

# Progressive educational collaboration in Asia Pacific region



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

**Fig. 1** Vice-Dean Dr Lertrit Sarinnaphakorn welcoming guests to the MoU signing ceremony.

**Figs. 2-4** The MoU signing ceremony.

**Fig. 5** A group photograph of the MoU partners after the seminar at VIE Hotel Bangkok on the evening of 26 August.

**Figs. 6-9** Photographs during the seminar.

On 26 August 2013, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed that officially launched an international joint project to establish the MICD and TMJA Harmony International Training and Treatment Center at the Faculty of Dentistry of Thammasat University.

The progressive international collaboration in the field of dentistry was initiated between Thammasat University, a private training institute and three dental manufacturers to establish an advanced international training centre. This is a unique collaboration in the sense that three major sectors of dentistry (education, clinical and manufacturing) have come together to promote knowledge, skills and attitudes to enhance quality, healthy, comprehensive dentistry in the Asia Pacific region.

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The Faculty of Dentistry of Thammasat University and the Vedic Institute of Smile Aesthetics (VISA) in Nepal from the education sector and Tekscan in the USA, SHOFU Dental Asia-Pacific in Singapore and Bio-Research Associates in the USA from the dental industry have joined hands to offer international skill-based training, research, publication and global networking in the field of minimally invasive cosmetic dentistry (MICD) and teeth, muscles, joint and airway (TMJA) harmony (occlusion, temporomandibular joint dysfunction and dental sleep medicine) dentistry.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

It is hoped that this unique model of partnership between a university, private educational institute and the dental industry will be very successful in clinical dental education and of benefit to both practitioners and patients.

The MoU was signed by Acting Dean Prof. Tipawan Techanitiswad on behalf of Thammasat University, President of VISA Dr Sushil Koirala, Managing Director of SHOFU Dental Asia-Pacific Patrick Loke, Vice-President of Bio-Research Associates Greg Kamyszek and International Sales Manager at Tekscan Philip Gorski.

The agreement has four fundamental areas of collaboration between the concerned parties:

1. the development of an international training centre for education and treatment in advanced dentistry;
2. the introduction of MiCD and TMJA harmony dentistry as clinical concepts and protocols in this international training centre;
3. the creation of certified MiCD and TMJA harmony skill-based training programmes to train clinicians and academics in the Asia Pacific region; and
4. the development of collaborative research activities and scientific publications on MiCD and TMJA harmony dentistry.

In his speech at the MoU signing ceremony, Dr Koirala, originator of the concepts and protocols of MiCD and TMJA harmony dentistry, expressed his sincere gratitude to all those who had put in their utmost efforts and extended their full support to make this international collaboration possible and expressed the hope that the centre will truly promote the concepts and protocols of MiCD and TMJA harmony dentistry through skill-based, well-structured training programmes at the centre, which will help clinicians to achieve the best clinical results with minimal biological cost and high patient satisfaction.

Dr Koirala explained that his group had decided to establish the international training centre at Thammasat University because it is centrally located in Asia and meets all the requirements for advanced dental training, such as the progressive and collaborative attitudes of university management and faculties, and modern dental equipment with all the necessary infrastructure and facilities. In addition, the institution embodies the deeply rooted Thai culture of good hospitality, and Thailand boasts a well-established reputation as a popular tourist destination in Asia.

During their speeches at the MoU signing ceremony, all the other collaborative partners expressed their pleasure at the centre being housed at the Faculty of Dentistry of Thammasat University and assured their support of the project to establish a truly international training centre in the region.

At the brief meeting held after the MoU signing ceremony, it was decided that the official inauguration of the MiCD and TMJA Harmony International Training and Treatment Center will be held on 21 February 2014 during the faculty's 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and that the first official international training programme on TMJA harmony dentistry will run from 28 April to 2 May 2014.

An auspicious seminar, organised by the Faculty of Dentistry of Thammasat University, was held on the evening of 26 August at VIE Hotel Bangkok. The guest speaker, Dr Koirala, highlighted the aims and objectives of the project during his lecture. Dr Koirala and Vice-Dean Dr Lertrit Sarinnaphakorn explained the details about the centre and called for all dental professionals (academics and clinicians) in Thailand to join hands in the mission of sharing knowledge and skills for better patient care and professional unity. The seminar was chaired by Dr Rajapas Panichuttra, President of the Thai Association of Dental Implantology.