 2020. The feedback of external assessment was being publicized and shared with faculty members through faculty development. Information about the program was publicized on the website. • The quality assurance system is going to be performed for the second time during the first quarter of 2020 according to the schedule of the previous one. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">III</td> </tr> </table>	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program has had the complete quality assurance system comprising self-assessment, external assessment, feedback of assessment result and publication for the first time as the following timeline. Self-assessment was undergone in January 2020, and external assessment was undergone during January to March 2020. The complete external assessment report was reported in March 2020. The feedback of external assessment was being publicized and shared with faculty members through faculty development. Information about the program was publicized on the website. • The quality assurance system is going to be performed for the second time during the first quarter of 2020 according to the schedule of the previous one. 	III
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<p>Comments</p> <p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Self-assessment and external assessment have been regularly performed as planned. These results have been posted on the universities' websites and reviewed in the Course Administrative Committee for improving the program. Questionnaires to students</p>				

		<p>and supervisors have been carried out and the results have been fed back to faculties. Information on the program as well as latest news has been published on the universities' websites. All these assessments and feedbacks seem to enhance the quality assurance of the program.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote></p> <p>The self-assessment, external assessment from previous evaluation, voice from the students and stakeholders, and all important quality assurance system were well carried on, analyzed and planned.</p>
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2. Operation of JD Program

Assessment Category

2-1. Progress of JD Program operation

Criteria	➤ Program is operated properly as planned.	
Self-assessment	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination, wire-bending examination, and essay examination were conducted at CU. The subsequent joint interview was conducted through a video conferencing system. CU and TMDU jointly conducted the entrance examination 2020, and 3 students were matriculated to JDP. • Qualifying Examination and Thesis/Dissertation proposal examination which is compulsory for the graduation has been conducted and all students have passed the exams so far.
	III	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> According to the Self-Assessment Report for the term from August 2019 to July 2020, it seems that the JD program has been well conducted as planned. However, TMDU and CU had probably many difficulties to conduct the program due to unexpected things associated with COVID-19 pandemic especially after April 2020. These are not described in the report.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> Entrance examination for 2020 new students was successfully conducted as well as all necessary process. Qualifying examination and thesis/ dissertation proposal examination has been conducted and all students passed the examinations to assure the future graduation.</p>

Assessment Category

2-2. Fulfillment of student capacity

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 successful admission/number of applicants were 3/9 in 2016, 3/6 in 2017, 3/7 in 2018, 3/5 in 2019 and 3/5 in 2020. Student capacity fulfilled in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. ▪ For increasing the number of applicants, one of the application qualifications about English ability test was modified from “CU-TEP 80 or more” into “CU-TEP 75 or more”, and this modification was applied to the entrance examination in 2020. ▪ 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. ▪ For publicizing the JDP in the international level, the brochure introducing the JDP will be distributed at the international conference.
	III	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> The admission quota planned (3 students) was fulfilled in 2020 as well. TMDU and CU have been making an effort to internationally publicizing the program.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> All informations regarding admission, curriculum, and diploma policy are on both university’s websites. The number of enrollments versus admission were still maintained at 3/5 with a modification for English ability.</p>

Assessment Category

2-3. Syllabuses

Criteria	➤ Appropriate syllabuses have been prepared and are in operation.	
Self-assessment	Rating	The syllabuses for JDP have been published and updated every year on CU website both in English and Thai.
	III	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> All syllabuses are available online and revised as necessary.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> The syllabuses in both Japanese and English are available on both TMDU and CU websites. They are in operation.</p>

Assessment Category

2-4. Evaluation method and criteria

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	The grading system has been used effectively. A comparison table for grade conversion has also been practically applied.
	III	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	IV · <input checked="" type="radio"/> III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> The grading system using the grade conversion method has successfully been applied.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> Both established grading system and conversion has been applied effectively as well as disclosed to the students on the website.</p>

3. Student Support

Assessment Category

3-1. Student support system

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	Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year JDP students have got the scholarship called “100th Anniversary Chulalongkorn University Fund for Doctoral Scholarship”. Three 1st year students matriculated in 2019 will apply for this scholarship. • The 4th year students were arranged to attend the publication camp, held by Office of Research Affairs, Faculty of Dentistry, CU, to prepare their research manuscripts and get the language editing from the native English professors.
	IV	
External review	Rating (Please circle)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> IV • III • II • I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> Students matriculated to the program have been well supported in many aspects to commence and continue their study at CU and TMDU. Financial supports by the 100th Anniversary Chulalongkorn University Fund and the publication camp designed for the 4th year students are more than expected.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> All the current JDP students have got the scholarship to support their study. Moreover, the faculty of Dentistry, CU has provided a publication camp to assure the publication for graduation.</p>

Conclusion

Conclusion	Rating (Please circle)	IV · III · II · I
	Comments	<p><Dr. Koichi Kato> According to the self-assessment report together with the materials provided or available online, the external evaluator finds that the JD program has been conducted as planned by mutual cooperation between TMDU and CU.</p> <p>The evaluator presumes that there have been a lot of irregular and difficult things during the last half period of the term, especially after April 2020, because of the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19. Although, in the self-assessment report, there is no description and assessment regarding the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the JD program, situations are briefly explained in the minutes of the Course Administrative Committee meetings in March 2020 - July 2020.</p> <p>For effective assessment, the evaluator recommends that more detailed information on dissertation research will be included in a self-assessment report.</p> <p><Dr. Chairat Charoemratrote> Since the score from the 1st section is III, the 2nd section is III with IV for the last section, the average would be III.</p>