**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 newborn per couple has dipped significantly lower than 2 and the worsen 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 advice on how the Thai population should and could do to stay healthy and avoid 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 Phantachat is a NECTEC expert on Rehabilitation 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.

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**Program**

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, KMITT
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 Saengtheeraphitkul
16:00-16:30 Q&A, Concluding Remarks

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

**Venue:** Room “Mandarin”, 1st Floor, Mandarin Hotel, Rama IV Road, Bangkok
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: ____________________________
Institute/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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