

Vice-President messages



**Vice-President of Chiang Mai University
Associate Professor Rome Chiranukrom**

It is our great honor to organize The Trilateral Symposium on SDGs, together with Kagawa University and National Chiayi University. During this symposium, we have gained many fruitful and insightful inputs from the participants, which I am confident will lead to further collaboration between our institutes. I am also delighted to see the connections grow and new friendships created.

In this symposium we have learnt more about SDGs and COVID-19 from different perspectives through the impressive presentations. It must be challenging to learn new tools online, but I believe this symposium has given all participants valuable skills that can be further applied.

Even though this year the situation only allowed us to meet online, I feel this symposium was very successful and I hope that next time we can meet face-to-face and exchange more ideas.

On behalf of Chiang Mai University, it is an honor to be a part of this symposium and I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Tokuda Masaaki and Prof. Der-Ching Yang for their valuable contributions, and to thank all the staff and students for working very hard during these past months in making this event possible.

Thank you.





Vice-President of National Chiayi University
Professor Chishih Chu

First of all, I would like to thank the engaged faculties, staffs and students for all of their enthusiasm, hard work and preparation. It is our great honor to participate in the Trilateral Symposium on SDGs Student Sub-sessions. I would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the joint efforts of all the participating group supervisors, and our most cordial congratulations to the success of this event. It presents a great teamwork among the faculties, staffs, and students of the three universities, Chiang Mai University (Thailand), National Chiayi University (Taiwan) and Kagawa University (Japan). The symposium has fully attained its two aims which are to provide opportunities for young researchers and educators to introduce research work and build future partnership; and to provide opportunities for students to get to know each other.



We would also like to acknowledge efforts CMU and KU have been made on specific SDGs targets from the symposium. We have had very rich discussions during the session. This event is proof that each of us brings something unique to the table. The student sub-session provides the students of the three universities a great opportunity to engage in the crucial issues of SDGs, and gain cross cultural experience through the virtual group meetings. We are also inspired by the national experiences and innovative practices on SDG implementation shared by CMU and KU. NCYU looks forward to pushing for cooperative projects with all of you to contribute for a better environment.

Due to everyone's efforts and participation it has been an unforgettable experience, and I hope today that will be one of meaningful and happy memories for all of you. I firmly believe that the closing of this symposium is not an end, but a new era for future cooperation to make our effective themes beneficial to sustainable development. Finally, thank you all again and may you be blessed with happiness and joy! We look forward to meeting you in Chiayi again soon. Thank you all!



Vice-President of Kagawa University
Professor Masaaki Tokuda

I am extremely happy that we, Kagawa University, could host “the 1st Trilateral Symposium on SDGs” as a symbol of the friendly and tight partnership of the three universities, Chiang Mai University (Thailand), National Chiayi University (Taiwan) and Kagawa University (Japan).

In October 2019, the initial idea to have trilateral symposium was discussed with Vice-President Rome Chiranukrom, Vice-President Chishih Chu and Vice-President Ikuo Kataoka in Chiayi on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of National Chiayi University. Then, in January 2020, when Vice-President Rome Chiranukrom, Vice-President Chishih Chu and myself met in Chiang Mai on the 55th Anniversary Celebration of Chiang Mai University, we confirmed our intention to hold the Trilateral Symposium in Kagawa in 2020 hosted by Kagawa University to strengthen our collaborative activities. Unfortunately, it had to be postponed due to COVID-19. At that time, we also made an agreement to clarify that the three universities would work together for SDGs.



SDGs is our common commitment. Universities have vital roles to play in addressing these critical global challenges and achieving SDGs. Universities have a responsibility through their teaching to equip the next generation of leaders, innovators, and thinkers to understand the global challenges facing the world and the role they can play in rising to meet these challenges. Through their research and training of research leaders, universities are at the forefront of finding sustainable social, economic, environmental and technical solutions to global problems. Furthermore, universities can pioneer innovation through their activities.

We have already had successful collaborations, some of which are closely related to SDGs, and through this Trilateral Symposium, we will be able to develop a greater number of international collaborations in research and education and also will contribute to the regional and global societies through our collaboration.

The 2 main aims of the Trilateral Symposium are to:

1. provide opportunities for next generation researches and educators to introduce activities and start collaboration, and
2. provide opportunities for our students to get to know each other, and to develop networks and friendships to study together and work together.

Based upon our agreement to focus on SDGs, we establish four core areas; namely “Sustainability and Food”, “Sustainability and Health”, “Sustainability and Technology” and “Sustainability and Society”. In this way, multi-disciplinary discussions can be encouraged and stimulated.

I am very happy to know that the all four sessions were successfully held through the

efforts of the organizers of the three universities and that attendees have already found many seeds for collaboration. The Kagawa University International Office has raised funding to support these seeds to let them sprout, grow and bloom in the future.

I have retired as the Vice-President for International Affairs end of September, and it was my great and unforgettable memory to have had the 1st Trilateral Symposium on SDGs as one of my last duties. My great appreciation to Vice-President Professor Der-Ching Yang and Vice-President Chishih Chu of National Chiayi University, Vice-President Associate Professor Rome Chiranukrom and Vice President Associate Professor Sampan Singharajwarapan of Chiang Mai University and all staff of the three universities who worked with us to make this 1st symposium in reality.

My warmest wishes for a prosperous future for the three universities and for each of you.