

Report on the Meeting with President of Mahidol University on JSPS Programs in Thailand

Purpose:

JSPS Bangkok Office pays courtesy to meet with Clin. Prof. Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, President, and Prof. Sansanee Chaiyaroj, Vice President for Research and Academic Affairs, Mahidol University (MU)

Time and Venue:

9:30-10:30, July 8, 2011

President's room, 5th floor, the Office of the President building, MU

Visiting Members:

Dr. Wataru Takeuchi, Director, JSPS Bangkok Office

Mr. Hiroaki Tanabe, Deputy Director, JSPS Bangkok Office

Ms. Aunchalee Suksurangakul, Staff, JSPS Bangkok Office

Mahidol Side:

Clin. Prof. Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, President, MU

Prof. Sansanee Chaiyaroj, Vice President for Research and Academic Affairs, MU

Ms. Boonyarat Suwanchinda, Director of International Relations Division, MU

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Prof. Tatsuji Seki director-bkk@hpc.cmc.osaka-u.ac.jp

Director, Osaka University Bangkok Center for Education and Research

Agenda:

1. Introduction of JSPS

-MU understands that Dr. PANBANGRED Watanalai, Faculty of Science, Dr. WANACHIWANAWIN Wanchai, Siriraj Hospital and Dr. WAIKAGUL Jitra, Faculty of Tropical Medicine are JSPS Acore and AA platform coordinators.

-MU pointed that latter two coordinators are missing in the JSPS project list

(ongoing).

[Dr. PANBANGRED Watanalai: coordinator of Acore “Next-generation bioproduction platform leveraging subtropical microbial bioresources” with Osaka University by March 2014.

Dr. WANACHIWANAWIN Wanchai: coordinator of Acore “Establishment of a collaborative research and education center for hematopoietic disorders in Asia” with Kyushu University by March 2011.

Dr. WAIKAGUL Jitra: coordinator of AA platform “Establishment of collaboration research center for parasitic zoonoses in Asia and Africa” with Asahikawa Medical College by March 2009.

Prof. Sansanee Chaiyaroj: coordinator of Core University “Infectious Diseases and Related Areas” with University of Tokyo by March 2009.]

-MU mentioned that MU is also involved in SATREPS program “Research and Development of Therapeutic Products against Infectious Diseases, especially Dengue Virus Infection” between Osaka University and Thailand’s Ministry of Public Health.

2. Introduction of Mahidol University

-MU has set requirement for PhD for its recruitment, and about 70% of MU faculty have PhD.

-More than 60-70% of MU faculty graduated from US university and European. Some of MU faculty received PhD by RONPAKU program.

-In the most cases, MU does not recruit MU graduates. Postdoctoral experience abroad is required at least. There is a kind of “discrimination” between in-breeding and out-breeding faculty members like Ox-Bridge. MU does not care about royalty.

-None of faculty at Faculty of Science is from MU, and western culture is mainstream. But situation differs from faculty to faculty. Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital and Faculty of Tropical Medicine have some in-breeding culture for instance.

-MU has many alumni faculties at other domestic university such as Khon Kaen University, and keeps alumni network to some extent.

-MU received 6 billion Thai Baht of governmental grant. It is highest in the country.

3. Open discussion by all

-Prof. Seki and JSPS suggested that it is time to breed PhDs at own university.

-MU explained that they think “pure culture” is not good and strictly refuse own graduates.

- MU thinks JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship is good for MU for two reasons.
- It gives MU's western graduated faculties opportunity to know diverse culture.
- It gives PI experience with its own research budget. In many cases at US university, PhD students and Postdoctoral fellow mainly assist PI's research.
- JSPS offered to hold an introduction session at MU and MU willingly accepted it.
- MU recommended and would arrange it at Faculty of Science for the parking's sake.
- Date was set as July 29(Fri), 2011. Morning time is preferred.

4. Photo session



Mr. Tanabe, Ms. Boonyarat, Dr. Takeuchi, Prof. Piyasakol, Prof. Sansanee, Prof. Seki, Ms. Aunchalee