

APACPH Bangkok Regional Office Report

October 2013 to October 2014

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During the time between the APACPH conference in Wuhan University last year and October 2014, we at the Bangkok Regional Office have performed various activities jointly to enhance our affiliations with member institutes as following:

Short Course Training

Short-Course Training courses can be conducted for two days, or if time permits, for up to two weeks. They allow Thai or visiting students to take the opportunity to focus on a wide range of topics associated with public health issues.

A brief look at recent courses can be found below:

1. 19-31 May, 2014

Short course for medical students “Health and Disease in Thailand” Course included field work.

Ten students from University of Wisconsin in the U.S.A. attended.

2. 15-16 July 2014

Eight students from Ministry of Public Health, Bangladesh studied “Health System Management in Thailand”.

3. 27 June-2 July

Eight officers from Ministry of Health Bangladesh attended “Quality Health Management in Thailand”.

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

All the opportunities outlined or later identified under the auspices of our agreements are designed to respect and conform to the existing norms, regulations and institutional standards.

- Memorandum of Agreement with Wuhan University, PR China signed 28 October 2013
- Memorandum of Agreement with Kent State University signed 31 January 2014
- Memorandum of Agreement with University of Malaya signed 13 February 2014
- Memorandum of Agreement with STIKES Bali University, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
- Memorandum of Agreement with Hanoi School of Public Health signed 22 April 2014

It is in this spirit of international collaboration that we are looking forward to attending the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health. The 46th annual convention of the organization will be held from 17th – 19th October, and is expecting between 500 and 600 attendees. This event takes on additional significance as APACPH has begun to exercise increasing influence throughout the world in the past year.

Visiting Scholars

Visiting Faculty

Faculty members are often encouraged to serve as lecturers, directors or consultants at a partner institution. These opportunities may be initiated by invitation of the host institution or by a faculty representative interested in participating in one or more of these excursions. In the latter case, interest in such an exchange along with necessary supporting credentials should be provided to the appropriate department chair. Formal invitations for the visit must be offered by the host institution. The length of the visit will be mutually determined but normally coincide with regular academic term(s) and must be approved by both institutions. Faculty will be provided appropriate academic appointment at the host institution for the period of visit.

Visiting Faculty during the period covered in this report included Professor Wah Yun Low - University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, 1 October – 31 December, 2013 and Professor Paul Ratanasiripong - University of California, Berkeley, 25 December, 2013 – 20 January, 2014, and Professor Ching-Tan Kuo – China Medical University – 3 August -27 August 2014.

Currently: Professor Susan Woskie – University of Massachusetts (Lowell), whose visit will extend from 4 September – 4 November, 2014.

Mahidol Student Exchange Program

With regard to Mahidol University's Faculty of Public Health Student Exchange Program, the overview includes a list of six major public health faculties, world-wide. Recent programs include:

Out-bound

- University of Malaysia – 2 February – 1 March, 2014 (5 graduate students)
- STIKES University - Bali 1 -29 March, 2014 (5 undergrad, 7 graduate students)
- Savannakhet Health Science College – Lao PDR – 19 March - 19 April, 2014
(25 undergrad, 5 graduate students)
- Hanoi School of Public Health – 21 April – 20 May, 2014 (18 undergrad students)
- University of Indonesia, Denpasar / Department of Public Health - 21 April – 20 May
(2 graduate students)
- China Medical University – Taiwan – 1 -30 July, 2014 (10 undergrad, 8 graduate students)
Three Faculty members (1 instructor and 2 assistants) also joined the contingent.

In-bound

- China Medical University – Taiwan

From August 3 to August 27, Mahidol's Faculty of Public Health hosted ten exchange students from China Medical University. Leading the contingent was Professor Ching Tang-Kuo, an accomplished educator who conducted most of his presentations in Japanese-quite impressive.

In meeting with some of those visiting, I got an idea of what the young people found most enjoyable about their time in Thailand. Apparently, Kanchanaburi made a big impression, as did a beachfront barbeque in Pattaya. Of course, Bangkok's Chinatown also made the list.

STIKES University, Bali, Indonesia - Twelve undergraduate students and Dr. I Gede Putu Darma Suyasa and Dr. Ida Bagus Maha Gandamayu (instructors), arrived on 13 September from STIKES University in Bali; they will stay until 2 October, 2014.

Dean and Leaders of Public Health Education Institute Meeting

The Global Health Forum among Schools of Public Health in Asia: Collaborating and Cooperating Effectively Country-to-Country 1-2 June 2014

The Global Health Forum among Schools of Public Health in Asia: Collaborating and Cooperating Effectively Country-to-Country, took place on the 1st & 2nd of June. The countries that participated in the forum included: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Participants were the host, Associate Professor Dr. Phitaya Charupoonphol, APACPH President, the FPH Deputy Deans, Department Heads, faculty members, and 3 Ph.D. students; in total there were 27 participants. Two keynote addresses were presented. The first keynote address was presented by Professor Dr. Samlee Pliangbangchang, Emeritus Regional Director, WHO SEARO. The second keynote address was given by Professor Rajitha Wickremasinghe, SEAPHEIN President. After the keynote addresses, the participants from each country presented the current situation of public health education in their countries and afterwards had an open discussion on how to prepare the public health education for the AEC 2015 in the aspects of curricula, exchange, and research. At the end of the meeting, the Declaration of Public Health Education in Asia was approved by the Dean and public health leaders of represented ASEAN countries.

During the period covered by this report, the FPHMU added four agreements to a combined total of 31 agreements with universities around the world.

Aware of the implicit benefits of collaboration between Mahidol and other institutions, FPHMU has attempted to expand affiliations and to create more detailed agreements related to inter-institutional opportunities for staff, students, faculty and graduates. It is the intent of these agreements to outline a range of opportunities, allowing for the possibility to add other activities later.