

The University of Tokyo  
Research advisor / Graduate School of Science  
Professor Takahumi Ishida  
Former international student / Dr. Vannarat Saechan (Thailand)

◆Profile (Former international student)◆

**Nationality:** Thailand

**Educational Background in Japan:**

April 2003 – September 2006

Graduate School of Science (Doctor)

**Present Institution / Status:**

Prince of Songkla University / Scientist



Professor Takahumi Ishida and Dr. Vannarat Saechan

◆Follow-up Research Fellowship◆

**Period:** September 30, 2009 – October 9, 2009 (9 days)

**Institution:** Prince of Songkla University

**Field of Research Guidance:** Anthropology

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

Since 1993 we, Unit of Human Biology and Genetics, University of Tokyo (UT), and Department of Pathology, Prince of Songkla University (PSU), have collaborated in the field of Medical Anthropology and Pathology under the JSPS Core-University Programme. Dr. Vannarat Saechan (Moi) was one of the members of this project. Even though she had a joyful experience of Japanese life for a couple of months before she started her PhD program in our laboratory, she seemed to have some hard time to adjust herself to the lifestyle in Japan as well as students' lifestyle. However, owing to her amiable personality she became an important member in the laboratory one year after. She took care the junior students and sometime she behaved herself more than a Japanese. When we did a fieldwork in Thailand, she helped us not only as a research member but a Thai-English-Japanese translator. We thus missed "Moi" so much when she finished her course study in 2006.

◆Communication after studying in Japan◆

As the JSPS Core-University Programme lasted until 2009 and I accepted one JSPS Ronpaku Fellow from Prince of Songkla University, I had several chances to visit PSU to see Moi after she had returned to Thailand. She was one of the Thai members of this JSPS program and took responsibility to study MHC; for this project she visited us for two months in 2008. Moi who loves Japan also visited us as a tourist in 2008 and 2009; the major purpose of the latter visit was to attend her Japanese friend's wedding ceremony. Of course, when she visited Japan as a tourist, she tried to find time to do some research in our laboratory.

### ◆Further Cooperation and Communication◆

The JSPS Core-University Programme has terminated in 2009; however, we still keep in touch and seek novel collaborations. In Thailand there is a movement to open new veterinary schools or faculties to cope with new emerging infectious diseases. PSU also launched to establish veterinary school and teaching staffs are wanted. Regarding Moi's research topics, there might be a chance to change affiliation and we may have novel collaborations. As I have several friends in Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Technology, and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, we now plan to get together to start collaborations that we can share data, our mutual interests and benefits. It should be most favorable if Moi will be awarded JASSO follow-up scholarship to visit University of Tokyo in the near future so that Moi can up-date her knowledge and techniques.

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

I would like to say thank you very much to the Follow-up Research Guidance program by JASSO. This program gave opportunity for me to meet my professor again in Thailand and made a discussion on our research project. In addition, I could consult with him about our new research on zoonotic diseases. This new research topic will give a chance to make collaboration between Thai-Japanese researchers. Finally, I hope JASSO will continue to support this program forever. I would truly appreciate it.



Farewell party at Thaksin University