

## **Report on the Meeting with Vice President of Kasetsart University**

### **Purpose:**

JSPS Bangkok Office pays courtesy to meet with Associate Professor Dr. Sornprach Thanisawanyangkura, Vice President for Research, Kasetsart University

### **Time and Venue:**

10:30-11:50, Friday, April 8, 2011

Executive Office, 5<sup>th</sup> fl. of Main building, Kasetsart University

### **Kasetsart University:**

Dr. Sornprach Thanisawanyangkura

Associate Professor, Vice President for Research, Kasetsart University

Dr. Busaba Yongsimith

Professor, Science Faculty, Kasetsart University

President, JSPS Alumni Forum of Thailand

Dr. Uthairat Na-Nakorn

Professor, Director, Research and Development Institute, Kasetsart University

### **JSPS Bangkok Office:**

Dr. Wataru Takeuchi, Director, JSPS Bangkok Office

Mr. Hiroaki Tanabe, Deputy Director, JSPS Bangkok Office

Ms. Aunchalee Suksurangkakul, Staff, JSPS Bangkok Office

### **Brief Report:**

- a) Dr. Sornprach gives a strong impression that he is very positive and willing for research promotion through the cooperation with JSPS.
- b) Lecture on JSPS programs for young researchers at Kasetsart University (KU) was requested by KU side and it was agreed on June 21, 2011.
- c) KU will arrange celebration events around February 2015 and hopes JSPS Bangkok Office to cooperate in holding a scientific seminar. JSPS Bangkok Office agreed to it.
- d) KU expects to promote Prince Akishino project and to get support from Japan. JSPS Bangkok Office explained the scarce possibility to be involved in it as JSPS.

**Session:**

Dr. Busaba explained that Dr. Sornprach had been in charge of international affairs and switched to research within one year. His major is botany.

Dr. Busaba added that Dr. Uthairat is former RONPAKU fellow and JAFT member.

Dr. Busaba added that the number of full professor at Kasetsart Univ. is around 25.

Dr. Wataru started by introducing this is the first official visit to Kasetsart University (KU) JSPS Bangkok Office done.

He explained about JSPS in general, JSPS alumni association and Japanese national science & technology budget system.

Dr. Sornprach responded that he would welcome at other campuses next time, and asked several questions.

KU: Which is the biggest unit using national S&T budget university or research institute?

JSPS: Only 20~30% of S&T budget is allocated to university. 70~80% of all is competitive.

KU: What is G-COE?

JSPS: Top university program at Nobel Prize level. 5 million US dollars budget is allocated as highest.

KU: What is the difference and advantage among MOU, Alumni and nothing?

JSPS: JSPS international liaison offices can support alumni activities.

KU: What is the reason JSPS Bkk thinks for more researchers in medical science in Thailand than other fields.

JSPS: Even high school level, top students hope to study medical science.

KU: Is it possible to have MOU between JSPS and university?

JSPS: No. JSPS is targeting only national S&T coordinators like NRCT as MOU partners. Under the MOU between JSPS and such coordinators, university MOUs can be promoted.

KU: Information NRCT provides is not enough much.

JSPS: JSPS prefers idea of "Ideas first" to "Money first", as KAKENHI shows bottom-up system. Thailand may have come to time to rethink about its idea setting.

KU: What is JSPS policy for coming 3-4 years in Asia?

JSPS: JSPS put importance on Asia. JSPS Bangkok Office has transformed to regional center.

Dr. Sornprach introduced that KU was established on Feb. 2, 1943. **In 2015 KU will arrange some celebration events around February** and Dr. Sornprach asked JSPS Bangkok Office for cooperation for holding a scientific seminar. In his vision, forming a platform of joint research project and researcher exchange followed by student exchange is focused.

Dr. Wataru promised to make an official report about the celebration event and pass it to his successor.

Dr. Sornprach introduced Prince Akishio project in chicken and inquired about JSPS support to promote the project.

Dr. Wataru has some contact persons around the Prince but he told that it is difficult to act as JSPS.

Dr. Sornprach asked JSPS Bangkok Office to have a lecture session on JSPS programs for young researchers at KU in June.

Dr. Wataru willingly agreed it.

The estimated number of participants is 200-300. Venue is the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of this building (main building). Time and date was set through a mutual agreement as **10:00 am, Friday, June 21, 2011.**

Dr. Busaba proposed a prolonged date of BRIDGE fellowship workshop because of her health condition, when Dr. Wataru introduced it to Dr. Sornprach. The tentative date was May 20, 2011 and it was cancelled. The new date is under consideration.

Participants took pictures all together. Greeting gifts were delivered to JSPS Bangkok Office from Dr. Sornprach.