

6th Kyoto University Southeast Asian Forum

Health Crisis!!!

Business Chances Creation

The 6th KU-SEA Forum in January 2009 related to "Global Crisis in Food and Energy: Thailand-Japan Perspectives". It was well-received and this year Kyoto University (KU) and Kyoto Union Club (KUC) in Thailand have decided to take up the challenging issue of Health Crisis -- a looming crisis already confronting and assaulting Japan and will definitely come sooner to Thailand. *A couple months ago the number of Japanese aged over 90 years old already exceeded 30,000 and is still increasing.* In Thailand the average population is also growing older as well, as the number of the new-born per couple has dipped significantly lower than 2 and the worrisome trend is still continuing.

With old age inevitably come various impaired physical and mental functions, disabilities and illnesses. The aims of today's Forum are unavoidably multi-faceted and, to do justice to this extremely challenging theme, the invited speakers are both Thai and Japanese alumni of KU and other Japanese and foreign universities. Our kick-off speaker Dr. Wichai will give advices on how the Thai population should and could do to stay strong and healthy despite the unavoidable ravages of old age. Dr. Kozo Matsubayashi will enlighten the audience on the critical issues and problems associated with Japan's aging population -- a case study of what Thailand will definitely run into in the next few decades. In the afternoon Dr. Djitt, a topmost expert on robotics, will give an insightful perspective of the innovative products, particularly robots and mechatronic devices in aiding the aged and the disabled. The Forum will end with a stimulative panel discussion that touches on various aspects of the aging societies -- similar crisis in some other Southeast Asian countries, how to maintain good physical and mental health of many senior citizens, how human-robotic interactions could help cure mental depression and mental problems, as well as potential business opportunities to be identified by 3 panelists. Dr. Hiromu Shimizu from CSEAS, KU, is an expert on the societal development of various Southeast Asian countries which would be of relevance to Thailand. Ms. Wantanee is a NECTEC expert on Rehabilitative Engineering and Assistive Technology. Mr. Preecha will relate his experiences on the importance of mental health and how it could be used to overcome severe physical sufferings.

The organizer hope that the audience would gain some useful hints on how to maintain their physical and mental health and how to create business opportunities out of the coming innovative products and health services. Lastly, it is our fervent hope that this stimulating Forum will contribute meaningfully to the understanding of critical global issue staring at humankind.

Kyoto University-Southeast Asian Forum (KU-SEA Forum)

Kyoto University was founded over a hundred years ago since 1897. At present, Kyoto University has 3 campuses (Yoshida Campus-the main campus, Uji Campus and Katsura Campus) with 17 graduate schools, 10 faculties, 13 research institutes and 31 education and research centers and facilities. Among its alumni, the university counts seven Nobel Prize laureates in fundamental natural science fields. Inspired by the university's mission statement, "To sustain and develop its historical commitment to academic freedom and pursue a state of harmonious coexistence within the human and ecological community on this planet", Kyoto University continues to emphasize and encourage fundamental & applied research as well as humanities and social sciences. Many distinguished researchers' groups are taking unconventional and thought-provoking approaches, resulting in world-class achievements. Kyoto University is deeply involved in collaborative research and academic exchange with many universities and research institutes, particularly in Southeast Asian countries. To support these cooperation activities, liaison offices were set up in Bangkok, Thailand (1964) and Jakarta, Indonesia (1970). Till now, Kyoto University has been one of the most active universities in doing research and education in Southeast Asian with Southeast Asian people.



Date and Time: Saturday 6th February, 2010
08:30 am - 16:30 pm

Venue: Room "Mandarin", 1st Floor,
Mandarin Hotel, Rama IV Road,
Bangkok

Program

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| 8:30-9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00-9:15 | Opening Remarks |
| 9:15-9:30 | Introduction to Kyoto University and CSEAS |
| 9:30-10:30 | Health Crisis, Life Longevity, Aging Society in Thailand: How to Stay Strong and Healthy by Dr. Wichai Ekataksin, M.D., Ph.D , Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University |
| 10:30-11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00-12:00 | Aging Population and Associated Problems in Japan: How to Tackle These Issues by Prof. Kozo Matsubayashi, Kyoto University |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00-14:00 | Innovative Products to Aid the Aged, the Disabled: Car Design, Home Design, Robots, etc. by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Djitt Laowattana, KMUTT |
| 14:00-14:30 | Coffee Break |
| 14:30-16:00 | Panel Discussion: New Business Opportunities: Caring for the Aged and Disabled, Devices and Apparatuses for the Aged and Disabled by Prof. Hiromu Shimizu, Kyoto University; Ms. Wantanee Phantachat, NECTEC; and Mr. Preecha Saengtheerapitikul |
| 16:00-16:30 | Q&A, Concluding Remarks |





Dr. Wichai Ekataksin, M.D., Ph.D
 Head of Liver Research Unit,
 Department of Clinical Tropical Medicine,
 Faculty of Tropical Medicine,
 Mahidol University



Prof. Kozo Matsubayashi
 Center for Southeast Asian Studies,
 Kyoto University, Japan

Prof. Hiromu Shimizu
 Center for Southeast Asian Studies,
 Kyoto University, Japan



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Djitt Laowattana
 Director of the Institute of Field Robotics
 Development (FIBO), KMUTT



Mr. Preecha Saengtheerapitkul
 A free-lance professional consultant,
 President of Thai Assoc. for Powder Industries,
 Advisor of Center of Excellence in Particle Tech.,
 Chulalongkorn University



Ms. Wantanee Phantachat
 Rehabilitative Engineering and
 Assistive Technology Institute (REAT),
 National Electronic and Computer Technology Center
 (NECTEC)

Pre-Registration Form

We encourage you to preregister with the form below and mail-in to KU-SEA Forum :

Title : Prof./Dr./Mr/Ms (delete as appropriate)
 Name : _____
 Intitute/Organization/Company : _____
 Post Address : _____
 Email : _____
 Tel : _____
 Fax : _____
 Date : _____
 Signature : _____

Contact

To register or get more details regarding the forum, please contact the forum secretariat :

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Organized by
 Kyoto University (CSEAS) and the Kyoto Union Club

Supported by
 Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology (TNI)
 Japanese Kyodai Alumni (in Thailand)