

Our Achievement in 2013

This year, all members of International Affairs Division have devoted themselves to follow the path of internationalization defined in the university development policy and based on the motto “the Spirit of Development towards the Global Society”.

In 2013, Kasetsart University was an attractive university to be visited by guests of honor, namely, 1) H.E. Mr. Thierry Viteau, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, the French Embassy, 2) H.E. Mr. Rudi Veestraeten, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, the Embassy of Belgium, 3) H.E. Mr. Javier Andres BECKER-MARSHALL, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, the Embassy of the Republic of Chile, and 4) H.E. Siripala de Silva, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Delegations from respective partners also paid a visit to Kasetsart University such as University of Montpellier II, China Agricultural University, University of North Texas, Asia University, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Oregon State University, University of Indonesia, Shinshu University, Shizuoka University, Delaware Environmental Institute, Morinaga Institute of Biological Science, Ciputra University, Lincoln University, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, Gifu University, AUF, CIRAD, DFG, and IRD.

This year, Kasetsart University has established academic cooperation with several universities in Turkey so as to participate in the Mevlana Project Protocol Program. Under this project Kasetsart University should be able to send her faculty members to pay a visit to universities in Turkey as visiting professor while her students will be allowed to apply to become exchange students while both professors and students would be warmly welcomed to Kasetsart University. This programme is supported by the government of Turkey. The other collaborative program is the Signing Ceremony of Letter of Intent with Harris Manchester College which is emphasized on Student and Staff Mobility and Potential Development.

Besides, with the goals to strengthen academic collaboration with foreign universities, under the assistance of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok, Kasetsart University has developed and initiated activities with Indonesian universities. This year, Kasetsart University has opportunities to welcomed faculty members and students from Indonesia to our Bangkhen Campus and Kamphaeng Saen Campus for their technical visits. The other new partners from Europe is University of Liège, Belgium, that the collaborative agreement was officially signed in presence of HRH. Crown Prince Philippe of Belgium during his official visit to Thailand in March 2013.

Since Kasetsart University has maintained academic collaboration agreements with more than 300 partners worldwide, Kasetsart University has been working with them bilaterally and multilaterally. The KU-Kyoto Student Exchange Program 2013 was continually conducted under the cooperation of Kasetsart University and Kyoto University. Moreover, both universities jointly initiated a project on Double Degree Programs in agricultural science.

As a national research university, Kasetsart University has been working with international partners in research. A case in this point is that Kasetsart University has maintained 4 research projects under the support of the Royal Thai Government and the French Government, namely, 1) Towards the Improvement of the Rubber Tree Productivity, 2) Periurban Agricultural Research Program, 3) Mammalian Trypanosomes in Thailand, and 4) Dengue and Mammalian Trypanosomes in Thailand: Vector Control Strategies and Prevention of Human Vector Contact in Thailand while the other three projects are supported under the Franco-Thai Cooperation Program in Higher Education and Research 2013, namely, 1) Valorization of stabilized and Recycled Natural Rubber (NR) and Blends of NR / Hydrogenated Acrylonitrile and Frictional Properties, 2) Characterization of Pyrethroid Resistance Mechanisms in the Dengue Vector *Aedes Aegypti* in Thailand, and 3) Defense Response of Lepidoptera against Thai botanical pesticides, Entomopathogens and Parasitoids of a Crosstalk between the Pathway of Immunity and that of Detoxification.

There are three special international events this year. First, the ASEAN Veterinary Volunteer Project organized during the period of April 29-May 21, 2013, aiming to provide an international platform for ASEAN students to meet and share their ideas and experiences in Veterinary Science. Second, Kasetsart University together with Chulalongkorn University in association with Nagoya University hosted the AC21 International Graduate Summer School (AC21 IGSS) which is an international gathering allowing graduate students from members of AC 21, approximately 100 participants, to have a meeting, to attend lectures from outstanding scientists and scholars, to do class assignment in teams and to have group presentations as well as to have a field trip to Toyota Motor Site in Ban Pho, Chachengsao province. Third, the EXPERTS4Asia Kick-off Meeting together with the EXPERTS Promotion session was held to provide information for those who are interested in applying for this scholarship.

Regarding the multilateral cooperation, this year, Kasetsart University hosted the 24th University Consortium Meeting in Bangkhen Campus. Several issues were discussed, especially, Student Mobility and Staff Mobility Programs including the possibility to initiate any Double Degree Program supported by SEARCA.

Once again, in 2013, Kasetsart University has received fellowships and scholarships from her partner universities for capacity building of her students to augment their international experience in Korea, Japan, P.R. of China, and Taiwan. Our students succeeded in funding competition in Technological Grant by Austria, and University Consortium Faculty and Student Grants while our members awarded scholarships from Japan, Israel, P.R. of China, Taiwan, and Egypt. "EXPERTS", an ERASMUS MUNDUS Program, is still a source of funds for both Kasetsart University and other universities in Thailand. As a coordinator in Thailand, International Affairs Division sets up a team of EXPERTS to conduct special seminars on the Preparation for Applying this Fellowship for universities in Thailand upon request while the EXPERTS Clinic is organized after the Office Hour at the division aiming to have more qualified candidates from Thailand.

As internationalization is one of our development policies, International Affairs Division has been designated to be responsible for the program entitled "Capacity Building for Kasetsart University towards the Internationalization". This program provides full financial support to both undergraduate and graduate students to go abroad to spend at least one semester in our partner universities to enroll, study and transfer their credits back or to conduct researches which are part of their theses and dissertations. This program also encourages faculties to welcome foreign students from their respective universities for studying and credit transferring or doing research.

Publication and database management are still our responsibility. Non See Newsletter, a monthly newsletter, was published and disseminated to reveal international activities of Kasetsart University. A new "Mini Knowledge of the Land", a bilingual publication, provides a concise information of Kasetsart University, particularly, the information about International and English programs offered in each campus which will be beneficial for foreign students.

International Affairs Division always pays more attention on human resource development in spite of the budget limitation. More than 90% of her members have joined several training program for their competency development so as to be ready for the tasks of the division in the midst of rapid change in international context.

The great achievement of Kasetsart University in the year 2013 is the result of the World University Ranking by QS World University Rankings 2013 that Kasetsart University was ranked 33rd in the world and 3rd in Asia in the areas of Agricultural Science and Forestry.