

# A Report on the Links and Consideration of Future Prospects for Academic and Student Exchanges between the Faculty of Education Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University

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香川大学教育学部とチェンマイ大学との交流とその将来展望  
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## 要 旨

香川大学とチェンマイ大学との交流は1990年の交流協定調印、2007年の海外教育研究交流拠点大学化を経て、順調に拡大し、複数の部局で教育・研究の両面にわたり活発な交流が行われている。本稿では、教育学部とのこれまでの交流経緯、次いで合同シンポジウム、教員間での共同研究、学生プログラムの概要についてまとめる。最後に今後の共同研究の可能性、学生交流の将来展望について述べる。

## Abstract

Exchanges between Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University have been developing successfully since the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1990 and the designation of Chiang Mai University as the core international partner university being a hub in education and research activities in 2007. Active exchanges have been carried out in both the fields of education and research involving several faculties at each university. This article summarizes the exchange history between the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University, looks at the joint symposia, collaborative research and student programmes. Finally, we consider possible future collaborations in research and students exchange programmes.

Keywords: Chiang Mai University, international collaborative research, student exchange programmes

## 1. Introduction – The Beginning of Links and Exchange

Kagawa University has set one of its goals in education as creating “professionals with a rich humanity and high morals, a wide basic knowledge and high level of professionalism and ability

to investigate issues and those who can make contribution internationally.” With this in mind, the university has promoted academic and cultural exchange links with overseas institutions and aims for as active links as possible (from the university constitution charter of 26 March 2007) . In 1990 Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University entered into an academic exchange agreement with the Faculty of Agriculture at Kagawa University in charge. Chiang Mai University started in 1964 as the first higher educational institute in the northern region of Thailand and has made great contributions so far in the fields of education and research. It has been rated as one of the top institutions for both fields in the country.

The initial impetus for links between the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University was after lecturer at the Faculty of Education, Assistant Professor Paul Batten, visited Chiang Mai and met Assistant Professor Wichian Sunitham and both realized their goals for intercultural exchange programme were very similar. After that, Assistant Professor Batten participated as an invited guest in the programme between the Faculty of Humanities at Chiang Mai University and Sapporo Gakuin University the next year for two days and was very impressed with it and decided to propose links with this university. Being impressed with the student exchange programme, Assistant Professor Batten proposed to the International Exchange Committee at the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University of which he was a member that staff that students from Kagawa University also take part in the exchange programme. The committee approved this plan and decided to participate in the next programme using the Kagawa University International Fund. Following that, in October 2010 Assistant Professor Wichian Sunitham from the Faculty of Humanities made a courtesy visit to Kagawa University, Faculty of Education and met the Dean of the Faculty of Education to discuss the plans and explain the programme to International Exchange Committee at the Faculty of Education.

An invitation was received from Assistant Professor Wichian Sunitham from the Faculty of Humanities at Chiang Mai University to participate in the intercultural exchange programme he was organizing together with Sapporo Gakuin University. It was therefore proposed to the International Exchange Committee at the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University that students from the faculty also take part in this exchange programme. The next step was from 28 February 2010 till 12 March 2010 when Assistant Professor Paul Batten and Associate Professor Dr Yumiko Takagi, together with three students from the Faculty of Education, participated in the exchange programme with assistance from the Kagawa University International Exchange Foundation. As a result, it was decided that this programme was highly suited for the students at the Faculty of Education and formal student participation was decided on. Since that initial start, the programme has developed steadily between the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Education to include international collaborative research, an international memorandum of understanding for academic exchanges, student exchange programmes, and special auditing students. Assistant Professor Wichian Sunitham has been promoted to the Head of the Humanities Academic Services Centre and has stopped being in charge of the programme but is still providing invaluable support and guidance for many aspects of the links between the two faculties.

## 2. Hosting the Joint Symposium

### (1) From the Launch of the Symposium to the Second Symposium<sup>1,2</sup>

One of the goals of the March 2007 Kagawa University Plan for the Future was further internationalization of the university and in particular the development of international hubs for “the creation of student exchanges as well the promotion of joint research projects with a focus on the Asian region. With the development of such collaborations, Kagawa University will gain insights that differ from those of European or American points of view and will develop research and education from an Asian perspective accordingly for the benefit of the university.” Prior to this, the International Hub for Kagawa University in Chiang Mai University, the document of 12 July 2006, noted that Chiang Mai University was one of the most suited universities for the implementation of Kagawa University’s international exchanges and strategic promotions.

At that point, Kagawa University had been the primary link for a number of years with joint research projects and student exchanges. Chiang Mai University is one of the leading universities in Thailand and is an enthusiastic partner in international relations. As such, it was considered ideal for the expansion of links within Thailand as well as with other countries in the Southeast Asia region, as was selected as a hub for Kagawa University’s international links.

Both universities had already signed MOUs with each other in 1990. The two JICA Projects of 1993 – 1998 and 2003 – 2006 were highly evaluated. Furthermore, Kagawa University had accepted 15 students from Chiang Mai University on Japanese national scholarships (students sponsored by the Ministry of Education to study overseas, *kokuhi kenkyū ryūgakusei*) and there have been seven PhD students who have returned to become teachers at Chiang Mai University after graduating from Kagawa University. In 2002 a Master’s degree course taught in English at the Faculty of Agriculture, the Asia, Africa, and Circum-Pacific Special Course, was established. This course starts in October and leads on to a PhD. Development of short-stay exchange and research programs also developed and in 2005 the Faculty of Engineering also established links with Chiang Mai University. In 2006 CMU was designated as a special hub for Kagawa University’s international links.

At the time, the focus was set as, 1. the provision and acceptance of student education, 2. the promotion of joint research, 3. recruitment of students and researchers, 4. the establishment of a network for returnee students and researchers, 5. the gathering of information about local education and research work, and, 6. the promotion of Kagawa University. It was important for the university to link individual education and research across specialised fields from a strategic point of view and to aid and promote them. Specifically, support is provided for educational programs, examination of support systems related to study abroad and internship, provision of research facilities and laboratories, support systems for acquisition, collection and provision of research expenses and research materials, information gathering, public relations activities, support systems for recruitment activities, securing offices and staff for site projects, securing common project costs (establishing finance for university projects) , and acquiring external funds.

At that time, Professor Dr Masahiko Ichii, from the Faculty of Agriculture, was the university

president at KU. Former President Ichii was well acquainted with the results of exchanges at the Faculty of Agriculture, and this base project became one of the important international strategies for Kagawa University, and gradually become more and more active. It was under such circumstances that the first joint symposium was held at Chiang Mai University over the 13th and 14th of December, 2007.

The symposium of the two universities was initially called the Education-Research Exchange Joint Symposium (EDUREJS) . A call for papers was announced with a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The fields of research were as follows: Medicine and Agriculture (malaria, cell and tissue engineering, Neuroscience, Rare Sugars (production and application) , System Biology, Agriculture (reduced agriculture chemicals technology, food production sciences) , Science and Engineering (telemedicine, biomedical engineering, nano-device technology, bio-production technology, artificial intelligence, civil engineering) , and Student Activities. As can be noted from viewing the fields of research above, at this stage the Humanities and Liberal Arts were not included in the symposium yet. Furthermore, it can be noted that not only agricultural sciences but also engineering and medical sciences were clearly expected to participate in the symposium.

In response to the success of the joint international research meeting of the two universities, the Second Joint Research Meeting, EDUREJS 2008, was planned. At this point, the name Chiang Mai University – Kagawa University Joint Symposium or KU-CMU Joint Symposium had not yet appeared. Currently the symposium is held biannually with the name of the university hosting the event coming first in the name of the symposium. It was the Overseas Educational Research Base Project Promotion Working Group that considered the development of this project.

A working group was established on 5 November 2007, with its purpose “to take concrete steps to promote an overseas hub base for Kagawa University at Chiang Mai University, an overseas base for education and research, and to establish a new International Student Centre Conference and Academic Exchange Committee.”

Those who participated in the Working Group at that time were Professor Fumio Abe, the Kagawa University Trustee of Education, and Professor Dr Hajime Maeda, Academic Affairs Trustee at Kagawa University, Professor Dr Ravindra Ranade, from the Faculty of Economics, Professor Dr Yoshihiro Takeuchi from the Faculty of Medicine, and the current International Office Director Professor Dr Masaaki Tokuda, together with Associate Professor Dr Hideyuki Sawada from the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Dr Kenji Katayama from the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Dr Hiroshi Kameyama from the School of Regional Management, Professor Harunori Shishido from the International Student Centre, Assistant Professor Mika Shioi from the International Student Centre, and Professor Dr Satoshi Murayama from the Faculty of Education.

The Working Group was a combination of the International Student Centre and the Academic Relations Exchange committees. The two representatives of the Working Group were the Trustee of Education and the Trustee of Academic Affairs. This was an unprecedented system aimed at integrating education and research. Both the trustees were in touch with the respective International Committees at the faculty level. Thereafter, Professor Dr Satoshi Murayama from the Faculty of Education chaired this Working Group in his capacity as a special assistant to the then

Kagawa University President Ichii and worked towards the establishment of the current Kagawa University International Office (KUIO) . The initial KUIO Director was Professor Dr Satoshi Murayama.

To strengthen bidirectional collaboration between research and education and work towards establishing the Second Joint Symposium, it was essential to obtaining the necessary funding for such a project. Under the direction of the Trustee of Academic Affairs at the time, Professor Dr Maeda, the results of both universities' exchange activities were reviews and an application was made to the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for its Asian Science and Technology Community Information Strategic Flexible International Exchange Project.

As mentioned above, a summary of the links and exchanges between both universities was made, as follows.

- i) Faculty of Agriculture: pathology of citrus fruits, ecological control of pests, processing of pressurized fruits, high sensitivity analysis of residual agricultural chemicals, and tropical plant physiologically active substances. A network of approximately 100 people was constructed together with Chiang Mia University and Mie University for two JICA projects – plant biotechnology and provincial agricultural chemicals optimization technologies)
- ii) Faculty of Engineering: many achievements were obtained in collaborative research between robotics (especially artificial intelligence) and civil engineering.
- iii) Faculty of Medicine: joint research on malaria as a tropical infection and the promotion of joint research on the actions of rare sugars (D-psicose) on diabetes and arteriosclerosis.
- iv) The International Rare Sugars Conference: established at Kagawa University in 2003 to aim for the creation of a global research base. Three international conferences were held and collaborative research with four sciences, agriculture, medicine, and agricultural faculties at Chiang Mai University is ongoing.

The university was very fortunate in being able to obtain funding of 4,000,000 yen for the Second Joint Symposium at which it was decided that the symposium would thereafter be held every two years at each campus alternately and that the name was be simplified to the current name. Mie University was also able to take part in this second symposium.

## **Agriculture and Biotechnology**

Chiang Mai University - Mie University - Kagawa University joint session

- \* reducing usage of chemicals in agriculture
- \* agriculture materials for energy production
- \* environment-friendly applied biological sciences
- \* agricultural systems
- \* animal science
- \* biotechnology and biomedical matters
- \* rare sugars
- \* food science and technology

## **Medicine, Science and Engineering**

- \* neurological disorders - dementia
- \* infectious diseases - malaria, avian influenza
- \* tissue engineering
- \* telemedicine
- \* biomedical engineering
- \* nano-device technology
- \* artificial intelligence
- \* civil engineering

## **Humanities and Social Sciences**

- \* Japanese language and culture
- \* tourism, hospitality and enterprises
- \* climate change and water management
- \* international education issues

The list above introduces the fields of research in the oral presentations from the Second Kagawa University - Chiang Mai University Joint Symposium. It can be noted that the range of research fields has extended beyond the initial collaborations between Agriculture, Medicine and Engineering to include all the faculties at Kagawa University. In response to the opening of submissions, the actual research symposia were divided into two sessions. There were 43 overseas participants at the symposium, with 141 from Japan. There was a total of 146 presentations, 57 oral presentations, 89 poster sessions. The first section, Oral Sessions and Poster Sessions, held on Thursday, 16 October and on the morning of Friday, 17 October, was held as a general session focusing on the fundamental role of the symposium.

As described below, the sessions were divided into four parts, namely, 1. Agriculture and Biotechnology, 2. Engineering, 3. Medicine and Nursing, and, 4. Humanities and Social Sciences, in which the latest research results on various topics were announced. On the afternoon of Friday, 17 October, as the second part of the symposium, a panel discussion focused on an “International Symposium for the Establishment of Sustainable and Recycling-based Society: Effective Utilization of the Resources via International Partnership” was held.

As can be seen in the table below, at the symposium, Part One focused on reviewing the past achievements and considering the future directions of collaborations between Chiang Mai University and Kagawa University, including collaboration with related partners and research institutes in Thailand, Japan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (the CLMV countries) . Measures needed to realize a sustainable society in this region were discussed in Part Two.

### **Part 1: “Seeking directions in future collaborations between Chiang Mai University & Kagawa University”**

- 1-1 Summary of the sessions (given by session chairs from Kagawa University)

- 1-1-1 Agriculture and Biotechnology
- 1-1-2 Engineering
- 1-1-3 Medicine and Nursing
- 1-1-4 Humanities and Social Sciences
- 1-2 Seeking directions in future collaborations
- 1-2-1 Possible research collaborations in future
- 1-2-2 KU-CMU organization of new international education system

## **Part 2: “Formation of Networks among the Japan-Thailand-CLMV Countries for the Establishment of Sustainable and Recycling-based Society”**

- 2-1 Strategy of the both universities
  - 2-1-1 Chiang Mai University
  - 2-1-2 Kagawa University
- 2-2 Future projects and contributions
  - 2-2-1 KU-CMU-MU JICA project
  - 2-2-2 Medical research projects
  - 2-2-3 Human, Regional and Economic Development
- 2-3 General discussion

The purpose of this project was to form an advanced knowledge information network that would contribute to the sustainable development of the region. Efforts towards network formation involving various universities centred on Chiang Mai University and Kagawa University was one of the outcomes of this symposium. This project became the initial foundation for the formation of in-campus and off-campus networks necessary for the tasks ahead.

In response to this symposium, the primary research, Professor Satoshi Murayama, together with Dr Masaaki Tokuda, the researcher in charge of this project, were invited as speakers to a project organized by JSPS in January 2008 in Bangkok, the Asian Community Formation Strategy Project. Along with Dr Tokuda, Professor Murayama gave a report and lead discussions as invited lecturers on the international strategies at Kagawa University.

### **(2) The Third Symposium <sup>3</sup>**

Dates : Tuesday, 24 August – Thursday, 26 August 2010

Venue : Chiang Mai University

The Third Chiang Mai – Kagawa University Symposium was held at Chiang Mai University in August 2010. The main theme was defined as a ‘Healthy Aging Society.’ From the Faculty of Education, Professor Dr Murayama, chair of the International Committee at the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University participated as a panelist in the panel discussion. Three other members of the faculty’s International Exchange Committee members participated in the Humanities Session and in the Engineering Session and made oral presentations. The titles were as follows.



- \* Creation of a sustainable international exchange consortium agreement for a student IEP – Consideration of the 2010 CMU-SGU-KU International Programme, Yumiko Takagi, Kagawa University
- \* A trial of a simple autonomous health management system for an e-healthcare campus environment, Eiichi Miyazaki, Kagawa University
- \* A report on the CMU-SGU-KU student intercultural exchange programme - A description of a successful programme and student language choice, Paul Batten, Kagawa University

At the symposium, the Chiang Mai Vice President, Dr Daorong, and the Chiang Mai University President, Dr Pongsak, together with the Kagawa University Present, Professor Dr Ichii exchanged greetings and signed an agreement for double degrees between Chiang Mai University and Kagawa University. Following the signing ceremony, the symposium was divided into three venues and active discussion and question and answer sessions were held in the subcommittees of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Medicine, Science and Engineering, and Humanities and Social Sciences.

On the second day of the symposium, a field survey was conducted with the members of the Chiang Mai Longstay Life Club, a group of Japanese retirees living in the Chiang Mai area, on their living conditions. The Faculty of Medicine at Kagawa University has started the K-MIX project, a Remote Health Consultation service to be provided by the doctors at Kagawa University for these long-term residents. In meeting with this group of Japanese retirees in Chiang Mai, valuable information about these residents' concerns about health and how to provide remote consultations best were discussed. In particular, one focus was on what kind of support the Faculty of Education could provide to this project. Possibilities were discussed concerning support from educational experts, liaisons between the Department of Japanese Language at Chiang Mai University and language support in English and Japanese, and joint projects with the Thai Ministry of Health and the Japanese government. On the third day of the symposium, at the session on a Healthy Aging Society, the situation based on the results of the field survey were discussed. In the final roundtable discussion, a summary each session and the entire Third Symposium were presented.

### (3) The Fourth Symposium <sup>4</sup>

Dates : Wednesday, 19 September – Friday, 21 September, 2012

Venue : Kagawa University

The Fourth Kagawa University–Chiang Mai Symposium was held at Kagawa University in 2012. The main theme was set at as 'a healthy Aging and sustainable society.' From the Faculty of Education of Kagawa University, the chair of the International Exchange Committee, Professor Dr Takagi, participated as a panelist in the panel discussion and there were also four oral presentations from the faculty, along with four students' and teachers' presentations.

The actual research meeting was divided into three sections: oral presentations, poster sessions and a panel discussion. There was a total of 146 presentations, 59 oral presentations, 29 poster presentations. There were seven participants in the panel discussion from Kagawa University and four from Chiang Mai University. At this symposium for the first time, the



Assistant Director General of the Policy Planning Department of Kagawa Prefecture. One extra session was added to Part One, up to five from four the last time, in the Oral Sessions and Poster Sessions held on Wednesday, 19 September and on the morning of Thursday, 20 September. These were:

Session 1 : Social Sciences and Humanities: Social Environment Studies for Sustainability

Session 2 : Economics and Business: Social Economic and Business Studies for Sustainability

Session 3 : Medicine: Aging and Lifestyle Related Diseases

Session 4 : Engineering: Engineering Aspects for Sustainable Development

Session 5 : Agriculture: Agriculture and Biotechnology

The projects were as follows:

- \* Intercultural exchange projects, Professor Dr Yumiko Takagi, Faculty of Education
- \* Japanese research and educational support overseas, Professor Dr Nobuyuki Arai, Graduate School of Law
- \* Water environments research, Professor Dr Satoshi Murayama, Faculty of Education
- \* Regional development and business, Professor Dr R. R. Ranade, Faculty of Economics
- \* Food safety, Department of Agriculture, report
- \* Human support technology, Professor Dr Hideyuki Sawada, Faculty of Engineering

Furthermore, at this symposium, a parallel symposium on international telemedicine was held. On the second day of the symposium, there was an excursion and tour of a private hospital, Sue Hospital, to observe the actual situation of medical treatment for the elderly in Japan. On the afternoon of Thursday, 20 September a discussion covering educational mobility and sustainable learning for students intercultural activities, preparing younger generation for a sustainable global future, as well as the universities' Double Master's Degree Programme, and public policy related to creating a healthy aging and sustainable society in Kagawa prefecture was held. On the occasion of the Chiang Mai University – Kagawa University Joint Symposium, as well as providing a place for exchange of information between the two universities, the following events were also planned for students participating in the symposium to develop further links between Chiang Mai University and Kagawa University students. Thus far students participating in the symposia had made presentations mainly according to their fields of study. However, in order to encourage broader links and exchange between students the following activities were also planned. The events were held as follows.

**Wednesday, 19 September 2012**

16:20–18:00                student presentations

18:00–                      banquet

**Friday, 21 September 2012**

9:00–12:00                student excursion (organised by Kagawa University students)

The student presentations and exchange activities centred on group discussions were to predict the future development and deepening of the exchanges between the two universities.

#### (4) **The Fifth Symposium** <sup>5</sup>

Dates : Wednesday, 10 September – Friday, 12 September 2014

Venue : Chiang Mai University

Chiang Mai University hosted The Fifth Joint Symposium between Chiang Mai University and Kagawa University in 2014. The main theme for the was set, carrying on from the Fourth Symposium, as a 'Healthy and Aging Sustainable Society'. The heads of both universities and the Japanese Consul General in Chiang Mai participated in the Opening Ceremony. The Symposium then divided into three sections: oral presentations, poster sessions, and panel discussions. There were 39 people participating from Kagawa University, with a total number of 146 subjects, 68 oral presentations (11 Humanities sections, 8 Faculty of Education presentations, and 24 poster presentations, and a Disaster Management section, and two panel discussions for JICA Projects. A round table discussion was held. There was also a ceremony for the donation of mobile cardiocography (CTG) units from the Takamatsu Chuo Rotary Club of Kagawa prefecture. Members from all of the eleven faculties at Chiang Mai University took part in the symposium. On the Kagawa University, side, members from all its six faculties and related institutions took part in the symposium. This was the largest number of participants so far out of the last five symposia. Participants of the five key sessions discussed possibilities of international joint research projects in their respective project group sessions.

As with The Fourth Symposium, there were five sessions, as follows.

Session 1 : Social Sciences and Humanities: Social Environment Studies for Sustainability  
(Organized by Lecturer Saranya Kongjit and Professor Dr Yumiko Takagi)

Session 2 : Economics and Business: Social Economic and Business Studies for Sustainability

Session 3 : Medicine: Aging and Lifestyle Related

Session 4 : Engineering: Engineering Aspects for Sustainable Development

Session 5 : Agriculture: Agriculture and Biotechnology

It was notable that the Consul from the Japanese Consulate in Chiang Mai gave an address to the participants at the symposium's opening ceremony. The delegates from Takamatsu Chuo Rotary Club were included in the closing ceremony in recognition of its contribution of highly advanced equipment, mentioned above, to the Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University. This is evidence of the symposium's expanding links with organizations in the respective communities.

All attendees were invited to the roundtable discussion session at which future link activities were discussed. The Chiang Mai University executive attendees were the Vice President for Academic and Education Quality, and the moderators were Associate Professor Dr Sermkiat Jomjunyong from Chiang Mai University, and Professor Dr Yumiko Takagi from Kagawa University. In the symposium assessment, there were brief reports from the Chairs of each of the sessions reporting on the academic results of the symposium. Together with comments from the Chairs of each of the sessions, general observations and impressions from the floor were also welcomed.

## (5) The Sixth Symposium <sup>6</sup>

Dates : Wednesday, 27 August – Friday, 21 August 2016

Venue : Chiang Mai University

The Sixth Joint Symposium between Chiang Mai University and Kagawa University was convened in Chiang Mai with the main theme of a 'healthy and aging society' continuing on from the previous symposium.

The two Presidents of both the universities, as well as the Japanese Consul General in Chiang Mai, participated in the Opening Ceremony for the symposium, as they did in the previous symposium, and a General Memorandum of Academic Exchange and Cooperation and Exchange was signed. The symposium was divided into three sections – oral presentations, poster sessions and panel discussions. There were 78 oral presentations, (15 of which were in the Humanities) , 36 poster sessions, and a panel discussion on the “Globalization of International Collaboration between Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University.”

The sessions were almost the same as for the Fifth Symposium.

**Social Sciences and Humanities** : Social Science and Quality of Life

**Economics and Business** : Social Economic and Business Studies for Sustainability

**Medicine** : Aging and Lifestyle Related Diseases

**Engineering** : Sustainable Technologies

**Agriculture** : Agriculture, Bioscience, Food Science and Environmental Science for Healthy and Sustainable Society

A student session was not held this time but there was a student-led excursion to Higashi Kagawa city. A poster session was held on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>. A notable feature of this symposium was the panel discussion section in which the members of each faculty and members of the KUIO, the Kagawa University International Office, summarized the exchanges between Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University. The large involvement of the staff of KUIO in the poster sessions led to the accumulation of know-how on hosting symposia.

The Humanities Session had the following results.

### 1) Multi-Disciplinary Researches on Sustainable 'Living Spaces'

Kagawa University : Dr Satoshi Murayama, Dr Tōru Terao

Chiang Mai University : Dr Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, Dr Narong Sikhiram

This research project observed political and scientific decision making as an alternative to historical demographics, economic history and sociological family studies, as a population-related phenomenon, i.e., 'environmental decision making', mathematical and geographical, reveal the demographic diversity of the region in the early modern period and heterogeneous development, aiming at taking a different approach. The results of regional research in Thailand have been accumulating steadily.

## 2) Special Needs Education Research

Kagawa University : Yumiko Takagi, Paul Baten, Akihiro Satō, Eiichi Miyazaki

Chiang Mai University : Ratchaneekorn Tongsookdee, Rajchukarn Tongthaworn, Nutjira Busadee

The focus was on 'resource rooms' and the screening processes in Japanese schools, and Japanese special needs education that is focused on education tailored to the development stages from kindergarten to university, and also lifelong education. The next research aims at looking at the processes of assessing how special needs are noticed and become apparent, and how to determine the process until which support is no longer needed, from the early stages of infancy.

## 3) Student Exchange Programmes

Kagawa University : Lrong Lim, Tōru Takamizu, Peter Lutes, Yumiko Takagi, Paul Batten

Chiang Mai University : Wichian Sunitham, Panida Anantanakom

There was an examination of student exchange programmes between Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University and also an introduction of the Sanuki Programme, and consideration of possible future collaboration with the Japan Centre at Chiang Mai University. Discussions were held on the implementation of teaching assistant activities by Japanese students at the Japanese language department at Kagawa University.

## (6) The Seventh Symposium <sup>7</sup>

Dates : Monday, 27 August–Wednesday, 29 August 2018

Venue : Chiang Mai University

The Seventh Joint Chiang Mai University – Kagawa University Symposium was convened at Chiang Mai University with its main theme as a 'Healthy Aging and Sustainable Society: Global Development 4.0'.

Prior to the symposium, a Kagawa University Alumni Gathering was held at the Kantary Hills Hotel near Chiang Mai University. Kagawa graduates from now working and holding various posts in Thailand as well as those working at Chiang Mai University got together to renew old connections and friendships with teachers from Kagawa University and develop new friendship and exchanges. At the Opening Ceremony, two venues were prepared to enable all teachers to participate. The President of Chiang Mai University and the Japanese Consul General in Chiang Mai attended the ceremony at which a video letter from the President of Kagawa University was presented. A group photo was also taken. Afterwards, a panel discussion on 'Aging Society' was held.

The symposium was again divided in three sections — the oral presentations, poster sessions and a panel discussion. There were 77 participants from Kagawa University (37 oral presentations and 21 poster sessions) . In all, there were 60 oral presentations (7 in the Humanities session) , and 30 poster sessions.

The five sessions were as follows.

Session 1 : Smart Cities and Attitudes towards Them

Session 2 : Regional Economy and Creativity

Session 3 : Aging Society

Session 4 : Energy and Sustainable Technologies

Session 5 : Food and Agriculture

In the Humanities session, various points of view concerning 'Smart Cities and Attitudes towards Them' were presented. There were three proposals for the use of ICT, regarding its technical contents.

- 1) In language education, it is thought that there is a possibility of promoting learners' understanding by utilizing mobile devices. It is thought that motivation would be increased by creating and learning in virtual collaborative groups.
- 2) Use of ICT equipment with a universal design, irrespective of whether the user has special needs or not, is an example where an inclusive environment could be realized.
- 3) Currently, access to big data is conditional and cannot be obtained cheaply. However, if smart phones can be utilized, a large amount of data could be collected. As one example of this, the case of an application for deciding the optimal route in the Tokyo subways was cited. In this example, it is possible to alleviate congestion and the economic benefits are also great, as well as the merits for the users in finding the best route for their trips. There was one proposal for technology for reducing environment impact.

In addition, there were three proposals focusing on social activities for people living in smart cities. For the realization of smart cities, systems and a revolution in people's awareness is essential. Regarding school education, Japan's new Course of Study of June 2018, aims to develop the abilities needed for smart cities through 'proactive, interactive and deep learning.' Two reports on this topic were introduced. In addition, there was one report on an international comparison that in order to live in a smart city one has to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Conducting a conference in the Humanities session was a good opportunity to introduce Japanese research overseas. In addition, exchanges were realized between researchers and faculties that had not happened so far with an eye on future joint research. Also, in order to promote research on the realization of smart cities, it is required that the two universities promote joint international research with grant funding in mind, and to have the organizers of the symposia actively promote this. This time it was the School of Art and Mass Media that participated. Together with promoting new exchanges, research between the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Education must also be actively pursued. Thanks to the KUIO in Japan and the administration of each faculty we were able to receive the same service from all departments. As all the teachers were able to participate in the Opening Ceremony, all teachers could sympathize with each others and the symposium was very well received. There was a request to accept Thai exchange students and an offer of help for the next joint symposium.

In addition, as a result of the symposium, it was possible to secure time for exchanges between the Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Education to discuss the next visit from Japan to the organizers' teachers and exchanges between the previous organizer's faculty and participating teachers, etc. Exchanges through the symposium were also created. The symposium

could be considered as an occasion to promote the exchange with Chiang Mai University.

These seven symposia have worked to steadily increase and promote the exchanges between both universities and also between the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University and the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Education at Chiang Mai University.

### **3. Student Intercultural Exchange Programmes 2010–2019**

As well the above-mentioned symposia and research collaborations between the two universities, another notable feature of the links between the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University is its Intercultural Student Exchange Programme, now in its tenth year, which started in 2010.

#### **Impetus for Links**

The impetus for starting this type of student exchanges was Assistant Professor Batten and Associate Professor Dr Takagi. In 2010, Assistant Professor Batten had been in charge of links with Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology in New Zealand for over ten years and had organized programmes for over 200 students and staff there for four-week short-term programmes, as well as year-long courses for mainstream courses (CELTA teacher training, business, tourism, Special Needs Education and volunteer work programmes) . The links had been very successful. However, he felt that there was a need for another option for students at the Faculty of Education — the chance to use English with people from a non-native country and for students to develop an awareness of using English and developing links with other Asian countries. Looking at JETRO data for Kagawa prefecture which details the countries that companies in Kagawa trade with, one can easily note that most of the countries are near Japan and accordingly are the same as Japan, countries in which English is an EFL language, i. e., taught and used as a second language. Assistant Professor Batten felt that as well as having the chance to learn about native-speaker cultures and learn and practice English in those countries, students should also have the option to learn and use English in a country similar to Japan — a country in which English is learnt and used as EFL, and one with strong links and a positive attitude towards Japan. This was the impetus for proposing links with the Faculty of Humanities at Chiang Mai University.

#### **Student Exchanges Start with the Faculty of Education**

Assistant Professor Sunitham paid a courtesy call to the Faculty of Education in 2010 and it was decided to proceed to formal links between the two faculties. It was also decided to welcome students from Chiang Mai University to Intercultural Exchange Programme at the Faculty of Education. In 2010, at the invitation of the person in charge of the programme, Assistant Professor Wichian Sunitham of the Faculty of Humanities at Chiang Mai University, Assistant Professor Batten, Associate Professor Dr Takagi and three students from the Faculty of Education joined the Intercultural Exchange Programme between Chiang Mai University and Sapporo Gakuin University. This programme included two styles of homestays - one in a rural village south of Chiang Mai, Doi Tao. The visit focused on an elementary school in the village that welcomed

the students and teachers for three days. Japanese students held a Japanese Culture Fair at the school, showcasing various Japanese games, songs and sports to the Thai students. After this, the Japanese students went to stay with the Thai families. Over the next two days the students went to see various events showcasing the village and its agricultural ventures together with their Thai homestay families. The other homestay programme was organized by a high school in Chiang Mai where the students studied Japanese. The programme included visits to temples in and around Chiang Mai, etc. These have been a feature of the programme every year. Since 2016, Professor Akihiro Sato from the Japanese Education Department at the Faculty of Education, Kagawa University has played a central role in organizing and running the programmes, together with Associate Professor Batten and Professor Dr Takagi. Assistant Professor Dr Anantanakom Panida from the Faculty of Humanities has taken over the role of organizer of the programme in Chiang Mai since 2018.

### Buddy System

One important feature of this programme was the assigning of a Thai ‘buddy’ from Chiang Mai University to each Japanese student. The buddies provided a wide range of support for the students and the programme, bringing the Japanese students their breakfast in the morning to the accommodation where the Japanese students were staying; accompanying the Japanese students on the various activities, as well as organizing a range of activities for the students in their free time. Many of the students became friends and have maintained contact for many years. Several have since visited Kagawa on programmes organized by the Faculty of Education. For the first several years, Japanese students could select either an English-speaking buddy or a Japanese-speaking buddy. The programmes, numbers of students and dates are listed below.

#### List of Intercultural Student Exchange Programmes

Academic year	KU visiting CMU		CMU visiting KU	
	Students	Staff	Students	Staff
2018	6	3	–	1 (1)
2017	7	3	6	1 (1)
2016	10	2	8	3
2015	11	2	7	1
2014	6	2	7	1 (7)
2013	4	2	4	–
2012	15	2	3	1
2011	6	1	9	4
2010	3	2	1	1
total	68	19	51	22

### JASSO Funding

Funding from Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) enabled students to participate



in the programmes. There was funding for students to come to Japan, and funding for students to go to Thailand. It was not available every year but was of great help to many students over many years. The funding was usually about 80,000 yen for students coming to Kagawa and 70,000 for students going to Chiang Mai, depending on JASSO's stipulations. Most students were eligible for this support.

### Intercultural Exchange Programme at the Faculty of Education, Kagawa University

Students from Chiang Mai University receive a certificate of completion after successful completion of the Intercultural Exchange Programme at the Faculty of Education, Kagawa University. Often a poster session is held during the faculty's Open Campus day for prospective students. Thai students studying at Kagawa are accommodated in the university's on-site accommodation at Saiwai-cho. Classes focus on Japanese language and culture: tanabata (the summer festival) , the historical tenth century Story of Heikei, haiku, the tea ceremony, and introductions to various university's club activities. There are also excursions. These are to several of the islands in the Seto Inland Sea to introduce students to this region of Japan, as well as trips to Hiroshima and Kyoto, and a ski trip to Tottori. Homestays or home visits are usually organized with assistance of the city's international organizations. In their off time, students also explore Takamatsu and its environs with their Japanese buddies.

#### Features of the Intercultural Exchange Programme 2010 - 2019

Asian country focus	CALL: pre and post	Language choice	Buddies, homestays
Raising awareness of the benefits of networking with neighbouring Asian countries	With the focus on pre and post course technology that students are familiar with	Students have a choice of languages initially - English or Japanese.	Students encounter a wide variety of people in a range of situations, with their helpers and buddies.
<b>Merits and meaning for students participating in the programmes</b>			<b>Education majors</b>
In the KU-SGU-CMU Intercultural Programme participating students will use English or Japanese to communicate with their CMU student buddy counterparts. The programme has included visits to a wide range of places around Chiang Mai - temples, orphanages, a prison, Japanese companies with factories in Chiang Mai, as well as the school visits and two styles of homestay - one in a rural village, and the other in Chiang Mai. This programme is ideally suited for students at the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University to help them develop their interpersonal skills, intercultural skills and skills in dealing with new and unusual situations. With the help of the Thai buddies and teachers Kagawa University students can enjoy a valuable entrée to another country. Students also get to attend lectures by CMU staff on Thai history, language, culture and religion, minority groups, dance, and cooking. Students can choose a Japanese and English-speaking buddy. With the two homestays in rural and urban settings, students can experience the reality of differences in wealth. Also, as the programme is reciprocal Kagawa University students also get the opportunity to welcome their Thai buddies and other students to Kagawa and Japan, which helps further strengthen ties and understanding between the students of the two universities.			Education majors benefit from participating in the programme in a number of ways: use of English or Japanese when communicating with Thai people; 2) school visits will help students' abilities in dealing with children in and outside the classroom. The rural homestay is similar to teaching practice, in a sense. 3) homestays will help develop students' interpersonal skills.

### Future Prospects

As the programme enters its tenth year, there is a need to consider future prospects. For the

staff and students at the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University, the programme has proven a very successful intercultural exchange programme with over 160 students and staff having taken part. Both staff and students have gained invaluable experiences in dealing with people from outside Japan, visiting schools and interacting with a variety of situations and students in Thailand. There has also been a focus on introducing a range of aspects of Thailand and Thai culture to Kagawa University students. These covered visits to Japanese companies with factories near Chiang Mai, classes in Thai cooking, history, language, society, minorities, dance, traditional villages and Thai massage at the Faculty of Medicine. There was also a visit to a Thai prison and a lecture from the administration staff there. The two 'city' and 'rural' homestays have also always been very moving and insightful for Kagawa University students. For students at the Faculty of Education, aiming at becoming teachers in an increasingly more 'international' Japan, these types of experiences can only help them in their chosen future careers. We hope that the two programmes, students going to Thailand, and students coming to Japan will continue developing its own unique features to meet the needs and interests of the students of both universities in the future.

#### **4. Collaborative Studies between the Faculties**

Research collaboration between the universities' faculties have focused on exchanges through the joint symposia. In planning the Joint Symposium in 2008, the assistance of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was essential for educators and researchers with no previous contact with Thailand. Professor Lrong Lim, Head of the International Student Centre at Kagawa University introduced Dr Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, Director of the Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD) at Chiang Mai University. Dr Vaddhanaphuti has been conducting research into education among ethnic minority groups in Thailand's' northeastern regions in collaboration with United Nations organisations. Initial contact was via an online meeting at which further sessions were set up. These lead to considerable progress towards subsequent collaborative research.

The first project was a session on climate change organized by Professor Dr Murayama and Professor Terao, a specialist in climatology. The topics discussed were as follows.

1. Historical Change of Water Management in International Perspectives, Satoshi Murayama
2. Review on climate variability and river water management over the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Maghna basin in northeastern Indian Subcontinent, Toru Terao
3. Understanding, Perception and Responses to Climate Change in a Village of Thailand, Chayan Vaddhanaphuti

The fourth symposium, "A Healthy and Aging Society" was decided on as the symposium's theme in 2010. In that year's Joint Session, Dr Murayama talked about the ageing society in Japan and asked Dr Vaddhanaphuti to moderate. Two presenters were from Chiang Mai University and two from Kagawa University. Dr Vaddhanaphuti, together with Dr Tokuda from Kagawa

University, hosted panel discussions.

Following on from that, in 2012, Dr Murayama presented 'Nature-Induced Disasters and the Family in Early Modern Japan' and Dr Vaddhanaphuti presented on 'Aging as a Local Movement in a Changing Community in Northern Thailand' in a joint session with separate themes, and also discussed the current state of research in the respective academic fields. In 2014, a panel discussion was hosted by Dr Murayama and Dr Vaddhanaphuti on the theme of Disaster Management. These sessions were held from 9:00 till 10:30 on the morning of 11 September 2014.

### **Panel Discussion on Disaster Management**

Moderators: Dr Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, Chiang Mai University

Director, The Regional Centre for Social, Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD)

Dr Satoshi Murayama, Kagawa University

### **Oral Presentations**

#### **Kagawa University**

-Community-based Disaster Resilience Sustainability in Typhoon Affected areas in the Philippines, Naomi Hosoda

-Village Network and Disaster Management in Early Modern Japan, Satoshi Murayama

#### **Chiang Mai University**

-Vernacular Livelihood Negotiation at the Thai-Burma Border: A Case Study of Displaced Persons' Management of Uncertainty, Malee Sitthikriengkrai- Place of Learning, Space of Hope: A Study of How Stateless People Negotiate Risk and Uncertainty, Chayan Vaddhanaphuti

Professor Murayama presented on his own in the Sixth Joint Symposium two years after, in 2016. Unfortunately, Professor Vaddhanaphuti was unable to attend the symposium in held in Kagawa University that year. As can be seen above, after the initial individual sessions, there were then joint panel discussions and planning. There was also a further joint discussion panel in 2018. Henceforth exploring the possibilities of collaborative research with the aim of acquiring external funds was conducted individually but there was also discussion of cooperation in obtaining funding between the RCSD Director, Dr Vaddhanaphuti and the Faculty of Education. There are considerable possibilities for collaborations the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Education between research on education regarding depopulating areas in Japan and ethnic minority groups in Thailand, as well as climate change and natural disasters. RCSD and the Faculty of Education both have programmes only until the Master's level, so there was discussion of regarding exploring the possibility of a new collaboration at the doctoral level at academic graduate school as an extremely beneficial exchange between the two universities.

### **Research between the Faculties of Education into Special Needs Education**

Associate Professor Dr Ratchaneekorn Tongsookdee, Associate Dean for Research, Academic Service and International Relations and a specialist in Special Needs Education, first visited

Kagawa University between 15-17 June 2014 with a group of five of her colleagues for a courtesy call to the Faculty of Education. The group visiting was as follows.

- Dr. Pongsak Pankaew, Assistant Professor Dean, Faculty of Education
- Dr Ratchaneekorn Tongsookdee, Assistant Professor, Associate Dean for Research, Academic Service and International Relations
- Dr Ratchukarn Tongthaworn, Assistant Professor, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Development Affairs -Pathumwadi Sirisawat, Director, Chiang Mai University Demonstration School
- Jurairat Hongwiangchan, Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs, Chiang Mai University Demonstration School
- Oraphin Khanthawet, Deputy Director for Students Affairs, Chiang Mai University Demonstration School
- Neeranuch Chaiwan, faculty secretary

After this initial contact, Dr Tongsookdee, Chair of the Special Needs Education Programme of the Faculty of Education, Chiang Mai University, has visited the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University two times as a Visiting Scholar to collaborate with research on Special Needs Education. She has collaborated with Professor Akihiro Satō, Professor Takagi and Associate Professor Batten from the faculty, during her two visits, between April and August 2017, and 15 April to 15 May 2018. The aim of the visits was to have consultations on the Special Education (Multiple Disabilities) Graduate Program and research studies. Dr Tongsookdee also visited various institutions focusing on Special Needs Education attached to Kagawa University, the attached Special Needs School and the Subaru Special Needs consultation facility, as well as the faculties' elementary and junior high schools. A main focus of her interest in Special Needs Education in Japan has been the functions, organization of, and utilization of the Resource Rooms, for teaching students with learning disabilities; as well as the consultant role of the resource teacher. Joint research in collaboration with Professor Akihiro Satō, Professor Yumiko Takagi and Associate Professor Paul Batten on Special Needs Education is continuing. Dr Tongsookdee has also published an academic article based on her collaborative research.



15 July 2014. Courtesy call to the Faculty of Education. The Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr. Pongsak Pankaew, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Shin'ichi Yamagami, together with Dr Ratchaneekorn Tongsookdee (beside her dean) .

In addition to the joint research with the Regional Centre for Social Science and development of student exchange programmes, discussions are on-going between the Faculty of Education and the

various faculties and RCSD Centre at Chiang Mai concerning ways to improve cultural exchanges based on the International Exchange Agreement and promote further collaborative research projects.

## **5. Closing Comments**

The above is a summary of the development of exchanges between the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University, which have included joint symposia, student exchanges and research collaboration. Finally, we present a summary of the prospects and ideas for the future. These exchanges with Chiang Mai University have provided the Faculty of Education with many invaluable opportunities. Chiang Mai University has a large number of humanities-related faculties, and this has enabled the teachers at the Faculty of Education at Kagawa University with many chances to conduct research exchange as there as many teachers with similar professional and research fields. Also, the attached schools are of a very high level. In addition, especially for students visiting Chiang Mai University for the Intercultural Exchange Programmes, a large number of their buddies have been of an excellent academic standard, and also very calm and kind, with an interest in Japan, and this makes Chiang Mai University an excellent university in Southeast Asia for our students. In addition, Chiang Mai is less humid than Bangkok and is relatively stable in terms of prices and politics, making it an excellent counterpart for conducting exchanges between Japan and Thailand.

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