

Project: (Year of adoption: FY2012; Category I)

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

Project Aim:

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

Project Summary:

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 216 international students (as of FY 2013), 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 and UMP 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 initiated this project to improve each institution.

A Program with Recognized Credits

Undergraduate medical and dental students need to earn most of their course credits in their own countries because of licensure requirements; however, research projects and a portion of clinical practice/training can be done in another country. Based on credit transfer agreements, TMDU and the other three founding universities created credit-granting programs, namely, the "International Medical and Dental Research Program" and the "International Medical and Dental Clinical Training Program".

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



Dental skills contestants at the TMDU Dental Training Program

TMDU Dental Training Program

TMDU invited dental students from the partner universities to a two-week "TMDU Dental Training Program", which included not only cultural exchanges and the observing of basic and clinical research, but also practical programs such as participating in dental skill competitions and visiting a dental materials supplier. During this program, a stay-over Global Retreat was also held as a training and cultural exchange program. Participants reported that the program increased their interest in international exchange as well as improved their English proficiency, presentation skills, and dental expertise.

International Symposiums and Evaluation Committee

An International Seminar, at which TMDU students reported on their overseas training experiences, was held to raise the interest in international interaction. TMDU also had an International Symposium on the international versatility of dental education, which featured TMDU alumni from ASEAN countries. Moreover, an Evaluation Committee was formed, with the purpose of improving such programs and increasing their positive outcomes.

Student-Mobility

Outbound

Two medical undergraduate students were sent to Thailand for an international medical research program. From the dental department, an international dental research program in Thailand was attended by 13 undergraduate and graduate students, and 4 graduate students went to one in Indonesia.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Outbound	19	36	36	36	40
Inbound	25	21	21	21	25

Note: FY2012 actual results; FY2013-2016 estimated

Inbound

TMDU accepted 25 foreign students in all;

1 from Thailand for 1 month in the Faculty of Medicine,

and 8 each arrived from Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, who arrived at the same

time and stayed at for 2 weeks at the Faculty of Dentistry and participated in the TMDU Dental Training Program.

Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

Trial Use of "Dental Terminology in 5 Languages"

To promote mutual communication among students from different countries, "Dental Terminology in 5 Languages (English, Japanese, Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese)" was prepared and used on a trial basis during the TMDU Dental Training Program, and it increased the effectiveness of the program.

Installation of TV conference system and Self-learning system

Installing a TV conference system at each university enhanced mutual communication among the partners, and enabled broadcast lectures multi-directionally. In addition, the educational environment was improved with an auto-recording and self-learning system.

Visualization of the Content of Education, Dissemination of the Outcomes

Maximum Utilization of the Website and Dissemination of the Results

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. Application forms, reports, and other documents can be downloaded from the website.

URL: <http://www.tmd.ac.jp/grad/ohp/sekaitenkai/eng/>



The deans of CU, UI, UMP and TMDU at the signing ceremony held at TMDU.