

Subject related partnership between the Universities of Göttingen (Germany) and Chiang Mai (Thailand)

The area of academic co-operation in teaching and research mainly in the field of agriculture in the tropics 1998-1999*

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General objectives of the DAAD grant programme

The objectives of this Grant-Programme is to stimulate and strengthen university collaboration for development. In particular, the following objectives are aimed for:

- Further raising of the standards of universities in developing countries in their teaching, research, services and management methods („institutional development“)
- Stabilising partnerships between universities made possible through grants over several years, which in turn permits long-term institutional ties;
- Furthering the education and training of the participating members of the universities in the developing countries (professors, junior faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students), and promoting experience of international co-operation;
- Creating networks between German universities and their partner institutions;
- Enhancing the attraction of German universities and strengthening Germany's position as an international centre for research.

The partnership programme between Göttingen and Chiang Mai

Based on the above described objectives of the DAAD partnership programme, a project proposal for a partnership programme between the Universities of Göttingen, Germany and Chiang Mai, Thailand was prepared and granted in 1998, the Partnership Agreement between the Universities was signed and the activities foreseen in the plan of operation started.

Activities during the first two years:

Target 1: Through subject related co-operation in teaching, the academic quality in the present Agricultural Science Programme at the Chiang Mai University will benefit positively.

A Seminar was conducted, papers presented at 2 Conferences and 10 Lectures given at the Chiang Mai University by 3 Professors from Göttingen University.

Target 2: The entrance of Thai students with appropriate B.Sc. qualifications into the Masters Programme at the University of Göttingen will be supported.

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The Faculty of Agriculture, Göttingen University, has 1999 revised their educational system to fit into international standards and introduced the B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees additional to the German „Diploma“ degree. Students with a B.Sc. degree with a minimum pass of not less than 2.5 can enter the M.Sc. Programme.

Target 3: A mutual recognition of credits are achieved.

Up to now only Chiang Mai University had a credit system. Göttingen is presently changing it's system to make it international compatible. In 1999 the new „module system“ was introduced in Göttingen, this allows for mutual recognition of credits.

Target 4: The University of Göttingen recognise the M.Sc. certificates obtained at the Thai Faculties of Agricultural Science for Ph.D. studies.

The Curricula of the Faculty of Agriculture, Chiang Mai University was translated into English to enable comparison with the corresponding German curricula. A recognition of the Thai M.Sc. degree was obtained by the Faculty of Agriculture Science in Göttingen, which means that Thai agriculture students now can enter the Ph.D. programme in Göttingen on same terms as German students (a M.Sc. degree with a minimum pass of not less than 2.5 and not as previously after two entrance exams). Through the obtained recognition of the Thai M.Sc. certificate, the Ph.D. study period is reduced by 6 months. Through application, a dissertation in English language can be approved.

Target 5: The M.Sc. programme in „Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics and Sub-Tropics“ at Göttingen University is improved through lectures by visiting Thai University lecturers as well as through the possibility for practical experience in Thailand.

To prepare the German graduate for a job activity in international agricultural institutions or in development projects, applicatory lessons are advantageous. To that effect, lectures from Thai lecturers in chosen areas of practical relevance are offered. 2 papers were presented at Tropentag in Göttingen and 15 Lectures given at the Göttingen University by 7 Professors from Chiang Mai University.

Target 6: In order to create a wide contact base, an exchange of scientists and students is supported.

To exchange information on actual research and running projects, Thai scientists and students are invited to take part in the „Colloquium for Tropical Animal Production“ at the University of Göttingen. In order to get the research results published, it is intended that Thai scientists regularly participate in the „Tropentag“, a joint annual seminar on tropical issues of the Universities of Göttingen, Hohenheim and Berlin. For the German scientists, corresponding presentations of research projects in Thailand is planned.

During the first two years, 7 Thai university teachers visited Göttingen, and 3 graduate Thai students took up their studies in Göttingen. 3 German university teachers, 2 scientific staffmembers and 2 students went to Chiang Mai.

A bilateral research project on trout raising was implemented under the Kings Projects at Doi Internon National Park. Trout eggs were supported from Germany and together scientific staff of Germany and Thailand try to find the best way to raise trout under tropical conditions.

Altogether 9 posters on joint research were presented at the „Tropentag“ in 1998 in Göttingen and 1999 in Berlin. The Research results were published in the respective Seminar Publications.