

Newsletter

Vol. 14



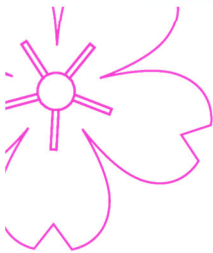
**CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center,
Thailand**

March 31st, 2020

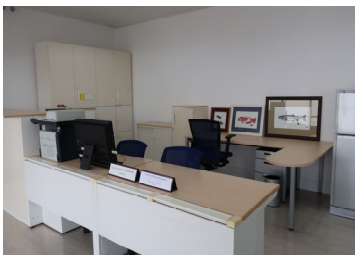


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① Relocation of CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center



The new office space

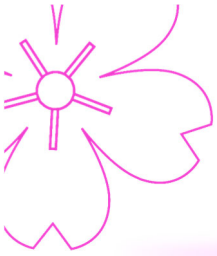


Video conferencing area and the video conferencing system

The Chulalongkorn University – Tokyo Medical and Dental University Research and Education Collaboration Center—TMDU’s satellite office in Thailand—has moved. The new office is located on the 11th floor of the same Faculty of Dentistry building, with full windows along one side that provide great views. The room is divided into office and conference spaces, and is fully equipped for video conferencing, making it possible to clearly see all participants during meetings. TMDU and Chulalongkorn University (CU) currently offer a Joint Degree Program, and the new office will be used for entrance examinations, lectures and seminars. The center will also serve as a point of contact for Thai students thinking about studying at TMDU, providing information and other resources. Dr. Atiphan Pimkhaokhamt (Visiting Associate Professor at TMDU) and Associate Professor at the CU Faculty of Dentistry and Assistant Professor, Dr. Is-sareeya Ekprachayakoon (Visiting Junior Associate Professor at TMDU) are working part-time at the center. TMDU student visitors to CU and former exchange students (members of the Japan Dental Alumni in Thailand) are free to use the CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center office, but are requested to contact the International Exchange Section in advance. ■

✧ Professor Yoko Kawaguchi

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



② Medical Student Dispatches to Thailand (Project Semester)

This year, the 6-year medical students Takeshi Eguchi and Yoshiro Takashima visited Mahidol University Siriraj Hospital for a one-month training program in trauma surgery and pediatric surgery, and trauma surgery and plastic surgery, respectively. Their training commenced on May 11 and ran through June 8. Siriraj Hospital is located in Bangkok and is the largest hospital in Thailand with more than 2,500 beds.

English is widely used in all hospital settings, including medical teaching and clinical practice, and the students were taught English phrases during their hospital rounds and in conferences. Large hospitals like Siriraj are equipped with CT scanners and MRI equipment, but since students are required to do residency in regions where hospitals lack medical equipment following graduation, they received practical training with an emphasis on physical examinations in addition to imaging. The students did the same work as local doctors, including preliminary examinations, taking responsibility for initial treatments and working several night shifts a week.

The cases seen in trauma surgery spanned a wide range, including animal bites (dogs, cats, pigs, snakes), traffic injuries, high-energy trauma due to falls, lacerations, stab wounds and contusions to various parts of the body and corneal injuries, allowing the students to gain experience in many forms of treatment.

The students also gained experience in many cases that they would not come across at TMDU in the pediatric surgery and plastic surgery departments. They also saw numerous cases of infectious disease, including cases of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and tuberculosis, and had opportunities to discuss issues such as prevention and counseling.

According to the students' reports, clinical training in Thailand gave them an opportunity to learn about cases they would not come across in Japan, the guidance system was exceptional, and the environment was great for students interested in general medicine and looking to engage in a wide range of new activities. I hope to accumulate reports from a broad cross-section of students in order to refer future project semester students to the departments that best suit their aspirations. ■



Students pose for a group photo following trauma surgery training

* Professor Keiichi Akita

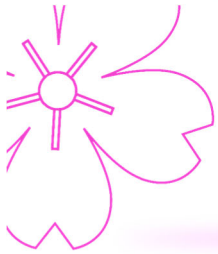
Medical School Board of Education



With trauma surgeon Dr. Kusuma Chinaroonchai



Interacting with Siriraj Hospital students



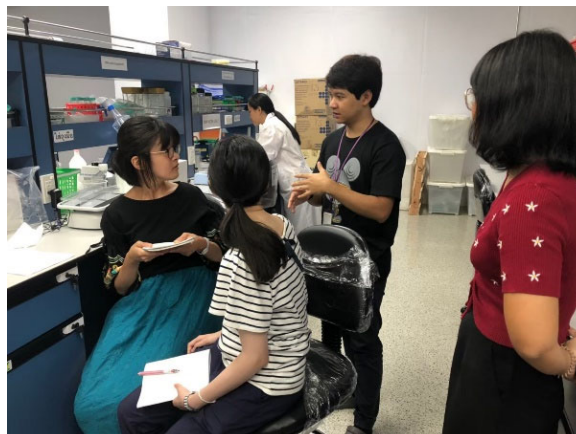
③ Health Care Science Student Dispatches to Thailand

In November 2013, TMDU's Faculty of Medicine School of Health Care Sciences signed a student exchange agreement with the Faculty of Health Sciences of Chulalongkorn University (CU), and since the first instance in 2014, we have been dispatching laboratory science students for around ten days every year between August and September. To date, we have dispatched 25 laboratory science students (22 medical students and 3 graduate students between 2014 and 2019). Exchange students visit the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital and the National Blood Center of the Thai Red Cross Society and participate in research seminars, and are assigned to a laboratory where they receive research training. On weekends, exchange students travel with CU students to visit the Grand Palace, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha and the ruins of the old city of Ayutthaya. Each student makes a presentation in English on a range of cultural topics, as a way of introducing CU students to Japanese culture, and CU provides iHouse free of charge. The main attraction of this student exchange program is that students are assigned to separate laboratories, allowing them to develop close relationships with CU students. Students deepen their relationships with one another by going to the market together and exchanging text messages on LINE. One of the medical students who participated in this exchange program went on to complete a master's degree, and is currently studying at the CU College of Public Health Sciences for a year through the Tobitate! (Leap for Tomorrow) Study Abroad Initiative scholarship. ■

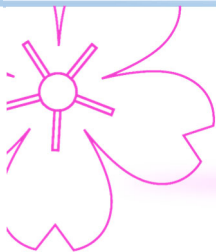
* Professor Motoji Sawabe
Department of Molecular Pathology



Closing ceremony at CU (August 2019)



Research training at CU (August 2019)



④ Meeting with the CU Dental Faculty

On February 6–7, 2020, I visited the CU-TMDU Research and Education Collaboration Center to attend a two-day meeting with the Dean of Dentistry, Dr. Suchit Poolthong and Dr. Prim Auychai (Head of International Exchange) to discuss the student exchange program for 2020.

The Faculty of Dentistry at Chulalongkorn University celebrates its 80th anniversary in May 2020. A new dental hospital has been built on campus and murals depicting teeth have been painted across exterior walls and buildings in collaboration with local high school students and artists to amplify the campus' presence. The Faculty of Dentistry 80th anniversary ceremony will coincide with the 7th Tri-University Consortium, which has a theme of "Oral Health for Healthy Aging" this year. There will also be a Research Day where students will give presentations of their research findings in English, and many TMDU faculty members and students are scheduled to present.

In November, Chulalongkorn University will host the 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting of SEAADE/IADR-SEA (South East Asia Association for Dental Education and the International Association of Dental Research – South East Asia Division) in Bangkok. TMDU's Faculty of Dentistry and the Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences will host an exhibition booth to introduce postgraduate programs and provide information to students looking to study abroad in Japan.

In December, we plan to hold an international symposium at TMDU in collaboration with the Stomatological Society of Japan. Former international students who have studied at our graduate school will be invited from countries across the globe to exchange information on the "Prevention and treatment of dental caries and periodontal diseases – Current status and future perspectives." From Thailand, invitations are to be extended to Professor Narongsak Laosrisin of Srinakharinwirot University and Professor Atiphan Pimkhaokham of Chulalongkorn University. Through the organization for returning Thai students who have studied dentistry in Japan, JDAT (Japan Dental Alumni in Thailand), we believe the symposium will serve as an opportunity for many former students from Thailand to return to TMDU for academic exchange. ■



Meeting with Dean of Dentistry Dr. Suchit Poolthong and Dr. Prim Auychai

✧ Professor Ikuko Morio
Institute of Global Affairs



← Mural paintings on the outer walls of the Faculty of Dentistry



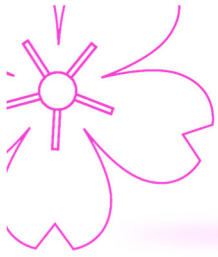
← Individual high schools were assigned one block to paint with a designated theme



← Open wide (in Thai)

A large painting on the wall of the Faculty of Dentistry building →





⑤ International Dental Training Program (IDP)



Education workshop participants pose for a commemorative photo

TMDU hosted the International Dental Program (IDP) from August 25 to September 1, 2019. The event was attended by students from around the world, including Kings College London, Boston University, the University of Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City Medicine and Pharmacy University, the University of Indonesia, National Taiwan University and Seoul National University, and five participants from Thailand—two from Chulalongkorn University and three from Srinakharinwirot University.

The program is designed to broaden the network of dental students through a range of activities including workshops on dental education. Participants learn about dental care techniques and dental materials, visit the graduate school laboratory at TMDU and gain a deeper understanding of other cultures through meetings intended to promote cultural exchange.

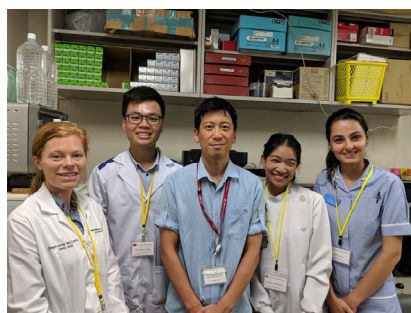
In addition to visiting TMDU's graduate school laboratory, IDP participants also had the opportunity to meet and speak with resident international students, and were provided with information on the doctoral program at TMDU as an option for post-graduate study when they complete their undergraduate dental education back home.

In continuing offering this program, which gives students aiming to become dental practitioners the opportunity to interact and deepen ties across borders and universities, our hope is that cultivating international exchange among students will strengthen the future international network of dental professionals. ■

✧ Assistant Professor Naoko Seki
Institute of Global Affairs



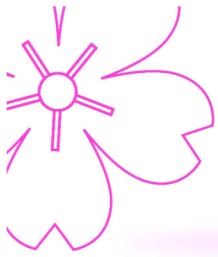
A group discussion using the KJ-method



Lab visit



Participants introducing themselves



⑥ International Faculty Development Courses in Bangkok (EECD)



The EECD lecture theater



An EECD lecture in progress

Since 2016, TMDU has been offering the Essential Expertise for Clinical Dentistry (EECD)—an English language course for postgraduate dental students to learn the latest clinical knowledge and techniques. Student feedback has been highly positive and the course has become so popular that applications exceed capacity within days of announcement. Exchange students from Thailand are also taking the EECD course.

This year, EECD was held as a summer intensive course between August 19–29 on the topic of “Comprehensive Aesthetic Dental Treatment,” and included lectures and practical training in the four fields within conservative dentistry and dental prosthetics. Attention was given to the connection between the lectures, which covered four areas: (1) the ultimate goal of aesthetic dentistry through direct composite resin restorations based on the latest techniques in adhesive dentistry, (2) gingival color improvement through periodontal plastic surgery and laser treatment to enhance aesthetic appearance, (3) materials for crown prosthesis with excellent aesthetics and their clinical applications and (4) the use of digital dentistry in next-generation prosthetic treatment.

Participants were primarily international students who are currently engaged in postgraduate research, but I believe that updating clinical research in dentistry and giving students knowledge of dental techniques and materials used in Japan while they are still studying is very important. The EECD course will be held as a summer-intensive course again in fiscal 2020, and we expect a high volume of applications. ■

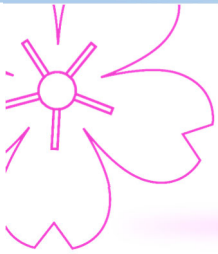
✧ Assistant Professor Naoko Seki
Institute of Global Affairs



EECD hands-on course 1



EECD hands-on course 2



⑦ Group of Ministry of Public Health Dentists visit to TMDU

Fifteen dentists employed by the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand visited TMDU from August 27–28, 2019. The delegation was led by Dr. Somkuan Hanpatchaiyakul (Senior Advisor to the Health Technical Office, Ministry of Public Health). The purpose of their visit was to gather information on geriatric oral health care practices in Japan, and learn about the role of dental hygienists in oral care for the elderly. Average life expectancy in Thailand is currently around 75 years, which is lower than in Japan (around 85 years), but the population is aging rapidly. The Ministry of Public Health believes that it is essential to establish measures for geriatric oral health care in haste, with reference to Japan.

Dental nursing is an established profession in Thailand, but all dental nurses are public servants and are not permitted to work in private practice—most provide dental treatment in local public hospitals and health centers. The Ministry of Public Health is planning to establish a new curriculum for dental hygienists that will enable them to provide preventive oral care against periodontal diseases and dental caries to people of all ages.

The delegation observed dental treatment at the Dental Hospital, visited the dental hygienist development center within the School of Oral Health Care Sciences and received training in the use of robots for elderly care in the skills lab. In addition, Professor Yuji Kabasawa (Dept. of Oral Care for Systemic Health Support) and Professor Kayoko Shinada (Dept. of Preventive Oral Health Care Sciences) of the School of Oral Health Care Sciences gave a special lecture on the current status and role of dental hygienist education in Japan. The delegation also participated in an international seminar on a “Comparison of Public health dentistry between Japan and Thailand” given by the Department of Oral Health Promotion and exchanged information on dental public health in Japan and Thailand. Lastly, a visit was made to Tokyo Metropolitan Geriatric Hospital and Institute of Gerontology to observe health promotion programs for elderly in the community and attend lectures.

We hope that this training in Japan will help establish academic programs for dental hygienists and serve as reference in creating oral health policies for the elderly in Thailand. ■

✧ Professor Yoko Kawaguchi

Department of Oral Health Promotion



The delegation from the Thai Ministry of Public Health



A special lecture in the Department of Oral Health Promotion

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Location of TMDU'S Satellite Office in Thailand

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Henri-Dunant Rd. Patumwan, Bangkok, Thailand