

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 217 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 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 by participating these programs. In FY2013, TMDU created the "Dental Externship" as an elective to award credit to students who participated programs overseas, including preparatory courses; as a result, 22 students were awarded credits in FY2013.

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

Students from Indonesia participated in Dental Medical Training Program.



TMDU Dental Training Program in Thailand



Exchange programs for students

CU and TMDU medical students studied under the supervision of both enrolling and host universities through International Medical Research Program. Faculties of Dentistry of CU, UI, UMP and TMDU conducted International Dental Medical Clinical Training Program, which includes practical contents such as research experience training, hospital visiting, clinical training (preventive action), field work in regional health-care, dental skill competitions, 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 Thailand so that students could deepen their global understanding through academic exchange. TMDU is preparing to extend the number of host universities and set up a program for the School of Health Care Sciences, Faculty of Medicine.

International Seminars and Evaluation Committee

The International Seminar, which has been held five times overseas, not only provides information and skills about Japan's updated dentistry to overseas students and young researchers, but also stimulates student interest in studying at TMDU. The International Symposium provided an opportunity to exchange information about dental education in Japanese universities and universities abroad, including dental research, dental care and international exchange, all of which are useful in the development of international educational curriculum going forward. Moreover, an Evaluation Committee was formed, with the purpose of improving such programs and increasing their positive outcomes.

Student-Mobility

Outbound

Three medical undergraduate students were sent to Thailand for the International Medical Research Program. From the dental department, 21 undergraduate students were sent to Thailand, and five to Indonesia and Vietnam respectively, for the International Dental Research Program; 14 post-graduate students were sent to Thailand and nine sent to Vietnam, for the same program.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Outbound	19	57	40	40	44
Inbound	25	36	25	25	29

Note: FY2012-2013 actual results; FY2014-2016 estimated

Inbound

Two undergraduate students from Thailand were invited by the Faculty of Medicine for one month; 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 Program for 2 weeks.

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, which promoted shared understanding dental terminology among students.

Survey about education

We conducted a survey regarding international exchange, purpose of study abroad and English ability targeting all undergraduate students in the Faculty of Dentistry. Next, we conducted a survey of participating students in the project, which proved useful in improving the International Exchange Program.

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. At the Japanese Dental Education Association, TMDU reported the results of the survey of the students who participated in the program.