

Activity Report of 2020

The Institute of Global Affairs (IGA) was established in 2016, and will be in its sixth year in 2021. There are now 377 international students, 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.

Due to COVID-19, 2020 was a very tough year worldwide.

Under such circumstances, we have endeavored to promote international exchange and strengthen relationships between TMDU and its partner universities while making effective use of online services.

We expect that future international exchanges will become more hybrid.



Noriyuki Wakabayashi

Professor,
Executive Director/Executive Vice President
(Education and International Exchange)
Director, Institute of Global Affairs, TMDU

David Cannell

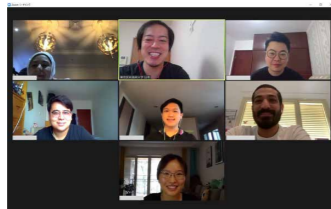
Associate Professor,
Institute of Global Affairs, TMDU

Kazuhiro Yonemoto

Assistant Professor,
Institute of Global Affairs, TMDU

Offering Japanese language classes online

This semester, due to the spread of COVID-19, all Japanese classes were conducted online from April, including orientation for students. Students in Japan took classes from their homes and laboratories while those who could not come to Japan took classes from their countries. Because of the time difference, some students took classes at 1:00 a.m. and others had unstable internet conditions. Therefore, it was not easy for the students to learn Japanese online, and some students may have felt stressed by the situation of not being certain whether they would be able to come to Japan or not. However, thanks to the efforts of the students and faculty members, we managed to hold classes even under these circumstances. We hope that these classes, although online, have been of some help to the students. Next year, based on this experience, we intend to provide more enjoyable and effective opportunities to learn Japanese, whether online or face-to-face.



A scene from an online Japanese class

AGAT activity report

The vision of the Advancement of Global Accessibility Team (AGAT) is to assist in creating an environment that is global in reach and has a rich international quality that attracts diverse, motivated individuals by increasing the accessibility of university resources and facilities to all international students, foreign faculty, staff, patients and visitors.

As part of its efforts to globalize accessibility at TMDU, AGAT has launched a multi-year initiative to create a multilingual zone across the campus in which international students, foreign faculty and staff, hospital patients, and university visitors are able to easily navigate facilities and access resources on campus. In FY2020, AGAT worked hand-in-hand with faculty and staff members of the International Health Care Department to create multilingual signs in

the medical hospital to guide patrons. In a different project with the medical hospital, AGAT assisted in developing English-language audio and video tools to train hospital personnel. Finally, AGAT contributed to the redesign of the TMDU English-language website, making it more global in appeal.

International Symposium 2020

Date and time: December 4, 2020 (18:00–20:10 JST)

Style: Web conferencing system

Program:

- Session 1: Current status of TMDU
- Session 2: Small group discussion on a topic/topics with TMDU alumni and TMDU affiliate worldwide.

Tokyo Medical and Dental University held “the International Symposium 2020” to strengthen our global network with our international dental alumni by sharing information on dental research, education, and clinical care.

A total of 76 participants from 27 countries joined the symposium to exchange information and build networks.

Starting with the opening address, Session 1 began with messages from our honorable retiring professors. After that, messages from new appointees or about newly launched projects were delivered.

Session 2 consisted of group discussions and presentations.

The group discussion themes were:

- Research
- Education
- Clinical care

We believe that international collaboration and staying updated about advances in research, education, and clinical care are very important; with our TMDU network, many projects are possible.

We believe this symposium allowed us to strengthen our bond.

Joint Degree Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences between Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) and Mahidol University (MU)

Over the past four years, Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) and Mahidol University (MU) in Thailand have been preparing to launch a joint degree program. Finally, in April 2020, a Joint Degree Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences between Tokyo Medical and Dental University and Mahidol University was launched.

This program aims to foster medical professionals who possess the research skills to respond promptly to the diversification of medical needs and are capable of being leaders in medical and healthcare science both in Japan and the ASEAN region.

Three Thai surgeons who enrolled in this new program in April 2020, despite the COVID-19 situation, are now taking lectures through video conferencing tools, and proceeding with research plans with their supervisors.

This program, which has just started, regularly holds video conferences by faculty members from both universities and the program is proceeding smoothly in collaboration with both universities.

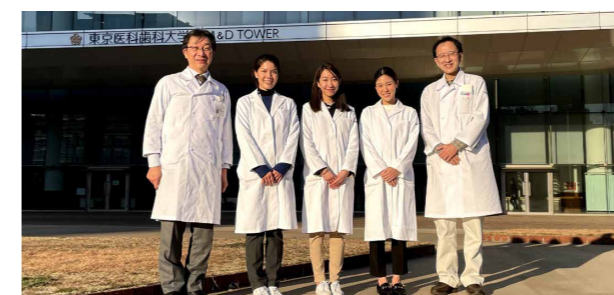


In commemoration of the admission in April 2020 (three students from the right side)

Tokyo Medical and Dental University and Chulalongkorn University International Joint Degree Doctor of Philosophy in Orthodontics

The Joint Degree Program of Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) and Chulalongkorn University (CU) has been operating as planned. For recruitment of future candidates, we hosted booths to introduce the program at the International Association for Dental Research-Asia Pacific Region (IADR-APR) conference and created a new promotional video to publish on the Joint Degree Program (JDP) website, and three students were constantly enrolled and took the course with no complications.

Regarding dissertations, the students have been preparing well and one of the students' reports was accepted for publication in an international journal.



The students who matriculated in 2019 began to study at TMDU

Master of Public Health in Global Health (MPH) Course

TMDU has been offering the Master of Public Health in Global Health (MPH) Course since 2018. The MPH Course is designed to educate individuals from around the world who want to be leaders in their fields; generating, translating, and disseminating public health-related scientific evidence in the real world to make the world a healthier place. All lectures are taught in English to train students with research competence for global health issues. We invite world-leading experts from Harvard University and Johns Hopkins University, the most prestigious and historic universities in the field of public health, to acquire world-standard research skills. In 2020, because of COVID-19, it was a great challenge for us to conduct classes with minimal disadvantages to students. We conducted classes in three new styles: online, on-demand and on-campus.



Online class conducted by a professor from Harvard University.

Challenge to New International Exchange

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we held the “Online Students' Exchange Program with Mahidol University (O-SEP_MU_2020)” on July 22 via the web conferencing system Zoom, as a new international exchange initiative to replace studying abroad, between dental students from Mahidol University in Thailand and TMDU. We had a group session with a wide range of contents, such as the introduction of each other's country and student life and dental treatment under the situation of COVID-19.

Further, our 14th and 15th TMDU x Waseda Discussion Café (D-Café) was held via Zoom under the ongoing collaboration between TMDU and Waseda University; this was our first attempt to hold D-Café virtually. D-Café is a fantastic opportunity to practice English communication skills as well as to network with students from a wide variety of majors, career goals and cultural backgrounds.

The great participation of students and their positive feedback convinced us that the events were meaningful and engaging for all participants despite the new online format.



Online Students' Exchange Program (O-SEP) with Mahidol University (MU) in Thailand