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

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

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 strong points in such areas as medical and dental technology, materials, and equipment.

**Forming a University Network with Quality Assurance**

- **Past history of inter-university exchange**
  TMDU has 211 international students (2012), the largest number of international students in the field of health care science 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.

- **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. Graduate students are also able to do research abroad. Based on credit transfer agreements, TMDU and the three partner universities will offer an “International Medical and Dental Research Program” and an “International Medical and Dental Clinical Training Program.”

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

- **Exchange programs for students**
  Based on a review of each university’s academic calendar/curriculum/credit transfer system, exchange programs for undergraduate and postgraduate students will be organized with a focus on quality management. Under the supervision of the faculty of host universities, students will receive practical instructions in research and clinical settings, and internship programs outside university (at companies, labs, public health centers and other institutions).

- **International seminars and global retreats**
  To enhance the knowledge and skills of students/young researchers, academic meetings with appropriate themes will be organized in the four countries. Global retreats will be held to inspire interest among young people in international exchange conducive to network formation.

**Student-Mobility**

- **Outbound**
  18 Japanese students will be sent overseas in FY2012, 36 in FY2013, 2014, and 2015, respectively, and 40 in FY2016. In total, 166 students will be sent overseas.

- **Inbound**
  10 students will be sent to TMDU in FY2012, 21 in FY2013, 2014, and 2015, respectively, and 25 in FY2016. In total, TMDU will receive 98 students.

**Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment**

- **Outbound**
  Preparatory course for overseas externship will be offered to support students. Seminars with experts and TMDU international students from Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam as lecturers will be organized to help students understand the culture, traditions and language of the country where they will be dispatched. A risk management system will be established to ensure the safety of the students. Utilization of an automatic lecture recording system will assist students’ self-directed learning so that they can make up for the classes missed while they are participating in overseas training.

- **Inbound**
  A short-term Japanese language course will be offered with a focus on medical and dental technical terms. A Student International Officer will be recruited to support visiting students and activate interaction between TMDU students and visiting students. Internship programs, such as visiting medical/dental related companies and private medical/dental clinics and training at public health programs at schools and community health centers will be introduced to make the experience in Japan more practical. Accommodations and scholarship programs will further help visiting students have a successful experience. Visiting students will benefit from the “multi-mentor system for graduate students”.

**Visualization of the Content of Education, Dissemination of the Outcomes**

- **Maximum utilization of the homepage and dissemination of the results**
  All information related to this program will be on www.tmd.ac.jp in Japanese and English to publicize the ongoing activities, program details, and comments from participants. Visiting students will make a presentation on their experience after they come back Japan.