

Preface

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On behalf of Kagawa University (KU) and Chiang Mai University (CMU), we would like to thank all the participants of the 4th Joint Symposium between Kagawa University Chiang Mai University (KU-CMU).

The cooperative spirit of the KU-CMU Joint Symposium was reflected in how we have hosted this event in 2007 at CMU, in 2008 at KU, in 2010 at CMU and now here at the KU in 2012. We have discussed joint research proposals, our research results, common challenges faced by both regions, and how to further develop our international human resources.

This 4th Symposium focused on a Healthy Aging and Sustainable Society in five key areas:

- Social Environment Studies for Sustainability
- Economic and Business Studies for Social Sustainability
- Aging and Lifestyle Related Diseases
- Engineering Aspects for Sustainable Development
- Agriculture and Biotechnology

This symposium also provided an opportunity for student exchange, including a student session. We do believe that the symposium can provide an invaluable chance to develop the next generation of international researchers.

In recent years, both our countries have experienced natural disasters. In 2004, Thailand was affected by the Sumatra-Andaman earthquake, and last year, by severe flooding. In March of last year, the Great East Japan Earthquake struck Japan. Both our countries have undergone extreme hardships, but have worked hard to recover and are now returning to normal life and are able to look at other important issues facing us.

Here at the 4th symposium, we built on the discussions and knowledge from the previous symposia and developed new knowledge from discussions featuring varying points of view. This has been an important concept since Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University first signed an agreement of cooperation in 1990, which has led to active exchange through the Faculties of Agriculture, Engineering, Medicine, Education, Law and Economy. With this history and shared understanding of deep exchange, Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University are positioned to actively promote exchange and focus on educational exchange and research as a "base for education and research exchanges overseas."

We think that this symposium increases the mutual interaction of both universities in research, student exchange and inspires and activates young researchers and future leaders.

In closing, we are confident that this symposium led to many fruitful discussions and activities. So let's move forward together in the spirit of cooperation and friendship.