

Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers
Japan-ASEAN Collaboration Research Program on Innovative Humanosphere in Southeast Asia:
In search of Wisdom toward Compatibility Growth and Community in the World

Report

Period of invitation: December 14-16, 2016

Host: Department of Global Health and Socio-epidemiology, Kyoto University School of Public Health

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Activity report:

I was introduced to Dr. Patou Masika Musumari during his visit at Chiang Mai University in 2015 when he was a visiting professor from Kyoto University. He presented his study on food security in his country. Later we have worked together on the paper namely “Patterns of Sexual Behavior in Lowland Thai Youth and Ethnic Minorities Attending High School in Rural Chiang Mai, Thailand” that has already been published in PLOS one. Being invited to join the International Workshop entitled “The Japan-ASEAN Collaborative Research Program on Innovative Humanosphere in Southeast Asia: In Search of Wisdom toward Compatibility Growth and Community in the World”, I have learned a lot of novel information from different studies. The lecture by professors from Kyoto University allowed me to understand what hybrid growth is about, and how it is related to our lives. Other topics presented in the workshop were also interesting including the behavioral economics for human health issues, and E-health. As a medical physician, the morning session was quite interesting to me. I could see how medical knowledge and external world are correlated, and they have to be developed concomitantly to order to improve quality of daily living and preserve the nature/environment as much as possible. The afternoon sessions “Revitalizing nature” and “Peaceful society” have confirmed my opinion. I have a great opportunity to learn how human life, forest, and other creatures were in our neighboring countries. We have much similar nature, but in very limited circumstance that we have a chance to share and discussion on lessons learnt from research studies in each setting. During the workshop I have met many active researchers from various places, and we exchanged our point of view on several issues.

Being back to my home in Northern Thailand, I continue my job. My current responsibility is related to HIV-infected population including pregnant women, infants, children, and youth. We conduct studies in this population to establish novel information on clinical management, novel antiretroviral agents/ treatment strategies, and long term complication of HIV/AIDS. Lesson learnt from this short trip to Japan made me realized that we should rather expand the scope of our study in order to address significant related social issues than just focus on the diseases. My next research title is “Assessment of risk behaviors, and mental health of perinatally HIV-infected youth”. With the aim to determine factors affected quality of life, and mental health of this population compared to healthy HIV uninfected youth. We plan to apply for funding to perform the study in Chiang Mai and neighboring provinces in 2017.