

Internationalization Strategies of Taipei Medical University

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This report is composed of three parts: (1) Introduction to Taipei Medical University, (2) Internationalization strategies of Taipei Medical University, (3) Plans and strategies of internationalization in the following three years. The first part introduces every division (including academic and administration division) of Taipei Medical University. In which, five colleges (college of medicine, college of oral medicine, college of pharmacy, college of nursing and college of public health and nutrition) are particularly described. The second part contains not only internationalization strategies and goals of our university but also outcomes of these strategies. About internationalization strategies, we focus on learning English and promoting the communication of international academic. We hope to contact and communicate with whole world hereby. Our effort is worth, now, we have contracted sixteen sister schools in America, Europe and Asia. Besides form 1999, the students of TMU began to have short-term internships abroad, the same year, TMU started to have foreign students' short-term internships in our hospitals. The last part is extension of the second part. How to stride forward to internationalization? The complete plan is necessary. In the next three years, we hope that all the students, teachers and staff have opportunities to take part in international affairs, cultivate world view and be a person with foresight.

INTRODUCTION TO TAIPEI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

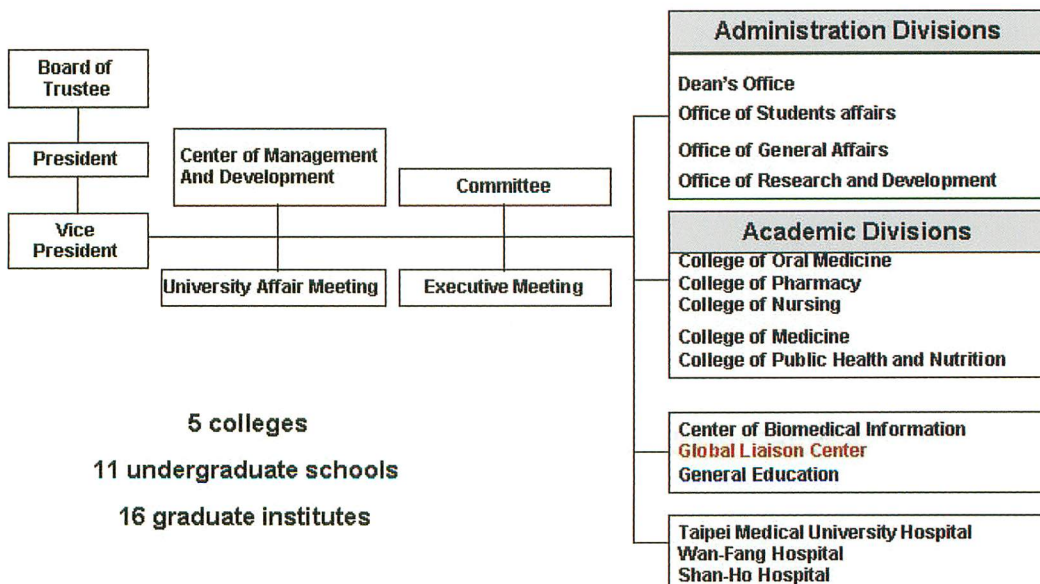
Taipei Medical University (TMU), formerly known as Taipei Medical College, was founded in 1960 by Drs. Shui-Wang Hu and Cheng-Tien Hsu, and other medical specialists and ardent educators who had a dream. There are about 22,150 TMU graduates to date, and while most of our alumni serve in medical institutions and clinics, some of them have also been prominent in the fields of research, politics, and business. Taipei Medical College originally had three schools: Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy. From 1990, then-president Dr. Chung-Hong Hu, embarked on a program of upgrading the school. Since then, a medical university was formed and includes five colleges, 11 schools, and 16 graduate institutes. Under the leadership of our new president, Dr. Chung-Yi Hsu, TMU has continued to improve the quality and quantity of research to accelerate its internationalization and become a world-class university by 2010.

The structure of TMU

Besides the Board of Trustees, President and Vice-President, the most important divisions of TMU are the five colleges and four offices.

The Global Liaison Center, which is responsible for pro-

General Features



moting international affairs, was established in 1999 for communicating and liaising with international academic institutes and sister schools. The mission and goals of this center are to:

- I Select and administer international academic cooperation;
- II Administer the affairs of exchange programs and academic cooperation between sister schools;
- III Provide receptions to scholars and students of long- and short-term exchange programs;
- IV Provide information regarding international academic cooperation on the internet to students of TMU;
- V Liaise with the international industries for educational-industrial cooperation programs; and
- VI Carry out other affairs concerning international communication at TMU.

TMU Today

At present, there are 5525 students who study at TMU, around 23,000 alumni, and 276 full-time administrative staff who work in the supportive environment of TMU. We also have 360 full-time and 568 part-time instructors working here, 2/3 of which have doctorates. In addition to classroom instruction, professors also enthusiastically conduct research. Over 400 research papers have been published in SCI journals.

The campus environment

TMU is located in flourishing east side of Taipei City, and is close to the world's tallest building, Taipei 101, and Taipei's World Trade Center. TMU is a bright spot in the financial district of Taipei. As a metropolitan school, TMU is easily reached by shuttle bus from the subway (the MRT) every 15 minutes. One of the most popular entertainment and shopping areas is a 15-minute walk from TMU.

There are six main buildings of TMU: Medicine and Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Nutrition, Oral Medicine, TMU Hospital, and the Hall and Dormitory. The Oral Medicine building is being redone, and the new building is scheduled to be completed in 2006, and will include the most-modern equipment for teaching and research.

Taipei Medical University Hospital (TMUH)

The three missions of Taipei Medical University Hospital are health care, clinical education, and medical research. The 220-bed first medical building was established and began to serve the east side of Taipei in 1976. In 1994, the completion of the second medical building, expanded the hospital's capacity to 435 beds. More than 880 employees provide health care to approximately 360 inpatients and 2500 outpatients on a daily basis. The hospital is designed to support the concept of patient-centered care. Because of its distinguished medical quality and human-oriented service, the hospital has been accredited as a regional teaching hospital.

"Dream big and dare to try" is the motto for TMUH to achieve a further achievement – becoming a medical

center. The first stone of the third medical building was laid in February 2004. In the near future (in 2006), the new 750-bed medical center will mark a milestone in TMUH's history and it will shine like a diamond in Taipei's Xinyi District.

TMU's Wan-Fang Hospital (WFH)

Taipei Medical University's Wan-Fang Hospital has been acclaimed as the most-successful public-built and private-run hospital in Taiwan since its inauguration in May 1996, when TMU began to operate Municipal Wan-Fang Hospital. TMU-WFH continues to pursue excellence in clinical services and research. In 2004, TMU-WFH was accredited as a Medical Center.

Shan-Ho Hospital

Shan-Ho Hospital, in southern Taipei, is scheduled to open in 2008. TMU is authorized by the Ministry of Health to operate it for 50 years.

Five Colleges

College of Medicine

The College of Medicine has four schools (Medicine, Medical Technology, Health Care Administration, and Respiratory Therapy) and eight graduate institutes (Medical Sciences, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Biomedical Technology, Medical Informatics, Health Care Administration, Pharmacology, Medical Research, and Medical Humanity).

The Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, the Graduate Institute of Cellular and Molecular Biology, the Graduate Institute of Medical Informatics, and the Graduate Institute of Neuroscience offer doctoral degrees. They have become a major pillar through which Taipei Medical University promotes medical education, and are responsible for teaching, research, and services in pre-clinical, clinical, and applied medicine.

College of Oral Medicine

The College of Oral Medicine has two undergraduate schools (the School of Dentistry and the School of Hygiene) and three postgraduate institutes (the Graduate Institute of Oral Rehabilitation Sciences, the Graduate Institute of Oral Sciences, and the Graduate Institute of Biomedical Materials).

This College provides a complete educational system for dental and oral sciences, which includes undergraduate to PhD programs. The undergraduate programs provide dental professional training for dentists and dental hygienists. The master's and PhD programs provide research training in the field of oral medicine with the aim of improving dental knowledge and technologies to improve human well-being in our society. An outstanding feature is the way in which these programs integrate engineering, physics, biotechnology, and microelectronics into product-oriented R&D and clinical applications. Besides the educational knowledge and skillful training, the College especially focuses on the ethics, morality, and humanity of our students. Its goal is to educate the best dental professionals and scientists for the new century.

The College has two teaching hospitals: Taipei Medical University Hospital and Wan-Fang Hospital. Both hospi-

tals provide clinical teaching for dental students and optimal dental care for our citizens.

College of Pharmacy

The College of Pharmacy contains the School of Pharmacy, the School of Bio-Resource Technology, the Graduate Institute of Pharmacognosy, and the Graduate Institute of Pharmacy. The main mission of the College of Pharmacy focuses on quality education, research, and professional clinical services. The 4-year BS program in the School of Pharmacy provides the basic preparation for hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy, health organizations, industry, and government. The School of Bio-Resource Technology is a continuing education program for junior college graduates and offers a 3-year BS degree. It provides basic training and skills in Chinese tradition medicine and biotechnology.

The Graduate Program offers MS and PhD degrees. It emphasizes an interdisciplinary program with a more-comprehensive approach at the chemistry/biology interface with four research clusters of drug discovery, action, delivery, and clinical evaluation.

College of Public Health and Nutrition

The College of Public Health and Nutrition, which combines public health, injury prevention and control, and nutrition and health sciences, was established in 2000. It aims to develop outstanding professionals who can promote health science, disease prevention, and the longer life of humans.

The College consists of a School of Public Health, Graduate Institute of Public Health (offering master's and PhD programs), School of Nutrition and Health Sciences, School Institute of Nutrition and Health Technology, Graduate Institute of Nutrition and Health Sciences (offering master's and PhD programs), and Graduate Institute of Injury Prevention and Control (offering a master's program). The School of Public Health focuses on both theory and technology and hopes that students acquire suitable abilities to understand social trends and analytical abilities to support medical policies. To ensue the goal of becoming internationalized, the School of Nutrition and Health Sciences is moving in the direction of strengthening the quality of the faculty and also actively introducing updated nutritional information from other countries. The Graduate Institute of Injury Prevention and Control has the goal of educating professionals to meet social needs. In addition to strengthening education and research into injury prevention and control, it contributes further information and consulting services to the Taiwanese government in health, injury prevention, and political transportation and communications.

The College has also organized a Health Consultant Board to offer consultation on health sciences, introduce the latest research results of biotechnology and medical information to general public, and apply them to promote health.

College of Nursing

The College of Nursing (CON) is devoted to educating nursing professionals and to generating programs of

research and clinical scholarship that advance the science of nursing and improve the quality of health care. The CON has passed through several stages of development and revitalization. During the past 10 years, many CON nursing graduates have been recognized by the community and other healthcare institutes.

The CON mainly focuses on nursing administration, as well as cardiovascular, cancer, community, mental health, and adolescent nursing. The contents of the core program emphasize improving the quality of care, pursuing advanced nursing knowledge, and achieving cost-effective management.

In the future, the CON will continue to develop new technologies to meet the needs of society. The CON will also actively prepare nursing professionals for advanced levels, promote scientific research, and expand into new areas of nursing careers. The aims of the CON are not only to establish a doctoral program in the near future, but also to establish master's programs in cancer and hospice care and geriatric care to meet the needs of the increasing number of elderly people and to deal with dramatic changes in society.

Innovation and Incubation Center

The mission of the Innovation Center and Incubation Center, which opened in July 2004, is to effectively use resources of basic science and clinical medicine to carry out the cooperation between academia and industry. At present, 11 companies have moved in. There were 50 academic–industry cooperative projects in 2004.

Student Activities

There are 84 student clubs from which students can choose. The types of club vary (including sports, music, religion, literature, etc). Of course, some clubs like the Social Medical First Service Group and Medical Service Organization for Taiwanese Aborigines willingly provide humanistic care. In addition, students and teachers at TMU have formed medical group to provide medical aid in Africa and northern Thailand.

Internationalization Strategies of TMU

Internationalization is a trend of most universities and colleges. Exposure to various cultures and teaching methods can expand students' views, stimulate innovation, and motivate communication. However, we need to improve and promote many aspects of internationalization. The following is a statement of the university's internationalization strategies as well as efforts for its promotion. The statement is divided into three parts: internationalization strategies and goals; the effect of promoting internationalization; and last but not least, the plans and strategies for the next 3 years.

Internationalization Strategies

Improving student's foreign language abilities

Elective courses in foreign languages need to be strengthened in order to improve TMU students' foreign language abilities. There are many general language courses,

including Japanese (three levels and conversation), French (three levels), German (two levels), and English (writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary, English news, English conversation at the table, and English for traveling).

The GEPT (General English Proficiency Test) has been a required course at TMU since 2001. In 2003, 19 students passed the intermediate level, and 6 students passed the high-intermediate level.

Enrolling foreign students

Since March 2003, we have posted application forms on websites which foreign students can conveniently download.

Every school's and institute's homepages are now in English to provide relevant information for applicants. In addition, since January 2003, we have posted applications for admission in both English and Chinese.

We advertise for foreign students by broadcasting an "admission for foreign students" in the Central Broadcasting Station.

Promoting teaching in English

Currently, there are three subjects in two institutes which are being taught in English. The courses Molecular Biology, Advanced Molecular Biology, and A Seminar are taught in English at the Cellular and Molecular Biology Institute. Reports and term papers are required in English by Medical Informatics and A Seminar, two required courses in the Institute of Medical Informatics.

Almost all textbooks of the undergraduate and graduate schools are in English. The textbooks and teaching materials of the Respiratory Therapy School are almost all in English.

Reinforcing communication with international academics

In 2003, 45 foreign scholars were invited to give speeches or to participate in international seminars.

So far, TMU has contracted with 15 sister schools overseas.

This year, six doctoral candidates are doing research in labs of foreign universities, and their papers will be announced abroad. This is to encourage students and teachers to attend international conferences and to engage in short-term studies and research in foreign universities.

The College of Medicine, Pharmacy, School of Medicine, Institute of Medical Informatics, and Institute of Cellular and Molecular Biology have all held international conferences.

All colleges and departments are encouraged to join international organizations. The School of Medicine has joined the International Students Exchanges Organization's Standing Committee on Research Exchanges (SCORE). This committee provides medical students of every country with the chance to exchange research. The research exchange focuses on two dimensions: research into basic medicine and research into clinical medicine. The period of research is 1~2 months. In

addition, professors take part in international organizations on their own behalf.

Provision of appropriate subsidies to schools, colleges, and universities

Last year, the Global Liaison Center provided US\$5000 to subsidize students going abroad. This year, the same division has provided US\$6000. In addition, five colleges allocate additional budgets for subsidizing student travels.

Internationalization Outcomes

We have promoted each point of the above-described strategies, and here is a description of the outcomes of our efforts.

The status of contracting sister schools

To the present, we have contracted with 16 sister schools: four in America, three in Europe (including universities in Germany and Italy), seven in Japan, and one in China.

List of sister schools

The US: University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO; Loma Linda University; School of Dentistry, University of California, San Francisco, CA; and School of Nursing, University of Illinois, IL.

Germany: Hamburg University of Music, Hamburg and Theatre Charite and University Medicine Serlin.

Italy: University of Florence, Florence.

Japan: Hiroshima University, Hiroshima; The Teikyo University; Health Sciences University of Hokkaido; Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo; Nihon University; Tohoku Fukushi University, Tokyo; and Tehoko University.

China: The University of Hong Kong.

Overseas internships for TMU Students

In 1999, medical students of TMU began to participate in short-term internships abroad.

In 1999, ten medical students had short-term internships in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Czech Republic, and Poland.

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In 2001, ten medical students had short-term internships in Sweden, Germany, Norway, and Hungary.

In 2002, eleven medical students had short-term internships in Norway, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Poland.

In 2003, eight medical students had short-term internships in Germany, Portugal, Slovakia, and Holland.

In 2004, 14 medical students had short-term internships in Germany, Austria, Japan, Italy, Poland, Hungary, and Sweden.

In 2005, seven medical students had short-term internships in Denmark, Swiss, Germany, Mexico, Spain, and Czech Republic.

In 2005, ten dental students had short-term internships at Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan.

Foreign students' internships at TMU

Also, from 1999, TMU began to accept foreign students' short-term internships at Taipei Medical University Hospital and Wan-Fang Hospital.

In 1999, eight medical students from Austria, Norway, Sweden, and Germany had internships at Surgery, Internal Medicine, and Obstetrics and Gynecology.

In 2000, ten medical students from Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria,

Hungary, Poland, and Italy had internships at Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Room, Psychiatry, Cardiovascular, Plastic Surgery, and General Surgery.

In 2001, ten medical students from Sweden, Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Macedonia had internships at Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Emergency Room, Surgery, Neurology, Otorhinolaryngology, Ophthalmology, and Dermatology.

In 2002, 11 medical students from Germany, Japan, Holland, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, and Sweden had internships at Obstetrics and Gynecology, Internal Medicine, Emergency Room, Pediatrics, Plastic Surgery, Cardiology Surgery, Ophthalmology, General Surgery, and Cardiology.

In 2003, due to SARS, the internships of foreign students were cancelled.

In 2004, seven medical students from Germany, Japan, Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic and Holland had internships at Surgery-General, Alternative Medicine, Surgery Orthopedics, Internal Medicine-Cardiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Cardiovascular Surgery.

In 2005, seven medical students from Austria, Germany, Japan, Holland, and Israel had internships at General Surgery, Internal Medicine-Cardiology, Plastic Surgery, Family Medicine Department, and Chinese Medicine.

Statistics on foreign students at TMU

In addition to the foreign students involved in the short-term internships, TMU also enrolls foreign students to study here.

In 2003, six foreign students from the US and Canada studied at TMU.

In 2004, seven foreign students from the US and Canada studied at TMU.

In 2005, 12 foreign students from the US, Canada, and Japan studied at TMU.

Most of them are medical or dental students.

Other outcomes

Thirty-four full-time teachers were engaged to teach or to do research abroad for a total of 74 times in 2004.

The expertise of these teachers is in Neurology, Cardiac Surgery, Internal Medicine, Healthcare Administration, Nursing, Ophthalmology, Cellular and Molecular Sciences, Pharmacology, and Dentistry.

The countries who invited our full-time teachers included the US, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Egypt, Australia, China, and Belgium.

The following international academic seminars were held.

On April 1-2, 2004 was the 2nd Asian Society for Mitochondrial Research and Medicine. We invited many honored guests from the US, Korea, Singapore, and Japan to give speeches.

In August 2003 was the 2nd Asia-Pacific HL7Conference on Healthcare Information Standards.

In July 2004 was the 3rd Asia-Pacific HL7Conference on Healthcare Information Standards.

In November 2004 was the International Symposium on Genomic Medicine and Molecular Diagnosis – Herbal Medicine Round Table.

Sixty-three professors took part in important international academic activities or assumed a position in an international academic organizations. For example, seven TMU professors participated in the 2nd Scientific Meeting of Asia Society for Mitochondrial Research and Medicine (ASMRM).

Many teachers are reviewers of famous journals.

PLANS AND STRATEGIES OF INTERNATIONALIZATION IN THE NEXT 3 YEARS

From the second stage of our effects to promote internationalization, there is still some space to improve. The following is a list of plans and strategies for the next 3 years.

Increase partner universities: Add one university per year.

Encourage students and faculties to participate in international activities: Advertise and announce funding plans.

Establish scholarships for foreign students: Establish scholarship regulations for foreign students and a scholarship committee.

Build up a bilingual environment:

Revise the TMU homepage in English;

Complete English signs and labels on campus;

Write and print a student notebook in English;

Assist foreign students with learning Chinese;

Provide subsidies to foreign students to participate in language exchanges; and group students who are good at English as an English team to be responsible for promoting bilingual activities on campus.

Improve participation in international activities and exchange programs for students and faculty: Initiate cooperation and exchange programs with sister schools.

Improve visiting, study, clinical training, and research of students in foreign countries: Initiate cooperation and exchange programs for students in sister schools, and increase funding sources for international affairs.

Improve visiting, on-the-job training, and advanced study, teaching invited speech and services for faculty in foreign countries: Initiate cooperation and exchange programs for the staff of sister schools, and increase funding sources for international affairs.

Improve visiting, on-the-job training, and advanced study, and participation in activities and services for staff in foreign countries: Initiate cooperation and exchange programs for the staff of sister schools, and increase funding sources for international affairs.

Promote the recruitment of foreign students:

Construct a TMU English website – all departments had completed their web pages in English by February 2005;
Set up a committee and working group to enroll students – Nine representatives members from academic and administration divisions will be in this group;
Extend the scope of enrolling students – loosen constraints, advertise through alumni overseas and foreigners in Taiwan;

Build up a mailing list, cooperate with the recruiting section to send out application Information; and
Allot a part of school fees as scholarship for foreign students – foreign students can apply for two kinds of scholarship: a) scholarship of Taiwan b) scholarship allotted from school fees.

Carry out activities with sister schools:

Review the contracts of sister schools, deal with revising and extending contracts;
Confirm the contract window of sister schools and send a regular magazine of TMU;

List all sister schools that have been contacted by any academic department and then establish a contact network;

Discuss cooperative affairs with sister schools regarding teaching, research; and culture;

Invite related divisions to discuss the execution of cooperative affairs.

South-East Asia Medical Seminar:

Invite experts and scholars in Taiwan and overseas to teach and design new courses for the purpose of developing medical care in South-East Asia;

Establish a database of important medical papers on South-East Asia;

Construct a medical website to provide medical messages for the countries of South-East Asia;

Actively enroll overseas students from South-East Asia and send publications to agencies in Taiwan to promote South-East Asia.

The above is a brief introduction to the internationalization strategies of Taipei Medical University. In truth, we still need to make efforts to promote international affairs and accelerate internationalization. As a medical university, advanced technologies and skills are necessary, because we have to be responsible for the health of the Taiwanese people. So, it is very important to exchange experiences with foreign countries and learn from developed countries; this is what we are doing now. Through everyone's efforts at TMU, we expect that there will be more-outstanding outcomes over the next 3 years.