

Study visit to Mahidol University as the initial plan for research collaboration

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圖：At Siriraj Medical Library



圖：Cultural sightseeing

Introduction

National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) is a high-rank university in the world and one of the top ones in Taiwan. As a scientific university, NCKU commits to keep implement and develop academic and research atmosphere among the faculty and students. NCKU has a program called “surf project” which aims to cultivate global cross-border talents, enhance the international mobility of doctoral students, and promote the international cooperation and talent cultivation of the school. In this doctoral students study abroad (surf project) program, doctoral students are encouraged to find a good world-ranked university around the world, including those in Asia, for finishing the project.

Mahidol University is one of the high-rank universities in the world and one of the top ones in Thailand. It has a good relationship and collaboration with NCKU. It also is a member of the Presidents' Forum of Southeast Asia and Taiwan Universities (SATU Presidents' Forum) which shares the same vision with NCKU in regards to education. Specifically, the Faculty of Nursing in Mahidol has a research center and experts on HIV care. It is relevant to my research interest which could be beneficial in conducting a research

collaboration with NCKU.

Objective

The aims of this project were:

- 1.To identify general condition related to academic and research atmosphere
- 2.To learn some new things regarding research development and collaboration
- 3.To identify some key points related to HIV care in clinical and community setting for a further project collaboration

Setting and attendees

This project was conducted at Mahidol University, Thailand. The period was from November 29 to December 29, 2019.

Activities and lessons learned

Clinical visit to Siriraj Hospital

The activities were started by clinical visits to Siriraj Hospital which included maternal, infectious, medical, and orthopedic units. In the maternal unit, I was introduced about the HIV screening system for women and pregnant women in terms of the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) program as recommended by WHO. There was also a subunit focus on teenagers to educate them about healthy sexual behaviors to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infectious diseases.

In the infection unit, I was introduced about the infection control in Siriraj hospital which looks similar to National Cheng Kung University Hospital. I also joined a class about infection control together with other nurse specialists in infection.

The next was to visit the isolation ward, which is a medical unit. I also discussed the possible collaboration between NCKU and Mahidol University, especially in the HIV field.

Community visit to HIV Community Centre

The other visit was an HIV community center visit. I saw a good model of HIV community care there. The community nurses and the volunteers work together in handling the HIV patients in the community. This program focusses on establishing a good family and community support for HIV patients. Therefore, they can live healthy as normal people do. The referral system also runs well in which the reference hospital will take care of the patients based on the reports from the clinic. The documentation used the online service in which the data from the remote areas can be assessed as well from the hospital centers.

Community Visit to Mahidol Elderly Club



圖：At the Medical Museum

In this visit, I was invited to join the elderly club around the dormitory. It is still under Mahidol University. I met many energetic and healthy old people. We practiced Thailand exercises and shared afterward. The club is well managed and has many various activities each day.

Sightseeing of Bangkok

At last, I had an opportunity to have a city tour of Bangkok. I saw some cultural sites such as The Grand Palace Bangkok, Wat Phra Kaew, and Wat Pho (TBA). These sites show the face of Bangkok as a country with its own characteristics.

Suggestions

Based on the program that I have run, there are some suggestions for NCKU:

1. Increasing field trips to help strengthen the community health system in Taiwan. It can be initiated by sending some faculty members and students to see the system run in other Asian countries. Then, students can have a deep comparison of the systems.
2. Building more collaborative projects between NCKU and Mahidol University, especially Thailand also is recognized as a good country that has been establishing a good HIV system as Taiwan does.
3. Implementing community health system courses for medical-related field students.

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