

Newsletter

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**CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center,
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Contents:

① Reappointment of Dr. Atiphan Pimkhaokham _____	1
② Group Training for 2 nd and 3 rd -year Medical Students at Mahidol University _____	2
③ Medical Student Dispatches to Thailand (Project Semester) _____	3
④ International Dental Training Program _____	4
⑤ International Faculty Development Courses in Bangkok _____	5
⑥ Tri-University Consortium _____	6



① Reappointment of Dr. Atiphan Pimkhaokham, Associate Professor at Chulalongkorn University as Coordinator



Dr. Atiphan Pimkhaokham (right) and Executive Senior Vice President Tetsuya Taga (left)

Established in 2010, the Chulalongkorn University-Tokyo Medical and Dental University Research and Education Collaboration Center (CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center)—TMDU's satellite office in Thailand—is now in its tenth year of operation. Dr. Atiphan Pimkhaokham, Associate Professor with the Faculty of Dentistry at Chulalongkorn University and the coordinator of the CU-TMDU Center since its inauguration, recently accepted reappointment as coordinator for fiscal year 2018–2019.

Dr. Atiphan completed his graduate studies at TMDU and is an active member of the Japan Dental Alumni in Thailand (JDAT). He was handed his letter of appointment as coordinator of the CU-TMDU Center by Professor Tetsuya Taga, Executive Senior Vice President at TMDU, during his tenure there. ■

✉ Director, TMDU Overseas Satellite Office in Thailand
Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences Health Promotion
Professor Yoko Kawaguchi



② Group Training for 2nd and 3rd-year Medical Students at Mahidol University

In March 2018, fourteen 2nd and 3rd-year medical students (nine from the second year, five from the third) participated in a short-term training program at Mahidol University, following in the footsteps of the seven students who participated in this program a year ago.

Established in 1888, Mahidol University Siriraj Hospital's Faculty of Medicine is the oldest medical school in Thailand, its origins dating back over 120 years. Founded by His Majesty King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) for Thai citizens as the "Medical Institute of the Kingdom (of Thailand)," Siriraj Hospital Faculty of Medicine has more than 2,000 beds and produces upwards of 250 medical graduates every year.

Many of the participants in this year's program were assigned to visit Mahidol University Siriraj Hospital's Faculty of Medicine.

The first port of call for these students was the Siriraj Medical Simulation Center for Education and Training or SiMSET, which is used not only by medical students and doctors but by many in the medical profession as well. Unlike the skills laboratories at TMDU, SiMSET has numerous rooms that can be used for OSCE and other clinical examinations. The students visited the basic life support simulation room with its array of BLS simulators. They used the simulators, which are designed for listening to the heartbeat and respiratory sounds of patients, to perform stethoscopy on human dummies. In addition to SiMSET, the students also visited facilities including a room used by medical students to practice basic procedures such as taking blood and urine samples. At the surgical training center, the so-called "cadaver training center," where students perform autopsies, TMDU students took turns with a simulator that is used to practice endoscopic surgical procedures.

The hospital grounds are home to several historic museums displaying a wide variety of specimens, and the TMDU students visited museums of pathology, medical zoology, forensic medicine and anatomy. The anatomical museum houses numerous valuable specimens, including those of malformed fetuses that have likely been in use for a very long time, while the parasite museum included large displays recreating the environment and diet in areas affected by disease. The museum of forensic medicine, meanwhile, has incorporated images of the massive tsunami that hit Thailand in 2004, in addition to a collection of classic specimens. TMDU students were stimulated and inspired by the variety of the exhibits on display at the university's many museums.

Besides visiting the various facilities, TMDU students were also given an opportunity to meet Mahidol University students, with wonderful results. The tour began with a visit to a room known as "home base" used by second-year students of basic medicine. The room is used by 20–30 students, each provided with a desk equipped with a computer and a microscope. A large laboratory table stands in the center, which is used for basic medical training and private study after classes finish. Each of the rooms can be monitored from the center and are sometimes used for examinations. The students split into small groups, giving the TMDU students an opportunity to ask how local students study and about student life in Thailand in general. Medical TMDU students were also able to watch the "Answer Medical Problems in English" competition that was held at Siriraj Hospital during their visit for students from around the ASEAN region. They were astonished at the range of vocabulary and knowledge of the students from around Asia. This opportunity stimulated a desire to study English, with several of the students saying that they wanted to build their English vocabulary and increase their knowledge of the language.

The students also visited the Department of Traditional Thai Medicines, which is located on the massive Faculty of Liberal Arts campus, which includes a botanical garden filled with medicinal herbs. Students require buses to navigate this expansive campus. Here they received practical training and had a wide range of new experiences. TMDU students were greeted by smiles and a smattering of English from students and staff from departments wherever they went, which was very moving and motivational for them. We would like to extend our thanks to everyone involved in providing this opportunity.



Students try their hands with the surgical simulator

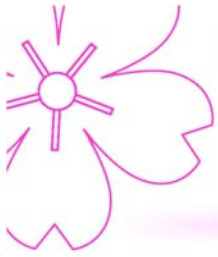


Visiting "home base"



Experiencing traditional Thai medicine

✧ Institute of Education
Professor Kumiko Yamaguchi



③ Medical Student Dispatches to Thailand (Project Semester)

I was assigned to the pathology laboratory, where I undertook research into tuberculosis, a disease that continues to afflict Thailand. All the medical interns were extremely kind to me, and during my six months in the laboratory I attended numerous university events and learned a great deal about Thailand's food culture. Many of the people I met expressed an interest in Japan, and we had animated conversations in which I taught them Japanese language and etiquette. I also participated in extracurricular activities at the university, which provided a great opportunity to communicate with Thai medical students my own age. ■

✿ Tomoka Tadanawa, Year 5 medical student



On Teacher's Day, students present their teachers with bouquets of flowers. I also joined the medical interns in presenting my professor with flowers



Interacting with local students during extracurricular activities at the Department of Medicine

I was involved in research on hepatocellular carcinoma markers, with a focus on gene expression in white blood cells of peripheral blood, under Dr. Apiwat Mutirangura of the Department of Anatomy at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. I also attended a joint program on bioinformatics with the University of Liverpool, which gave me valuable skills and knowledge.

I studied and conducted research with both local students and students from many other countries, including Italy, Taiwan and Russia, with whom I was also able to share private time. On weekends and holidays, I was able to escape the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy the splendor of Thailand's natural wonders, where I passed days that were healthy and calming for both mind and body. ■

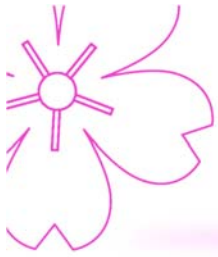
✿ Shoji Riku, Year 5 medical student



My fellow researchers threw me a farewell party



A picture of a cave at one of Thailand's National Parks—I made the most of Thailand's magnificent natural wonders



④ International Dental Training Program

TMDU hosted the International Dental Training Program from October 9–16, 2018. Nine students from Thailand participated: three from Chulalongkorn University, four from Srinakharinwirot University, and two from Naresuan University. In total, thirteen students from universities in Southeast Asia that TMDU has academic exchange agreements with participated in the program, including two students from the University of Indonesia and two students from Ho Chi Minh City Medicine and Pharmacy University. All of the students learned about dental care techniques and dental materials, participating in several activities with students from TMDU.



IDP participants



The orientation session

To encourage the students from these four nations to make friends, they formed pairs and introduced themselves to each other after the orientation session. They were then asked to introduce their partner to the rest of the group, giving them the opportunity to communicate in English. Thereafter, the international students and TMDU students were split into four groups for workshops on what makes “the ideal dentist.”



An introduction to TMDU presented by students



A performance given by two Indonesian students



Enjoying the exchange of culture

The workshops included group discussions using the KD-method (a group consensus technique). The discussion results were presented by representatives from each group, leading to a lively exchange of opinions amongst all participants. All students, regardless of nationality or university affiliation, recognized that they share the same ideas of what makes a good dentist, which helped strengthen the bonds between them.

During the training program, participants attended lectures and received training on Japan’s leading dental care techniques and dental materials. Foreign participants in the training program were given the opportunity to ask foreign students at TMDU about their experience studying in Japan and their study of the Japanese language. These participants were given valuable information on entering the doctoral program at TMDU following their graduation from dental university.

The foreign participants also learned about crisis management and disaster response through a program featuring earthquake simulations and fire drills. The training program coincided with TMDU’s Tea Festival taking place on campus over the weekend, allowing the foreign participants to experience a Japanese university cultural festival, which was new to all of them. The students later introduced traditional songs and dances from their own countries at an entertaining live cultural exchange meeting, helping to deepen cross-cultural understanding. We hope that exchanges of this kind between young students will lead to the establishment of an international medical and dental network in the future. ■



Receiving a certificate of completion from the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry

✧ Department of Oral Health Promotion

Professor Yoko Kawaguchi



⑤ International Faculty Development Courses in Bangkok



The International Faculty Development Team of Japanese and Thai professors



Assistant Professor Hosaka giving his lecture

Central Bangkok was the venue for the International Faculty Development Course held on January 23–24, 2019. These courses are targeted at dental care practitioners worldwide and aim to develop international dental education in areas including the latest clinical dentistry. A course was held outside Japan on a trial basis in 2017, but this was the first genuine International Faculty Development Course to be held outside Japan with participants recruited via the TMDU website, which was used to share information on the course globally.

This symposium-style course was hosted with the collaboration of eight members of Tokyo Medical and Dental University’s Faculty of Dentistry (Wataru Komada, Assistant Professor, Department of Fixed Prosthodontics; Manabu Kanazawa, Assistant Professor, Department of Gerodontology and Oral Rehabilitation; Koji Mizutani, Assistant Professor, Department of Periodontology; Keiichi Hosaka, Assistant Professor, Department of Cariology and Operative Dentistry; Yuriko Komagamine, Assistant Professor, Department of Gerodontology and Oral Rehabilitation; Naoko Seki, Assistant Professor, Institute of Global Affairs; Sunao Murata, Assistant Manager, Institute of Global Affairs; and Risa Inoue, Administrative Staff, Institute of Global Affairs), and four Thai academics (Dr. Atiphan Pimkhaokham, Chulalongkorn University; Dr. Kajorn Kungsadalpipob, Chulalongkorn University; Dr. Chaimongkon Peampring, Prince of Songkla University; and Dr. Taweesak Prasansuttiorn, Chiang Mai University). There were 37 participants total, all of whom expressed strong satisfaction with the symposium via a questionnaire that was handed out after the event.

An implant session held in the morning of the first day featured lectures on the current state of implant treatment, with Assistant Professor Kanazawa lecturing on the latest techniques in implant overdenture, and Dr. Pimkhaokham speaking on the digital tools currently used in implant treatment. In the afternoon, Assistant Professor Mizutani of the Department of Periodontology gave a talk on minimally invasive approaches in regenerative therapeutics, whilst Dr. Kungsadalpipob offered clinical pointers on the preservation of bones and teeth.

The second day began with a lecture from Assistant Professor Komada on composite resin cores, which was followed by a talk on CAD/CAM dentistry from Dr. Peampring. The afternoon session dealt with dental restoration, with Assistant Professor Hosaka and Dr. Prasansuttiorn giving talks on the applicability of composite resin restoration. Both sessions were followed by lively discussions between academics and participants.

The two-day faculty development course offered not only a setting for exchanging information on the latest developments in dental medicine and dental treatment but served also to deepen the bonds and strengthen the network between dental surgeons in Japan and Thailand. ■

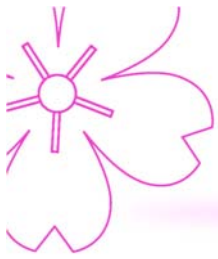


Participants listening to Dr. Peampring’s lecture



Assistant Professor Kanazawa (left) and Dr. Pimkhaokham (right)

✦ Institute of Global Affairs
Assistant Professor Naoko Seki



© Tri-University Consortium

TMDU hosted the Sixth Tri-University Consortium on November 30, 2018. This consortium was established in 2010 by agreement between the dental faculties of Chulalongkorn University, Peking University and TMDU representing, respectively, Thailand, China and Japan, with the first meeting taking place at Chulalongkorn University in 2011. The three universities have taken turns to provide a place for subsequent meetings, which are held annually, with 2018 marking the second occasion for TMDU to host the consortium. The sixth meeting was attended by 19 academics from Chulalongkorn University and Peking University, including both deans of faculty, who mingled with TMDU teaching staff and graduates during the conference.

The morning session opened with keynote speeches from the deans of dentistry of the three universities. Dr. Suchit Poolthong, Dean of Dentistry at Chulalongkorn University, spoke on Chula ARI—the Chulalongkorn University Platform for Aging Research Innovation; Dr. Yuxing, Dean of Dentistry at Peking University gave a talk on approaches to joint international research; whilst TMDU Dean of Dentistry, Prof. Takashi Okiji gave a presentation on TMDU's Project for Promoting Leading-edge Research in Oral Science. A lively debate followed on the future of dental education and research. Personnel from the respective universities went on to introduce the latest fruits of their research, with Prof. Shunichi Shibata of the Department of Maxillofacial Anatomy and Prof. Takashi Ohno of the Department of Orthodontic Science giving lectures on recent research findings at TMDU. There was also an oral presentation.

In the afternoon, participants were given a tour of the GC Corporate Center at oral healthcare materials provider GC Corporation, during which the foreign professors observed developments in dental materials and equipment in Japan and eagerly gathered information. The tour of *Kamulier*, a restaurant catering to the dietary needs of elderly people suffering from deterioration in swallowing function, also generated considerable interest. A poster session was held in collaboration with the 83rd annual meeting of the Japanese Stomatological Society, with posters covering everything from the clinical to the basic. Numerous graduate students also gave presentations and the venue was feverish with excitement.

A party co-hosted by the Japanese Stomatological Society was held in the Faculty Lounge, and participants enjoyed a view of the Tokyo city lights from the top floor of the M&D Tower, renewed old friendships and established new bonds of cooperation. It is our hope that this consortium will continue to strengthen connections between the three universities. ■

✧ Department of Advanced Biomaterials

Professor Motohiro Uo



The 6th Tri-University Consortium



A TMDU graduate student giving a presentation at the poster session

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