

Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University

Research advisor / Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine and Life Science,
Professor HATAI Kishio

Former international student / Dr. Sompoth Weerakhun (Thailand)

◆Profile (Former international student)◆

Nationality: Thailand

Educational Background in Japan:

April 2004 – March 2008

Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine and Life Science (Doctor)

Present Institution / Status:

Khon Kaen University/ Lecturer



Guidance of an experimental infection
Professor emeritus HATAI (left) and
Dr. Sompoth Weerakhun (right)

◆Follow-up Research Fellowship◆

Period: February 28, 2010 – March 8, 2010 (9 days)

Institution: Khon Kaen University

Field of Research Guidance: Studies on fungal diseases of aquatic animals

◆Research advisor's Impressions for the former International student while studying in Japan◆

He was a teacher (veterinary doctor) at the faculty of veterinary medicine, and I accepted him as a doctorate course student because he succeeded to receive Thai government scholarship. Before that our university began to exchange students based on the agreement between Khon Kaen University, and I had already accepted two researchers from the university so we exchanged our information about collaboration research there.

My first impression of him was that he was such a quiet and diligent youth and also he was so shy that I was afraid of him unable to conduct research in the doctorate course. I might have felt so because he couldn't speak Japanese. However, in my laboratory there were some foreign students from Thai and Vietnam, and though it was a brief period, some researchers and students from foreign countries moved in my laboratory, so he adapted himself to new surroundings such as conducting research in my laboratory.

He conducted research mainly in the field of wild animal and exotic animals in Thai but fortunately we could immediately deal with a disease of a germ which is common in human and fish, because of incidence at the cultivated yellowtail, just after he came to Japan.

Additionally, he began to try to communicate with Japanese students, and especially in his latter lives in doctorate course he loved public bath and hot spring, and he used to go to a public bath because he couldn't keep up with a narrow bath tub in his apartment room. And he came to love Sushi and Sashimi so when I took him to Sushi restaurant he was very delighted. I took him to Thai restaurant or we enjoyed party with Thai dishes in my laboratory when he seemed to feel solitary to Thai.

◆Communication after studying in Japan◆

He could present some papers to Institution, but some remained as half done, so in order to complete these papers we exchanged e-mails many times and finally completed. Sometimes I have chances to go to Khon Kaen

University, and he always picks me up at the airport and takes me to the university. Also he and other researchers who took degree under my supervision offer me a room to conduct research, and when I collect materials for research they kindly accompany with me. The returnee students are looking forward to my visiting Khon Kaen University so much and they welcome me to the maximum and I think it is also my important base place to conduct research.

They also offers place for research when my students go to Khon Kaen University, and they kindly take care of them. I have planned and practiced ten-day study tour for our students visiting three sister Universities in Thailand (including Khon Kaen University) and every year I lead around 40 students. In the tour we visit Khon Kaen University for 3 days and they take care of our students sincerely and guide them to the university and take lectures. When he was a graduate student in my laboratory he cooperated me planning the tour.

◆Further Cooperation and Communication◆

The specialty for the returnee student is wild and exotic animal, and there are some interesting animals and diseases in Thailand which is not appeared in Japan. Some students in my university are interested in elephants or snakes and they hope to study about the diseases of such animals when they are undergraduate students, and he promised me to accept such students.

However, the facility of research is still not sufficient and some of the level of a research is behind Japan. Yet there are so much of interesting materials which can be object for a research that we can say they are the field in which Japanese can be interested. To conduct collaborative research with our university is so delightful for returnee student, I think.

This time I could make good results such as instruction which I had not completely done when he was in Japan, and I could reconfirm the full existence of materials which can be object for a research. Hereafter I hope JASSO to increase more opportunities like this and it is grateful for us to continue exchanges and cultivate relationships each other.

◆Further Cooperation between institutions◆

First of all, it's essential to conclude an agreement of academic exchange (MOU and General Agreement) for establishing cooperation system between each university. It makes international exchange for researchers and students more active.

To invite national fund and private fund overseas students willingly, it is necessary to place international office, enough numbers of dormitory and employ staffs who take charge of international affairs.

Not offering enough rooms against sister University's researchers who always be treated closely result in disturbing academic cooperation, and it's really pity of me as I've got preferential treatment ever when visiting foreign Universities. Each laboratory which invites them should be kind. Making their stay comfortable will reflect when we visit them. It's important for each institution to build reliable relationships and we have to prepare invitation system sufficiently for it.

Generally, we've concluded an agreement with developing countries in many cases, and there often occurred financial problems. To the best of my knowledge, researchers of developing countries have difficulty in keeping equal cooperate relations with us as they have no enough facilities and expenses for research, however, we can't afford to support them because similar circumstances we are experiencing in long term deep recession.

To make a breakthrough these situations, favorable supports from the government and JASSO are definitely needed.

◆**Impression of this program by Former International student**◆

I was confidentially working by supporting on the materials, methods, machines and high technology for Professor Kishio Hatai, who was my adviser when I studied for getting PhD in NVLU, Tokyo, under the follow-up research guidance of JASSO. The follow-up research guidance is also useful guarantee for high acceptance to publish the papers, improve the researchers and their countries.

JASSO program should be continued and progressed for cooperation between the countries and help developing countries, I believe that JASSO is also the one institute who can be helpful them.



Sampling of diseased fish at fish market



Keeping of donated media



Gold fish experimentally injected with bacteria using syringe



Tilapia stocked in aquarium at the fish market



Lecture to a former student and his students
Dr. Sompoth Weerakhun (right)