

Joint signing ceremony of joint degree programs

The joint signing ceremony for the commencement of our two joint degree programs (JDP) was held on November 26, 2015, in the Special Conference Room, M&D Tower 26th floor.



What is JDP?

The JDP (joint degree program) is an academic program whereby Japanese and foreign universities jointly organize curricula and confer an academic degree on a person completing the curricula under the names of the presidents of the universities concerned.

The development of such a JDP will enable Japanese universities to offer wider educational and cultural experiences to students. In addition to the benefits above, the JDP will enable Japanese universities to offer more attractive, advanced or innovative academic programs that cannot be offered by a single university. This will make it possible for students to gain higher quality and value-added learning opportunities, resulting in universities, governments, companies and local communities acquiring talented and motivated human resources.

Furthermore, it will be highly significant to strengthen Japanese universities' international presence and contribute to improving higher education at an international level.

Background of JDP

It is the educational philosophy of Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) "To train medical professionals with a rich international quality". In order to enhance global competitiveness, TMDU has cooperatively worked and cultivated

long-lasting relationships with University of Chile (Chile) and Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) to establish the JDP since August 2012.

Before the "Standards for Establishment of Universities" was amended in November 2014, previous Japanese laws and regulations prohibited Japanese universities from establishing JDPs with foreign universities. This amendment allowed Japanese universities to jointly establish an International Cooperative Department or Major (IC-D/M) with foreign universities in order to set up and operate JDPs.

In response to this change in the relevant law, TMDU applied to MEXT for permission to establish the JDP in March 2015. Based on the results of the MEXT screening, we were granted approval to establish two IC-D/M JDPs on June 15, 2015, for the first time in Japan.

Outline of the JDPs at TMDU

- ① **Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, TMDU and University of Chile/Clinica Las Condes Joint Degree Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences Degree: "Ph.D. in Medicine (Doctor of Philosophy in Medicine)"**
Enrollment period: April 2016
Enrollment capacity: 3 students
Standard course term: 5 years

Requirements: Applicant must hold a valid, unrestricted medical license in Japan or Chile to practice medicine, as well as a licensure for either surgical or internal medicine.

Major educational research fields:

- Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery
- Colorectal Surgery
- Gastroenterology

Education

- 1) All classes are taught in English. Clinical instruction is conducted in either Spanish or Japanese.
- 2) Subjects offered by both universities will be taught at University of Chile.
- 3) Research guidance will be conducted in both Chile and Japan.
- 4) Clinical instruction will be conducted separately; it will be conducted in Japan for a student holding a Japanese medical license. However, it will be conducted in Chile for a student holding a Chilean medical license.

Human Resource Development Goals

- 1) Professionals who possess the required technical skills to be recognized as a clinical expert in the fields of upper gastrointestinal surgery and gastroenterological surgery; including advanced training in colorectal surgery, gastroenterology, endoscopy and advanced use of advanced diagnostic equipment.
- 2) Professionals who possess academic knowledge in the fields of pathology, molecular biology, genetics, epidemiology, public health, clinical research and biostatistics.
- 3) Professionals who possess a high potential to become an independent basic-clinical researcher in the fields of esophageal, stomach and colorectal cancer (gastrointestinal oncology), with a capacity to become a leader of national/international clinical research projects upon completion of course.

② Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences / TMDU and Chulalongkorn University International Joint Degree Doctoral Program in Dental Sciences Degree: "Doctor of Philosophy in Dental Sciences"

Enrollment period: August 2016

Enrollment capacity: 3 students

Standard course term: 5 years

Application qualifications: Applicant must hold a valid, unrestricted licensure for dentistry.

Major educational research field: Orthodontics

Education

- 1) All classes are taught in English.

- 2) Subjects will be taken at the institute providing them.
- 3) Research guidance will be conducted in both Thailand and Japan.
- 4) Clinical instruction will be conducted in Thailand.

Human Resource Development Goal

Our human resource development goal is to foster talented dentists who can be global leaders, utilizing knowledge and techniques in the field of dentistry, especially orthodontics, not only in Japan and Thailand but also in South-east Asia.

The joint signing ceremony

The ceremony was attended by representative VIPs from concerning universities and organizations.

From University of Chile, Professor Ennio Vivaldi, Rector, Professor Manuel Kukljan, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, and Miguel O'Ryan, Director of International Relations. From Clinica Las Condes (CLC), which is a cooperating educational hospital, Mr. Gonzalo Grebe, Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Marcos Goycoolea, CLC Board Representative, Dr. López Francisco, Chief, Coloproctology Department in CLC, and Dr. Juan Pablo Torres, Director of Research in CLC, took part in the ceremony.

From Chulalongkorn University, Dr. Suchit Poolthong, Dean of Faculty of Dentistry, Dr. Prom Auychai, Deputy Dean for International Affairs and Public Relations, Dr. Smorntree Viteeporn, Director of JDP in Orthodontics, and Dr. Chintana Sirichompum, Head of Orthodontic Department, took part in the ceremony.

The President of TMDU, Prof. Yasuyuki Yoshizawa, delivered the opening address.

After the signing of both programs, addresses by Dr. Vivaldi, Mr. Grebe, and Dr. Poolthong were delivered. The congratulatory addresses were then delivered by the 3 special guests, Mr. Patricio Becker, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Chile in Japan, Mr. Bhkavat Tanskul, Minister, Royal Thai Embassy, Tokyo, and Mr. Yutaka Tokiwa, Director-General, Higher Education Bureau, MEXT.

Dr. Takashi Ohyama, Former President of TMDU, and Mr. Tetsuji Miyamoto, Director, First Southeast Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, were also invited as guests of the ceremony.

In the opening address, President Prof. Yoshizawa spoke of TMDU's vision of "Cultivating Professionals with Knowledge and Humanity, thereby Contributing to People's Well-being." He also expressed his high expectations for the joint degree program to serve as a springboard for TMDU graduates to spread their wings, and actively serve abroad in the world as medical and dental professionals.