

## **Asian Core Program Lectureship Award- Lecture Tour in Thailand**

Reported by : Biing-Jiun Uang  
Department of Chemistry  
National Tsing Hua University  
Taiwan

I am honored to be selected as a recipient of Asian Core Program Lectureship Awardee to give a lectureship tour in Thailand in year 2010-2011. By the kind invitation of Professor Somsak Ruchirawat, I started my visit during February 14-18, 2011.

I arrived at Bangkok Suwannabhumi airport in the evening of February 14 and was picked up by a staff of Chulabhorn Research Institute to the guest house of Chulabhorn Research Institute that was kindly arranged by Professor Somsak Ruchirawat and Dr. Poonsakdi Ploypradith. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, I was guided by Dr. Poonsakdi Ploypradith to Chulabhorn Research Institute and started my Lecture tour. I first had the discussion with Dr. Poonsakdi Ploypradith. Dr. Poonsakdi showed me his synthesis of a few natural products. His work is very impressive. He showed me elegant way of synthesizing natural products. After the discussion with Dr. Poonsakdi, I met Prof. Somsak Ruchirawat in his office. We had some discussion on the possibility of future collaboration, exchange of experience on recruiting graduate students, and many other things. After having a delicious lunch at the Miracle Hotel, I delivered my first lecture. I gave a presentation on "Enantioselective Carbon-Carbon Bond Formation Promoted by Camphor Derived Chiral Ligands". After my lecture, Dr. Poonsakdi gave me a tour of Chulabhorn Research Institute. I visited several laboratories. The research works in the Institute are very interesting and impressive. At around 5 pm, we visited the new laboratories for chemical research. The new laboratories are equipped with impressive modern facilities. In the evening, I was treated a delicious seafood and experienced the warm hospitality from Professor Somsak Ruchirawat again.

In the morning of February 16<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Pitak Chuawong picked me up at the CRI guest house and went to the Department of Chemistry at Kasetsart University. Before my lecture, I had a chance to meet Prof. Supa Hannongbua, Chair of Department, and Prof. Boonsong Kongkathip. We had some chatting. Then I gave lecture on "Enantioselective Carbon-Carbon Bond Formation Promoted by Camphor Derived Chiral Ligands" for their faculties and students. Due to time limitation, I was taken to a fine Italian restaurant to have lunch with young faculty members of Kasetsart University. We exchanged our experience on our graduate program.

After lunch, Dr. Pitak took me to Chulalongkorn University and met Prof. Thawatchai Tuntulani. He was kindly to show me around the campus, museum, and the historical points of Chulalongkorn University. After a campus tour, I got a presentation at Department of

Chemistry with the same title. Although Dr. Chavasiri Warinthorn, Chairman of Chemistry of Department, was busy, I also had a chance to talk to him and exchange the experience on graduate program. I had a dinner in a delicious Thai Restaurant with Dr. Chavasiri Warinthorn and Dr. Tirayut Vilaivan. Dr. Tirayut was kindly brought me back with his car to the CRI guest house after dinner.

In the morning of February 17<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Chutima Kuhakarn came picking me up at the CRI guest house and heading to Mahidol University. I met Prof. Vichai Reutrakul and Prof. Manat Pohmakotr when I arrived. We also discussed the possibility of future collaborations in Prof. Vichai's office. After a delicious lunch with colleagues of Mahidol University, I gave a lecture that contained two parts. One was the same as I delivered in the previous universities and the other was "Progress on the Asymmetric C-C Bond Formation Catalyzed by New Oxovanadium(V) Complex". After my lecture, I had a chance to talk to several graduate students from Mahidol University on their research works. I found that they were very enthusiastic in their works. They were doing quite well. After another delicious dinner, Dr. Chutima brought me back to the CRI guest house.

In the morning of February 18<sup>th</sup>, four students from CRI took me to a historical island that located at the estuary of Chao Phraya River. It was an interesting trip. I saw quite a lot of traditional Thai art and culture. After another delicious Thai lunch, I was sent to airport and returned home.

I had experienced very warm Thai hospitality from this lecture tour trip. It was a great chance to meet several old friends and make quite a few new friends. Many thanks to Prof. Somsak Ruchirawat and Dr. Poonsakdi Ploypradith for their kind arrangements for my visit in Bangkok.