

Special article

ROLE OF FACULTY OF ASSOCIATED MEDICAL SCIENCES IN DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN THAILAND*

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Permit me, first of all, to say that I am deeply grateful to the faculties and Dean Imamiya and it is a really great honored to me to speak to everyone of you.

At first, I would like to introduce to you briefly about the Chiang Mai University (CMU). If you have a chance to go to Chiang Mai, and going up to the top of Suthep Hill or Doi Suthep. From bird's eye view you can see the outstanding location of the Chiang Mai University. Established as the first provincial university in Thailand outside the capital city, Chiang Mai University's mandate is to extend higher education into all the provinces of the north. Since its finding in 1964, the University has become one of the largest and most respect academic institutions in the country.

The beautiful landscape with

natural surroundings of the campus covering an area of 725 acres have been much admired by all visitors. We usually separate the area into two campuses. On the eastside is Suan Dok campus of health sciences faculties and the main campus on the west. Located at the foot of Suthep Hill in the Muang district of Chiang Mai, four kilometers from the central marketplace, it lies between two parallel primary roads. Huay Kaew on the north and Suthep on the South. The campus is traversed by five streams winding in and out among the foothills. The university has a large reservoir, Ang-Kaew, serving as the source of water for the university community

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and as the recreational area for campus residents and visitors.

At present, the university has 12 faculties which can be divided into three academic areas.

Faculties in Social Sciences :

- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Fine Arts
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Social Sciences

Faculties in Sciences and Technology :

- Faculty of Agriculture
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Sciences

Faculties in Health Sciences :

- Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences
- Faculty of Dentistry
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Nursing
- Faculty of Pharmacy

The University also has a Graduate School responsible for the administration of all graduate courses at the master and doctoral levels.

In addition to the teaching faculties, three research institutes provide support in their respective areas :

- The Research Institute for Health Sciences
- Social Research Institute and
- Institute for Science and Technology Research and Development

Other academic support is provided by the CMU Computer Sciences, Central Library, CMU Academic Publishing Center, Center for the Promotion of Arts and Cultures and the Multiple Cropping Center.

The total number of students in 1990 is 12,168 in which the number of undergraduate students is 11,040 (90.73%) the number of graduate students is 1,054 (8.66%) and the number of the students studying for a diploma is 74 (0.61%). Around 49 percent of the students would live in campus housing and learn how to share their lives so as to become better citizens in the future.

In 1966, Faculty of Medicine, founded the Department of Medical Technology and developed the project of the establishment of Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences in order to produce health personnels to provide services to society, particularly in the northern region.

The Ministry of University Affairs has approved this project and granted a charter the establishment of the Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences as a Happy New Year present in January 1, 1976.

The first operation study program was Medical Technology, the other three study programs of Radiologic Technology, Occupa-

pational Therapy and Physical Therapy were operated later on.

AREA OF STUDY

The faculty provides four study programs for undergraduate level. Only the program in Medical Technology that included four departments, they are Department of Clinical Microscopy, Clinical Chemistry, Clinical Microbiology and Clinical Immunology. The other three study programs, only one department was operated for each of them.

In the next year the diploma program in medical rehabilitation and the graduate program for master degree in medical technology will be provided. The graduate program of graduate diploma in hematology, clinical microscopy and clinical physical therapy will be provided in 1992.

STUDENTS

In the academic year of 1990, the total number of undergraduate students are 459. The greatest number is the students in medical technology program.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The operation and administration of the faculty have been divided into various sections. Each section is under the responsibility of each committee. As a result, all activities can be carried on efficiently and effectively according to the administrative policy and

objectives of the faculty. In addition, the committee has also an important role in the advancement of the faculty as a whole.

MAIN FUNCTION

The faculty established four main functions along with the policy of the university, that is :

1. To produce quality graduates
2. To encourage basic and applied research
3. To provide academic services to public
4. To perpetuate and promote arts and Thai culture especially Northern Thai or Lanna Thai Culture

Since the faculty of Associated Medical Sciences has been founded, the development in academic activities have been proceeded continuously and systemically. The accumulation of academic experiences and personnels in various programs as well as modern equipment has made the provision of academic affairs reached the same standard as other academic institutions both inside and outside the country.

Instructional and academic support is one of the primary responsibility of the faculty. It is realized that quality and competence of graduates depend not only on the persistence of the students themselves but also on the administration and management of the

related supporting activities within and outside of the faculty. With full cooperation of various departments, the faculty always tries to promote and improve such activities. Courses are modified, developed and amended to fit the present development in health sciences and also correspond to the present situation and national needs, while ethics and virtue are also emphasized.

We have 71 academic personnels and 91 supporting personnels in accomplishing of our instructional and academic support.

Fifty percent of students who passes the entrance examination are the Northern Regional Quota. These students come from secondary schools in 17 northern regional provinces. From this policy, in each academic year, our faculty will have 50% of new enrollments at undergraduate level from northern area. Hoping that after their graduation, they can get back to their hometown to develop their better health sciences society.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Research activities of the faculty has been interested and supported by the government and nongovernment sectors both in Thailand and foreign countries. Due to the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan (1987-1991),

the Thai Government has set up a policy to develop the country and to raise quality of life of the people by using knowledge in the area of health sciences.

Presently, the faculty has organized activities which will help the research expansion within the faculty by giving information about preparing research proposals for submitting to different funding agencies from internal and external financial resources of the university and also from foriegn countries. Consequently, a number of proposals were submitted with success.

The financial resources supported the research projects of the faculty were from :

- The grant of Chiang Mai University
- The grant from the Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences
- The National Research Council grant
- Foundation
- USAID

Most of research projects from the faculty were emphasized on the area which can be improve public health in the provincial areas to decrease morbidity and mortality rates of the people. A major problem in the rural areas is poor condition. Controlling of the infectious diseases and malnutrition prevalent in most of our population is necessary. Agricultural produc-

tivity is seriously hampered by poor health of the rural masses, the main human resource for economic development in our society.

Principally, research projects carried out by researchers of the faculty were emphasized on four main areas, they are :

1. **Non-infectious diseases** : including G-6-PD deficiency, anemia especially thalassemia, nutritional anemia and iron deficiency anemia, abnormal hemoglobins.
2. **Infectious disease** : including tuberculosis, leprosy, diphtheria, tetanus, malaria, hepatitis and sexual transmitted diseases.
3. **Nutritional and genetic factors** : on the serum cholesterol, triglycerides and vitamin E in northern Thais.
4. **Quality control products** : mostly in the field of clinical chemistry with the purpose to improve the quality control standards of the hospital laboratories in the northern areas.

ACADEMIC SERVICES TO PUBLIC

The faculty of Associated Medical Sciences provides academic services to public with emphasis on the distribution of knowledge to the community at various levels in order to serve their needs and to help solving their problems. Continuing education in the form of

seminars, workshops and training courses, is classified as one of the major categories of our services to the community. In the recent years, the faculty and its departments aiming at transferring knowledge to school and college teachers, scientists, health sciences personnels.

Many of the activities are organized consecutively in the last few years, for example :

1. Recent Advances in Hematology, Urinalysis and Body Fluids.
2. Laboratory services in clinical microscopy, clinical chemistry, clinical microbiology and clinical immunology
3. Consultation rehabilitation and treatment for physical dysfunction patients
4. Cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine in providing services to patients in the field of radiologic technology.

PROMOTE ARTS AND THAI CULTURES

The faculty of Associated Medical Sciences played a role in perpetuate and promote arts and Thai culture, especially Lanna Thai or Northern Thai culture. These activities including :

- Songkran, or Thai New Year, is regarded by all Thais as one of their most important festivals. Each year, on April 13, Phra Buddha

Sihing and other important Buddha images are led in procession throughout Chiang Mai City. This is a long practiced community event in which Chiang Mai University always participates.

- Performed the Dhevo-Rohana alms-giving ceremony to mark the end of Buddhist lent. The ceremony takes place in front of the faculty of Engineering and Fai Hin Temple near the University.

- Loi Krathong, Chiang Mai University submits a float in the contest organized by Chiang Mai Municipality. The float shown in this slide won the first prize under the creativity category.

- Participate in Chiang Mai Flower Festival, which was performed annually by the Chiang Mai Municipality.

- Initiation ceremony for First Year Students. The initiation ceremony is held every year as a tradition welcome newly enrolled students. An important part of the ceremony involves first year students walking up Doi Suthep to pay homage to the Buddha relics enshrined at Doi Suthep temple.

The most exciting event for our graduates on the 24th of January in every year is the Commencement Ceremony. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej graciously presided over this official ceremony.

At this point, I would like to

say that Chiang Mai University is the first University established outside of Bangkok in line with the state policy and wishes of the people in Northern Thailand as the center of academics and high level professions serving both the region and the nation as a whole.

The University is the place whereby knowledge is sought, researched, accumulated and disseminated on the principle of academic freedom. Its underlying goals are the attainment of truth and virtue academic excellence and the promotion, application and dissemination of arts and Thai culture.

It is our faculty's dignity to play a role in development of Northern Thailand. The highest ambition of the faculty of Associated Medical Sciences is educated students to be qualified graduates and sent out to the world and they are accomplishing our original purposes, that is our graduates must constantly be self-trained, deep in their subject areas, well-sounded, critically minded, yet practical. They must be able in control of themselves, their work and, at the same time, on good terms with others; and with conscience and social realization.

At present, Most of our graduates were employed in the private sector, because of the available

job in government sector are fixed in increasing rate at two percent annually. So the employment in this sector is only 33.33 percent. 9.36 percent of our graduates were self-employed mostly in the northern area and 8.33 percent enrolled in the graduate school.

Within the Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (1992-1996), the Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences developed the project of establishment of the Center of Health Sciences Service for Northern Thailand. At the beginning, the services will be within the four areas provided by the faculty, they are Medical Technology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Radiologic Technology. The concept of the project is to expand more health services to the rural areas. Most of the financial support for this project are from the government budget. If the accomplishment of this project comes true, we would play more role in development of northern Thailand. In my opinion, I hope that this project will be rewarded with successes through the close cooperation of researchers and government officials of both countries and that it will further contribute to the friendship between our nations.

In this connection, I would like to express our deep appreciation, on behalf of the Faculty of Associated Medical Sciences, Chiang Mai University, to the School of Hygienic Sciences, Kitasato University in her support to make this program successful.

I, finally, would like to invite you all to come to visit us in Chiang Mai. You will have a very pleasant time in a beautiful part of Thailand while staying there, I guaranteed. Thank you very much for your attention.

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