
Report

Bibliography on Academic Exchanges of Tokushima University Faculty of Dentistry with Seven Indonesian Faculties

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Abstract : Tokushima University Faculty of Dentistry has signed academic agreements with seven faculties in Indonesia, and joint international meetings between these Indonesian universities have been held biannually. Moreover, undergraduate student exchange programs have been executed every year with three faculties. Behind the development of these successful outcomes is a story of a large amount of effort by pioneers. The purpose of this article is to present the process and history of the academic exchanges of Tokushima University Faculty of Dentistry with Indonesian faculties at present and to discuss future exchange programs.

Introduction

International academic exchange of Tokushima University, Faculty of Dentistry (TUD) has been done mainly through the establishment of exchanges with Indonesian universities. At first, TUD just accommodated Indonesian faculties as graduate students or visiting researchers. Due to its success, both sides have decided to start joint meetings in Indonesia and student exchange programs (SEP), which has been going on until today. Thirty years have now passed since the exchange programs between TUD and Indonesian universities started, so there are only a few people left who know about the overview of the path/history that has led us to where we are today. As the Chinese proverb goes, "When you drink water, think of its source. Don't forget where your happiness comes from". We would, therefore, like to look back into the history and achievements of the exchanges and discuss future exchange programs.

Background before the academic agreement with Indonesian Universities (Fig. 1)

In 1989, the late Prof. Naoyuki Matsumoto, Removable Prosthodontics, TUD, was unexpectedly contacted by Dr. I Gede Winasa Kesama, Dean of Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar (UMD), with the hopes of inviting him to visit UMD. Dr. Kesama graduated from Universitas Airlangga and had experienced studying at Hiroshima University. Subsequently, Prof. Emeritus Matsumoto and Prof. Emeritus Masaru Nagayama, from the Oral Surgery department, visited UMD in September 1990. In their meeting, Dr. Kesama asked them to accommodate Dr. Rudi Wigianto, lecturer of UMD, as a visiting researcher at TUD. Prof. Emeritus Matsumoto procured a Tokushima Prefecture Technical Trainees Scholarship for Dr. Rudi and accepted him for ten months in 1991. Since Dr. Rudi hoped to further pursue graduate studies, Prof. Emeritus Matsumoto made an effort to apply and procure a Japanese Government Scholarship. Finally, Dr. Rudi became the first Indonesian graduate student at Tokushima

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Fig. 1 Memorial photographs of the early days before academic agreement with Indonesian University.

University, Graduate School of Dentistry, in April 1993. In those days, TUD had few international students.

Around the same time, Prof. Niken W Sriyono, a former teacher of UGM and international affairs, asked Dr. Rudi, who graduated from Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), to arrange an international academic exchange agreement between the two faculties. After Prof. Matsumoto and Prof. Niken made reciprocal visits, TUD concluded the exchange agreement with UGM in 1994, following Nantong Medical University, Republic of China.

Academic activities

1. Academic agreement

Until the present, TUD has concluded academic agreements with seven faculties in Indonesia, as shown in Table 1 and Fig. 2. As mentioned before, the academic agreement between TUD and UGM was concluded at first and raised to the rating of university-wide two years later. Secondly, TUD concluded the agreement with Universitas Hang Tuah (UHT) at the level of Institute of Health Bioscience (HBS) in TUD and dental and medical faculties in UHT through the contributions of Dr. Bambang Suchahyo, Dean of UHT, Dr. Rudi, and Prof. Sone, Director of HBS. After then, the agreements between TUD and UHT has been renewed in the dental faculty level. After Prof. Niken moved to Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY), TUD has concluded the agreements with UMY in 2011 and raised it to the rating of university-wide at present. Dr. Suryono, who studied in the Periodontology department as a graduate student, was appointed as dean of Universitas Islam Sultan Agung (UNISSULA), Faculty of Dentistry. He hoped to conclude the agreement, and it was approved in 2014.

TUD concluded the agreements with Universitas Hasanuddin (UHD) in 2014 by using Prof. Eiji Tanaka's relationship with Prof. Mansjur Nasir, Dean of UHD. The agreement between TUD and UMD had been concluded in 2000 when Dr. Rudi was dean (thereafter vice-rector of UMD) but was discontinued. Dr. I Dewa Gede Budijana (Budi), UMD, who stayed in the Removable Prosthodontics department and majored in Orthodontics, made an effort to re-sign, and the agreement was concluded in 2018. The School of Dentistry at Universitas Udayana (UUD) in Bali was founded, and Dr. Sari Kusumadewi, wife of Dr. Rudi was appointed as the lecturer. They also hoped to conclude the agreement, and it was also approved in 2018. The agreements between TUD and UHD and between TUD and UNISSULA were renewed in 2019 signed by the respective deans.

2. Exchange of researchers

Fig. 3 shows the numbers of graduate students, visiting researchers with short stay of more than one month, and academic articles published each year, as of August 2019. Table 2 shows the number of Indonesian researchers and academic articles which each department accommodated and published. TUD totally received 23 Indonesian graduate students (16 from UGM, two from UMY, two from UHT, one from Universitas Airlangga, one from UHN, one from University of North Sumatra) and 29 short-stay visiting researchers (19 from UGM, three from UMY, four from UHT, one from Airlangga University, four from UMD). A total of 103 academic articles (87 in English: and 16 in Japanese) have been published in many journals with the collaborations of Tokushima and Indonesian researchers until now. The

Table 1 International academic exchange of agreements with dental faculties in Indonesia.

Universities	Date of agreement
Universitas Gadjah Mada	1994.8.27 [1996.8.22]
Universitas Hang Tuah	2007.5.30
Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta	2011.2.25 [2015.6.2]
Universitas Islam Sultan Agung	2014.1.8
Universitas Hasanuddin	2014.4.8
Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar	2000.7.14 (Resigning: 2014.4.8)
Universitas Udayana	2018.10.5

[] agreement of university-wide

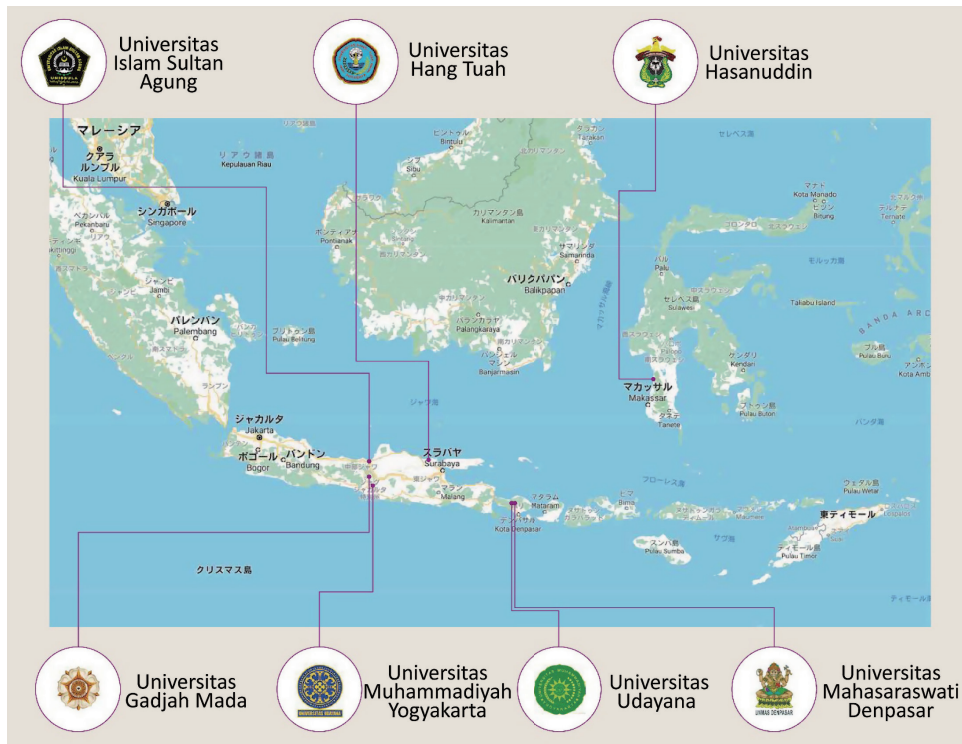


Fig. 2 Locations of seven Indonesian university Faculty of Dentistry with academic agreements with Tokushima University.

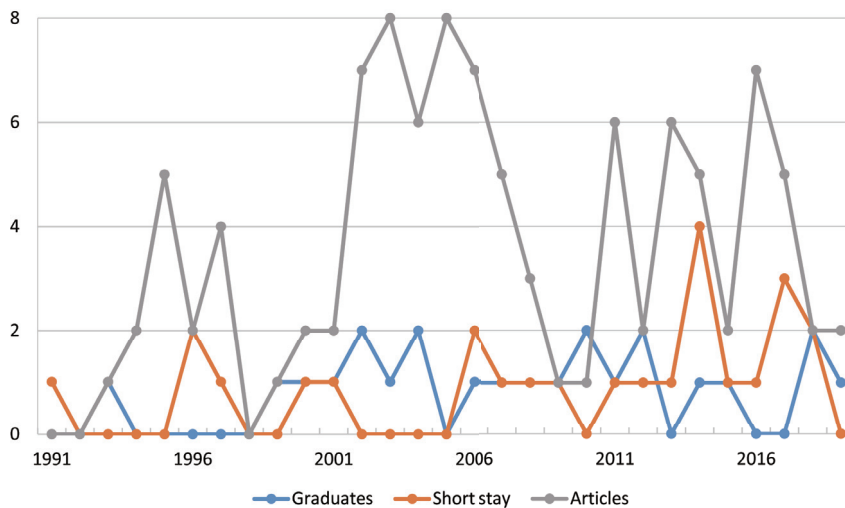


Fig. 3 Number of graduate students and visiting researchers from Indonesia, and published articles with Indonesian authors.

Table 2 Number of graduate students, visiting researchers, and academic articles according to department.

Department	Graduates	Short stay	Articles
Oral Anatomy	0	1	0
Oral Physiology	1	4	5
Oral Biochemistry	6	6	12
Oral Microbiology	3	1	11
Oral Pathology	0	1	0
Preventive Dentistry	1	0	1
Conservative Dentistry	0	1	0
Periodontics & Endodontics	1	1	14
Fixed Prosthodontics	1	1	0
Removable Prosthodontics	4	10	27
Oral Surgery	1	1	17
Orthodontics	3	1	10
Pedodontics	2	1	4
Oral Radiography	0	0	2
Total	23	29	103

following researchers have authored many joint papers: Dr. Supriatna, 17; Dr. Rudi, 17; Dr. Suryono, 14; Dr. Asikin, 7. Some have been published in top journals of each field, such as "Journal of Immunology", "Clinical Oral Implants Research", and "Journal of Periodontal Research".

3. Joint meeting between Tokushima and Indonesian Universities (Fig. 4)

International Joint Meetings (IJM) between TUD and Indonesian Faculties have been held biennially in Indonesia. In 2019, the 5th meeting was held in Surabaya and was hosted by UHT. Fig. 3 shows the circulars/fliers announcing the IJM to Indonesian and Japanese faculties. The purpose of IJM is to promote the exchange between young researchers in both countries and to give them the chance to do an oral/poster presentation in an international meeting.

The first IJM was held in Bali, co-hosted by Tokushima University, UGM, and Niigata University. The budget was supported by the special program of Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology "Integrated Research on Oral Health-related Improvements to Promote Quality of Life." Dr. Rudi substantially managed the operation of the IJM, and it was completed with many participants and presentations. Presentation awards have also been established for encouraging young researchers in Japan and Indonesia, and the Indonesian winners can have the opportunity for short visits to TUD as an additional award. The 2nd IJM, hosted by UMY and UHT and the 3rd IJM, hosted by UHD, were completed successfully as a result of the 1st IJM. TUD started to give a prize of having a short research

stay in TUD to Indonesian winners. As result, Dr. Ardo of UHD stayed at the Department of Conservative Dentistry for a week. In the 4th IJM hosted by UNISSULA, UMD, and UUD, the airport in Bali was closed due to the eruption of Mt. Agung, so faculties from TUD were not able to go to Bali. However, the presenters from TUD were able to join and present at the 4th IJM through the internet.

4. Student Exchange Programs (Fig. 5)

SEPs are divided into inbound and outbound programs. Prof. Emeritus Yoichiro Miyake made an extensive contribution to start the SEP.

1) Inbound Programs (Indonesia to Tokushima)

Currently, Tokushima University Faculty of Dentistry welcomes short-stay exchange students from three Indonesian dental schools, namely UMY, UGM, and UNISSULA. The program runs for three weeks and consists of academic and non-academic activities.

The first inbound short-stay student exchange program started in October 2013 with four female students from UMY. Further, students from UGM and UNISSULA participated in the inbound program also in October 2017. The program consisted of didactic and practical courses and cultural exchanges. Most of the academic activities in the program were special lectures in English given by faculty members who are experts in their respective fields. For the next two succeeding years, it became popular due to its focus on up-to-date academic lectures and technical training. Some academic topics included tissue regeneration, oral neuroscience, orofacial pain, dental English, among others, while some practical topics included Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation training, dental clinic, and hospital visits (private and university hospital), anatomy, prosthetic dentistry, dental materials, oral pathology, among others. Visiting students participated in regular classes like Dental English, and joined small group discussion on specific topics like communication skills, medical interviewing during the patient's first visit, gestures, etc. and presenting their results based on their discussions. For the cultural exchange, students were able to experience cultural exchange activities like kimono-wearing, calligraphy, tea ceremony, and origami, which were taught by Japanese students and staff members. These and other extra-curricular activities were done in the International Friendship Room (IFR), TUD's facility for international exchange. The IFR became a venue for Indonesian and Japanese students to study together, meet and talk, learn culture and language, and even simply share traditional food. The program was originally exclusive for UMY students until requests from UGM and UNISSULA came for their students to be allowed



Fig. 4 Fliers of the five international joint meetings (IJMs).



Fig. 5 Memorial photographs on student exchange program.

to participate with UMY students as well. From then on, students from the three schools were welcomed by TUD annually. Experiences from the first two years also gave TUD the opportunity to prepare basic needs of the visiting students, address concerns or problems, and optimize learning and comfort as well. This prepared TUD for future inbound SEPs.

2) Outbound Programs (Tokushima to Indonesia)

Currently, TUD, consisting of the School of Dentistry and School of Oral Health and Welfare, has two active outbound programs to Indonesian universities, namely UGM and UMY.

The UGM Program: The first batch of outbound student exchange for UGM happened in August 2013, where four 5th year undergraduate dental students from TUD School of Dentistry visited UGM for about two weeks. They were accompanied by two faculty members and the school administrator. As stated in the memorandum of understanding, faculty, staff, and students from the host university organized a comprehensive program consisting of cultural, traditional, and educational exchanges for the members of visiting school. Typically, the program will have didactic and practical themed-subjects, cultural exchanges, and local traditional experience. Past themes included pediatric dentistry, traditional medicine, herbal medicines, inter-professional healthcare, and geriatric dentistry. Since it is a mutual exchange, Japanese students also need to give a presentation about Japanese topics of interest and perform cultural or traditional activities. They practice their presentation in English and train before going to the program with the guidance of faculty members. The following year, 2015, three 4th year dental students joined the program in August. Participants from Japanese dental schools other than Tokushima University, specifically Kyushu University and Niigata University, also joined the program with participants from abroad as well. In the succeeding years, Tokushima was able to send outbound dental and dental hygienist students as participants for the program.

The UMY Program: The first batch of outbound student exchange for UMY happened on March 2015, where nine students participated in the program. The program was exclusive for Tokushima University Faculty of Dentistry students, and the first batch consisted of four 5th year dental students, four 3rd year dental hygiene students, and one 1st year graduate student. Three faculty members went with the students on the 12-day program. The program was similar to that of the UGM program, but based on our students' feedback, it was more personalized because of the constant and exclusive interaction between the visiting students and the host students. This gave the program a more cordial and long-

lasting connection thus making the educational, practical, and cultural activities more enjoyable and meaningful. Similar to the UGM program, the UMY program is also faculty-led. The presence of a faculty member not only gives students some guidance in preparing for the program and encouragement during the program, but it also allows students to be more serious in fulfilling the aims of the exchange program. These aims include: enhancing the students' understanding and awareness of other cultures, languages, educational styles, intercultural competence, international friendships, and improving (English) communication skills; thereby bringing awareness of their own identity. According to Gaia¹⁾, short-term, faculty-led courses are effective when they include extensive preparatory study and prerequisite learning that helps students to apply their knowledge while abroad. According to Spencer and Tuma²⁾, best practices for short-term programs include having clear academic content that is connected with the study abroad.

5. Others (Fig. 6)

TUD has been working to develop an international alumni network for the ex-international students and foreign researchers who studied at the university before. Indonesian Alumni Association was established on March 2, 2013, as the 4th alumni association, followed by international alumni associations for China, Korea, and Mongolia. The first president is Dr. Suryono, who graduated from our graduate school and is currently the dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at UNISSULA.

Besides him, many researchers who studied in TUD now occupy important positions like Dr. Trianna Wahyu Utami, Vice Dean of UGM; Dr. Budi, President of Indonesian Dental Association, Denpasar chapter; Dr. Rudi, Vice Chairman of Indonesian College of Dentists and President of Indonesian Society of Implant Dentistry; Dr. Rama Putranto, Past Dean of UNISSULA; Dr. Nunuk Purwanti, Past Vice Dean of UGM, Dr. Meinar Nur Ashrin, Past Director, International Affair of UHT.

Share a vision of the future

Until now, the academic exchange only involved TUD accommodating Indonesian researchers in our faculty by training and honing their abilities as graduate students/visiting researchers; or members of TUD visiting Indonesian Universities and giving lectures to faculties and students. These led to fruitful results where many Indonesian researchers who studied in TUD working actively as mentioned before. After then, fostering of human resources developed into the next activities like IJMs and SEPs.

Regarding English activity and internationalization, it is



Fig. 6 Memorial photographs of Indonesian Alumni Association of Tokushima University.

true that the ability of Indonesian students are higher than that of TUD students. TUD students as well as TUD faculty have a great deal to learn from Indonesian students. As data confirm that fewer young Japanese researchers are studying abroad, the internal focus of Japanese researchers is raised up for the researcher level. Indonesian researchers would be enterprising and open-minded compared to TUD researchers at present, but there are still many accumulated know-how and skills in the TUD to learn for Indonesian researchers. Physical and moral stimuli from Indonesian researchers could activate the research minds of TUD researchers.

We believe that the academic exchange of TUD and Indonesian faculties enters a new phase: two-way academic exchange from the old phase in which TUD gives technical support to Indonesia and Indonesia sends graduate students to TUD. The relationship between TUD and Indonesian faculties should be like “Jauh di mata, dekat di hati” (目では遠いけれど、心は側に、Far away by sight but close by heart) for “Bersatu kita teguh, bercerai kita runtuh.” (一緒だと強くなるが、ばらばらだと弱くなる、United we stand, divided we fall) as the Indonesian proverb goes.

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