

## ACP Lectureship Tour to Thailand in March 2011

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### Itinerary

March 6, 2011	Arrival in Thailand
March 7, 2011	Chulabhorn Research Institute Host: Dr. Poonsakdi Ploypradith Lecture Title: Biosynthesis of macrocyclic polyketides and aminoglycoside antibiotics
March 8, 2011	Mahidol University Host: Assistant Professor Chutima Kuhakarn Lecture Title: Biosynthesis of macrocyclic polyketides and aminoglycoside antibiotics
March 9, 2011	Srinakharinwirot University Host: Associate Professor Sunit Suksamran Lecture Title: Biosynthesis of macrocyclic polyketides and aminoglycoside antibiotics
March 10, 2011	Chulalongkorn University Host: Assistant Professor Paitoon Rashatasakhon Lecture Title: Biosynthesis of macrocyclic polyketides and aminoglycoside antibiotics
March 11, 2011	Kasetsart University Host: Dr. Pitak Chuawong Lecture Title: Biosynthesis of macrocyclic polyketides and aminoglycoside antibiotics
March 12, 2011	Chulabhorn Research Institute Host: Dr. Poonsakdi Ploypradith Discussion regarding research and sightseeing with CGI students
March 13, 2011	Arrival in Japan

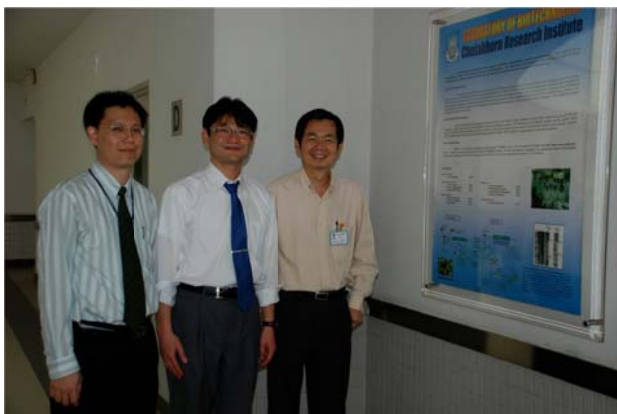
It was great honor for me to be invited to five Universities and Research Institute in Thailand. I enjoyed discussion regarding chemical research as well as Thai spicy food, which is delicious. In CRI, I discussed with Dr. Suvit regarding his biotechnological research, and with some researchers in chemistry, biochemistry and biological laboratories. The host Prof. Poonsakdi graduated Johns Hopkins U in states, where I spent two years as a postdoc, so that we talked about research in USA also. I learned from him that in Thai, people use their first name to call each other because of length of their family name, which is too long. Prof. Somsak, who is a head of ACP coordinator in Thailand, greatly knows chemistry as well as professors in the world. I thought that no biosynthetic chemist exists in Thailand. But, it was wrong. Prof. Somsak's supervisor was Prof. Battersby in UK, who is one of the most famous biosynthetic chemists studying with biosynthesis of vitamin B12. I also met one young faculty Wachalla was graduated from Bristol U in UK under the guidance of Prof. Tom Simpson. I also talked with Dr. Prasat, a natural product chemist, Dr. Nopporn, a synthetic chemist, Dr. Charansak, a synthetic chemist, and Dr. Montakarn, a chemical biologist.

In Mahidol U, I discussed with Prof. Palangpon regarding his chemical biological research at lunch, and some chemists including Dr. Arada, who took care of me very carefully. In Srinakharinwirot U, I spent a quite pleasant time with Prof. Sunit and her colleagues and their students. I was one of the rare guests, who talked about "bio"chemistry instead of pure chemistry. In Chulalongkorn U, which has tremendous number of buildings in central Bangkok, I discussed with Dr. Sumrit regarding cyclitol chemistry including synthesis and biosynthesis. In Kasetsart U, my host Professor Pitak was again one alumni of Hopkins, who invited my wife and me when we lived in a same apartment called as "Hopkins house" in states. It took a long time period to meet again him since 2003. We indeed enjoyed discussion regarding bioorganic chemistry as well as life in USA. I also much enjoyed talk with his young colleagues, Dr. Pakorn whose PhD advisor was Prof. Tom Simpson in UK and Dr. Witchal who is interested in radical chemistry as well.

I found that most of all academic researchers spent their PhD programs abroad, mostly in UK or USA. So, they can speak English very fluently and thus try teaching their class and experiments in English. In fact, some of Thai students can speak English well. At least, they do not hesitate to speak with foreigner in English. It is good to develop their global ability.

I heard that the Japanese big earthquake and tsunami hit happened on the 11<sup>th</sup> March after my last seminar in this lectureship tour at Kasetsart U. I could not do anything in Thailand and just confirmed the safe of my family and lab members at TIT. I hope that we overcome this serious situation soon.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Poonsakdi, Dr Montakarn, Prof. Chutima, Prof. Sunit, Prof. Paitoon, and Dr. Pitak as well as many other professors for their kind arrangements of my visit. Hope to see them in the future.



With Dr. Poonsakdi and Dr. Suvit (CRI) (3/7)



With Prof. Sunit and Prof. Prasert (Srinakharinwirot University) and the audience of my seminar (3/9)



Dinner with Prof. Somsak (CRI) and CRI member (3/7)



With Prof. Warinthorn and Prof. Paitoon (Chula) (3/10)



With Prof. Chutima (Mahidol) and her colleagues (3/8)



With Dr. Pitak (Kasetsart University) and the audience of my seminar (3/11)