

# Activity Report of 2019

The Institute of Global Affairs (IGA) was established in 2016, and will be in its fifth year in 2020. The number of international students is 372, which represents a significant increase since 2016. As a top global university, it is our priority to enhance not only the quality of education for international students, but also the quality of their overall experience at TMDU and in Japan.

The institute held the International Summer Program, which was attended by 23 students from our partner universities in the USA, Thailand, and Taiwan. In addition, we also held a joint symposium with our three partner universities in Taiwan, with whom we have developed student exchange initiatives over many years. Further, we hosted a signing ceremony for the upcoming launch of the Joint Degree Program between TMDU and Mahidol University in April 2020. It has been a year of exceptional efforts to promote international exchange and strengthen relationships between TMDU and its partner universities.

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## Joint Symposium with Three Taiwan Universities

TMDU has held four joint symposiums with Taipei Medical University on research topics since 2013 as a means to deepen the universities' mutual communication. To further develop academic exchange with other partner universities in Taiwan, two additional universities National Taiwan University and National Defense Medical Center were invited to participate in this joint symposium, which now comprises four universities. The first commemorative joint symposium was held this year on Saturday October 5th at Taipei Medical University.

The theme of this year's joint symposium was "Medical Innovation", and research from each university was presented.

Along with the symposium, a signing ceremony was held for the Inter-University Agreement on Academic Exchange between TMDU and Taipei Medical University. The Chairman Wen-chang CHANG and President Chien-Huang LIN of Taipei Medical University signed the agreement with President Yoshizawa of TMDU.

## Dean Pisano, Jacobs School of Engineering, University of California San Diego, visited TMDU

Professor Albert P. Pisano, Dean of Jacobs School of Engineering, University of California San Diego (UCSD), visited TMDU on August 8, 2019. UCSD is one of our overseas affiliated universities, which made it a meaningful opportunity to have discussions concerning increasing collaboration between UCSD and TMDU in the near future, such as in the fields of biomedical engineering and data science.



③ Participants in joint meetings with Dean Pisano, UCSD

## Visit to TMDU by University of Ghana Vice President Owusu

On December 10th 2019, Vice President Owusu and several professors from University of Ghana visited TMDU and exchanged views with TMDU



④ Participants in joint meetings with University of Ghana

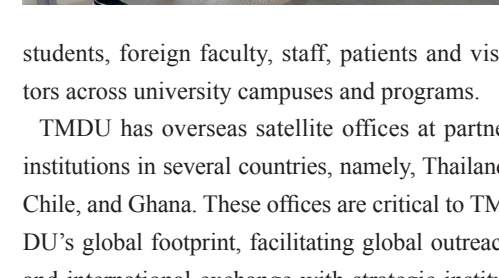
officials on future international exchange between the two universities and paid a visit to TMDU School of Dentistry. Discussion between the two parties centered on ways to further promote international exchange, with particular focus on TMDU admittance of international students from Ghana. Going forward, TMDU is committed to active, ongoing research collaboration and student exchange with University of Ghana.

## Reinforcing international students' disaster preparedness

Many immense natural disasters occurred in various parts of Japan in 2018 and in 2019. In light of the need to learn about natural disasters in Japan, the university provided information during international student orientation on how to prepare for natural disasters. In addition, the Japanese language course incorporated a visit to the Life Safety Learning Center in Ikebukuro, a facility where visitors can learn about and practice how to handle emergency situations, such as fires and earthquakes. At the same time, students conducted fieldwork inside and outside the campus to become familiar with the signs, equipment, and facilities related to natural disasters and share the findings by creating evacuation maps and giving presentations. These activities helped students to visualize natural disaster scenarios, enabling them to situate such events in their surrounding environments, and further deepened their understanding of disaster preparedness information generally. One student noted after the activities: "Now, I know the location of the closest disaster prevention facility and evacuation site to my place and school as well as the routes there." The lived experiences obtained through these activities are expected to encourage learners to explore their surroundings and lead to more appropriate actions in case of natural disasters.

## Advancing TMDU's Global Accessibility

AGAT is the Advancement of Global Accessibility Team charged by the Global Affairs Advancement Steering Committee to help globalize the university. AGAT's vision is to assist in creating an environment that is global in reach and has a rich international quality that attracts diverse, motivated individuals to the university community by broadly increasing the accessibility of university resources and facilities to all international

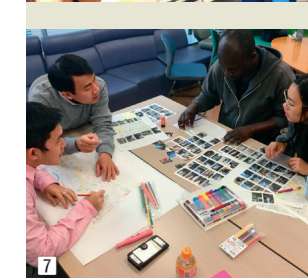


students, foreign faculty, staff, patients and visitors across university campuses and programs. TMDU has overseas satellite offices at partner institutions in several countries, namely, Thailand, Chile, and Ghana. These offices are critical to TMDU's global footprint, facilitating global outreach and international exchange with strategic institutions overseas. Important collaborative developments taking place at these partner institutions overseas are communicated through newsletters intended to publicize such research and clinical breakthroughs among the TMDU and partner communities. The newsletters are translated and edited by AGAT and published through the Institute of Global Affairs (IGA) in multiple languages, including Japanese, English, Thai, and Spanish.

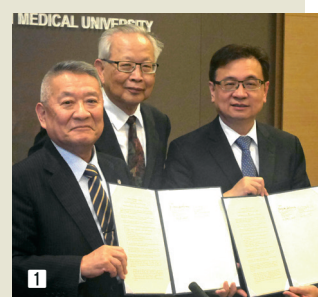
Organizational changes occur in TMDU academic departments and administrative units as the university continually evolves and adapts over time. As a result, new official names are proposed by departments and units throughout the university and submitted to a thorough vetting process that includes AGAT. AGAT is charged with reviewing all official English names in the university to ensure that new names and titles not only comport with accepted standards of English usage but also have professional currency around the world.

AGAT has launched an initiative to create a bilingual zone across the campus in which international students, foreign faculty and staff, hospital patients, and university visitors are able to easily access facilities and resources on campus.

One focus so far is the effort to bilingualize university documents in the medical and dental hospitals and university documents frequently used by international students, foreign faculty and staff. Another is to identify high-priority documents and forms for International students who often face a language barrier when they are asked to read or fill out forms available only in Japanese. Elsewhere, AGAT team members are integrally involved in the TMDU tutor system, which is designed to assist international students in their first year at the university.



⑤ Students learned how to use a fire extinguisher  
⑥ Students checked facilities along the evacuation route during the fieldwork  
⑦ Students created an evacuation map and shared the information



① Signing ceremony for Inter-University Agreement on Academic Exchange between TMDU and Taipei Medical University.

② Joint Symposium with Three Taiwan Universities

