

【Name of project】(Year adopted: FY2012, Category I)

Inter-university Exchange Program for Medical and Dental Networking in Southeast Asia

【Aim of project, Ideals of Global Human Resource on the project】

To nurture young educators, researchers, and caregivers who can independently assume leadership roles in medical and dental fields.

【Summary of project】

With the aim of strengthening Japan’s global presence in the fields of medicine and dentistry, Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) will form a consortium with Chulalongkorn University (CU), University of Indonesia (UI), and the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City (UMP), establishing a network based on Japan’s strengths in areas such as medical and dental technology, materials, and equipment.

■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

Foundation for Inter-University Exchange

TMDU has 209 international students (as of FY 2014), which is the largest number of international students in the field of health care sciences at a university in Japan. In addition, approximately 30% of TMDU faculty have taught overseas, and many are certified by the Ministry of Health to teach international doctors/dentists at TMDU’s university hospitals. CU, UI, UMP, Srinakharinwirot University (SWU) and the University of Melbourne are major universities and leaders in research and education in the fields of medicine/dentistry in Southeast Asia. TMDU has enjoyed academic ties with these universities for more than 10 years, and conducted this project to improve each institution.

A Program with Recognized Credits

The purpose of this project is to implement the “International Medical and Dental Research Program” and the “International Medical and Dental Clinical Training Program,” both of which are aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students. Faculties of Medicine of both CU and TMDU have agreed to recognize credits obtained through participation in these programs. In FY2013, TMDU created the “Dental Externship” as an elective to award credit to TMDU students who participated in programs overseas, including preparatory courses; in FY2014, CU and SWU also began offering credit to their own students who participated in exchange programs.

Skills Lab training in Indonesia



■ Contents of the Programs, Preparation for the Start of the Programs

Students from Indonesia participated in Dental Training Program 2014



Exchange programs for students

From FY2014, SWU in Thailand and the University of Melbourne in Australia joined this project, and exchange programs for the School of Health Care Sciences, Faculty of Medicine were started.

CU and TMDU medical students studied under the supervision of both enrolling and host universities through the International Medical Research Program. Faculties of Dentistry of CU, UI, UMP, SWU and TMDU conducted International Dental Medical Clinical Training Program, which includes practical contents such as research experience training, hospital visits, clinical training (preventive action), field work in regional health-care, dental skills competition, visiting a dental materials supplier, mutual exchange, and more. The stay-over program “Global Retreat,” which features group work and cultural exchange, was also held in Indonesia so that students could deepen their global understanding through academic exchange. TMDU is preparing to extend the number of host universities.

■ Student-Mobility

Outbound

From the medical department, three medical undergraduate students were sent to Thailand for the International Medical Research Program. For the International Medical and Dental Training Program, 18 students to Thailand (9 dental undergrads, 5 health care undergrads and 4 postgrads), 13 to Indonesia (11 dental undergrads and 2 postgrads), 9 to Vietnam (3 dental undergrads and 6 postgrads) and 7 undergraduate dental students to Australia were sent respectively.

Inbound

Four undergraduate medical students, two health care students and two postgraduate students from Thailand were invited by the Faculty of Medicine; during the same period, thirty undergraduate students from Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam were invited by the Faculty of Dentistry to participate in the TMDU Dental Training Program for 2 weeks. During that program, an international symposium and research day were held as a part of the curriculum for dental students in 2014 in order to provide cross-cultural contact opportunities for all dental students.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Outbound	19	58	50	40	44
Inbound	25	36	38	35	39

Note : FY2012-2014 results, FY2015 - 2016 planned

■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

Utilizing the Dental Terminology in Five Languages

The dental terminology of five different languages (English, Japanese, Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese) was used in a preparatory course and during the exchange (or training) programs, and the terminology booklet was made more user-friendly based on user feedback.

■ Internationalization of University Information Disclosure and Publication of Outcomes

Interim appraisal

In FY 2014, the third year of this project, we were given high marks in various reports for our superior approach to realizing our project design. The high marks came from various reports and a hearing that was held on 31st October, 2014, featuring an interim appraisal by the Re-inventing Japan Project Committee.

Visualization of the Content of Education, Dissemination of the Outcomes

All information related to this program has been uploaded to the TMDU website in both Japanese and English to publicize the ongoing activities and the program details. TMDU also produced and distributed leaflets on this project.