

IVEP

Hokkaido University-Kasetsart University

International Vet Exchange Program 2023

Achieving Global Standards of Excellence in Veterinary Education



Student Report from School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University September 23rd to November 19th

Project Managers
Kasetsart University

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Saki UEDA, 5th year

For the first of all, I would like to thank all of people who related to our exchange program. Especially, professors and clinicians of KU and HU who coordinated and held our class, Pee Nhoo and Oikawa-san who supported and helped our program and Thai student who told me about many pleasures in Thailand. During the 2 month of exchange program, every day, I strongly realized that I am in the situation I am in today because of the support of many people.

Next, I will write about somethings I got during my stay.

Firstly, I will explain about my impression about education. I was surprised at difference between Thai and Japanese one. Japanese veterinary students are assigned to a laboratory in their fourth or fifth year, and their main learning activity is research toward writing a graduation thesis in their field of interest, but Thai students are not assigned to a laboratory. In place of that, upper-year students participate in long-term clinical rotations that cover almost all fields of veterinary medicine, and they also make up output training by giving presentations every Friday. From this, it can be said that Japanese curriculum is that training to be specialists, while Thailand has a curriculum that trains generalists. When we are assigned to a research lab in university, we can pursue a field that interests us, and we can deepen our learning through research, which is different from classes or practical training. However, activities are largely left up to individuals and their own lab and are divided into those who actively participate and those who only do the minimal amount. And then, I don't think there are many people who utilize the knowledge gained through laboratory activities even after graduation. On the other hand, Thai educational system not only allows students to observe clinical settings, but also has liberal facilities for students to improve their clinical skills, and there are many opportunities to think about animals more independently, so it is a good opportunity to get the skills and knowledge that will be useful after graduation. I felt that every student could get most of the target. On the contrary, I think that because students have few opportunities to be exposed to research activities, there are fewer students who aspire to become researchers, and more students choose to go on to study abroad rather than within Thailand. I can't decide which is better, but I thought it would be better to include a little more clinical practice in the Hokkaido university's curriculum and more opportunities for students to think on their own initiative and make presentations.

(Euthanizing a pig for necropsy by myself)



In addition, staying in Thailand left a strong impression on infectious diseases too. For example, ASF, FMD, Brucellosis, salmonella and even diarrhea by market food. I understood the influence of national geographic for expanding of infectious diseases like that Thailand borders several countries, but Japan is an island nation. Also, I learned the importance of preparing for infectious diseases that have not yet occurred in Japan, such as establishing a quarantine period.

Secondly, what I would like to mention something I got during studying abroad is a broader perspective over the Asia. There are two elements to this: looking at other countries in Asia and looking at Japan objectively from the outside, which is important in studying veterinary medicine such as infectious disease control and understanding different cultures. In particular, this broad perspective had a great influence on my future career choices and future prospects. I already planned to become a clinical equine veterinarian after graduation and my goal is reducing the number of horses that do not have the opportunity to receive veterinary care in Japan. However, I heard in this program that Thailand and other countries in Southeast Asia are in the same situation as Japan, with a lack of equine veterinarians and equipment. From this, I recognized that the place to realize my goals should not be limited to Japan, but that I should look broadly at Asia as a whole. So, I would like to be an equine veterinarian who can contribute to improve the quality of equine medicine in Asia by using advanced technology and knowledge from Western countries.

And also, I tried to improve my English communication skill. Before I went to Thailand, I didn't have confidence of my English skill, but another HU student Maya was so good at English. So, I tried to speak English actively following her example. I asked questions to professors and talked with Thai friends. Although I didn't have enough English vocabulary, thanks to their kindness and carefully listening to me, I could tell them something what I wanted to tell. I will continue to study English especially vocabulary because this is easy to study in Japan. However, I think to express my opinion in English is really necessary skill in the International academic scene in our future. In that sense, this program was a great learning experience.

Finally, after completing this program, I realized the attraction of studying abroad while still a student. Even if it is only for a short period of two months, the time you spend in university for studying or with the friends you make while studying at school will be an irreplaceable treasure. Furthermore, it is also a good chance to realize your own strengths and weaknesses, as well as hints for the future. In this year only two HU students went to KU, but I want as many of my juniors as possible to have this wonderful experience from next year onwards.



(Picture with Dr. Aksorn after the certification ceremony)

Maya KOBAYASHI, 5th year

I will report here what I got from the 2023 IVEP program in Kasetsart university.

In this year's program, I could join one-week clinical rotation about aquatic animals, livestock animals (equine, bovine, swine), exotic animals, veterinary public health, and clinical pathology. I have been interested in infectious diseases, and I have a future goal to make contributions in solving problems related to infectious diseases including livestock diseases and zoonosis. Especially I would like to study diseases' control in a field, and social factors affecting its transmission. I applied for this program to get a field-based viewpoint, and in fact I got a lot.

This program provided me with many opportunities of visiting farms including cattle and pigs. These experiences were precious for me that I could observe farms by myself and asked questions to farmers. Through these activities, I literary realized how important it is to use effective vaccines, make laws including movement restriction and compensation system, and develop fast, accurate and inexpensive diagnosis methods. For example, I heard that imported vaccines against African swine fever were used but now they stopped using them due to no efficacy. In addition, a professor told me that sometimes farmers bring cattle suspected with foot and mouth disease to a slaughterhouse because of no compensation systems. I could easily imagine that a new infectious disease will be quickly endemic in case control systems are not built. On the other hand, Thailand recently has no case of avian influenza in poultry, and it is one of the biggest countries in its export, that is a national economic benefits. The check for avian influenza free status is conducted 5 days before and on the day of slaughter. It was valuable for me to learn different levels of control countermeasures. These learnings made me think about my future career, like what should I do? as a researcher developing vaccine? Or as a governmental veterinarian making laws? This is my biggest homework now.

In addition of farm visiting, veterinary public health was also interesting for me in thinking about human society rather than livestock. The class content was to visit a national park that has a problem of Human-Elephant conflicts and think about its solutions based on the concept of One Health. In this national park, wild elephants appear in residential area and not only eat crops but also attack local people and their houses. It was interesting for me to think and discuss with professors about the guessed reasons for elephants' movements, land use and environmental changes affecting elephants, and countermeasures local people should take. I got interest in field-based public health. In addition, the land use around the park have changed from durian to more beneficial palm plantations, and then a case of Nipah virus infection has started to be confirmed because fruits bats came to inhabit. Moreover, there are infectious disease cases around their border area with Cambodia because workers come and go. In this class, I could recognize again that human activities have big impacts on transmissions of infectious diseases.



We visited a pig farm

One more impressive subject was pathology. I could join one-week clinical pathology and also have several times of necropsy. In a necropsy, many lesions like lung partial consolidation, irritation on gastric mucosa, pseudomembrane in ileum and cecum were found from pigs with dyspnea and diarrhea. It was interesting that each lesion represented clinical symptoms, and I understood the importance of necropsy in terms of that it is possible to guess pathogens from lesions. I had experiences of necropsy but the most cases were without any symptoms so I feel that I did not understand fully that point. And also study about pathological diagnosis was meaningful for me. So far, I was not familiar with clinical pathological diagnosis. Diagnosis should be fast and accurate but moreover, cost should be also considered. Although diagnosis with PCR is still difficult in terms of its cost, it is possible to conduct pathological diagnosis with one-tenth cost. I noticed that the limitation of PCR method and utility of pathological method in clinical fields.

This program provides students with clinical practice but I think it will be good opportunity for students like me who have interest in infectious diseases and other subjects. I can say that this IVEP program will be filled with learnings by setting own goals.

Let me introduce a little bit about my life in Thai. Every day I enjoyed eating. There are markets inside and outside campus and every day I felt happy thinking of what to eat today! In my impression, Thai people put more value on eating than Japanese. I also have good memories with Kasetsart university students. We talked about not only our countries but also more ordinally topics like what we studied on that day. It was very fun for me to have a small chat when we came across inside campus, making me feel like they were my real classmates. On weekends, I traveled around Thailand with Saki including Bangkok, Ayutthaya, Kan- chanaburi, Chiang mai, and Phuket. I think it was precious experience, only once in my life to travel every weekend planning all courses and booking everything by ourselves. Sometimes we met accidents in our traveling but I enjoyed overcoming everything with our own ideas and ไม่เพ้อไร spirit.

For last, I would like to give a big think you to the all supporters in Hokkaido university, professors, staff, and students in Kasetsart university, and the all people who gave cooperation to us. I also appreciate your kindness, Rakuno Gakuen university students, Andor from Hungary taking classes together, and Saki spending all time together. I could acquire irreplaceable experiences in my life. With making use of these learnings, I will do my best so that I will be able to make contribution to our society. I am really looking forward to seeing Kasetsart university students next year. I will visit Thailand again. See you again. ขอบคุณค่ะ!!

With Kasetsart university senseis, students, and Andor



International Vet Exchange Program (IVEP)
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派遣先大学名	カセサート大学
名前	植田 咲喜
学年:	5 年

はじめに、カセサート大学での 2 か月間を無事に終え、このレポートを書けていることを大変うれしく光栄に思う。この 2 か月間を振り返って心に浮かぶ言葉は、たくさんの「感謝」と「気付き」だ。

まず、このような素晴らしい留学の機会をくださった北海道大学及びカセサート大学の先生方や関係者の皆様、留学中に優しくサポートしてくれ、タイの楽しさを教えてくれた KU 学生の皆さん、長期の不在にもかかわらず、快く送り出してくださった帯広畜産大学研究室の皆さんに心よりお礼申し上げたい。留学中は、多くの人々の支えがあって、今の自分の環境があるということを何度も強く実感する日々であった。

次に、この留学中の「気付き」を特に印象に残っていることや少し驚いたことと、留学で得たことや自分の中の変化の 2 つに分けて記述したいと思う。

留学中に特に印象に残っていることは、教育システムについてである。日本の獣医学生は 4.5 年生になると研究室に配属され、それぞれの興味がある分野での卒業論文執筆に向けた研究活動が主な学習活動となるが、タイの学生は研究室配属が無い。その代わり、高学年は獣医学のほぼ全分野を網羅した、長期間にわたるクリニカルローテーションに参加し、毎週金曜日にはプレゼンテーションをするというアウトプットのトレーニングも積んでいる。このことから、日本はスペシャリストを育成し、タイはジェネラリストを育成するカリキュラムと言えるだろう。日本の研究室配属は自分の興味のある分野を追究できるし、授業や実習とは違う、研究という形で学びを深められる。しかし、活動は個人や所属教室にゆだねられている部分が大きく、積極的に参加する者と最低限のみ行う者に二分する。また、研究室活動で得た知識を就職後も活用している人は多くないだろう。その点、タイの教育システムは臨床現場を見るだけでなく、実際に学生が臨床技術を磨くための設備も充実しており、より主体的に動物と向き合う機会も多いため、卒業後に生きる技術や知識を比較的まんべんなくどの学生も得ることができるのではないかと感じた。逆に、学生のうちに研究活動に触れる機会は少ないため、研究者を志す学生が少なかったり、国内ではなく海外に進学する学生が多かったりすることにもつながっているのではないかと考えた。どちらの教育システムが良いと断ずるはできないが、北大のカリキュラムにももう少し臨床的な実習や、学生が主体的に考え、発表する機会を増やした方がよいのではないかと考えた。加えて、獣医学ではないが教育について印象的だったことが日本人学生の英語である。日本人学生の中で群を抜いて英語能力の高い学生が二名いたが、その二人の英語力が対照的で、非常に興味深かった。一人は、単語や文法の知識が豊富で、先生の話をしっかり理解できる上に、発音もきれいだが、質問があってもあまり自分から発言していないようにみえた。もう一人の学生は、ある程度の単語の知識はあるが、文法はあまり気にせず、積極的に発言するという姿勢で、先生と長時間話していることも多かった。私は、私たちがこれから出会うであろう国際的な学術交流の場面で必要とされる英語力は、後者なのではないかと思う。もちろん、単語や文法の知識に乏しい英語能力は脆弱なもの

であるため、さらに磨いていく必要があるが、自分の意見を持ち、それを言葉にして英語で発することは必要不可欠な能力であると気づいた。そのため、私は留学期間中には積極的な発言を心がけ、その中で気づいた弱点をこれから補っていこうと思う。

他にも、タイでの生活は感染症についての印象が強く、日本の島国という環境は感染症防御、ひいては国の経済発展において大きな恩恵をもたらしているということや日本の感染症対策のレベルの高さ、国内未発生の感染症にも備えることの重要性を改めて感じた。

次に、留学を通して得たこととして挙げたいのは、アジア規模の広い視野である。これはアジアの他の国に目を向けるということと、日本という国を外側から客観的に見ることの二つの要素があり、感染症対策など獣医学の勉強と異文化理解において重要であると感じた。とりわけ、この広い視野は私のこれからの進路選択や将来の展望に大きな影響を及ぼした。私は卒業後、馬の臨床医になり、獣医療を受ける機会に恵まれない馬を減らすことが予てからの目標であるが、今回の留学を通して、タイや東南アジアの他の国でも、馬の獣医師や設備の不足という日本と同じ状況にあることを知った。そのことから、自分の目標を実現する場所は日本に限らず、広くアジア全体に目を向けるべきであると感じ、欧米諸国の先進的な技術や知識を用いて、アジアの馬の獣医療レベルの向上に貢献できる獣医師になろうと思った。

最後に、この留学を終えて感じることは、学生の間に海外で学ぶことの魅力である。たとえ 2 か月間という短い期間であっても、学校での学習はもちろん、現地でできた友達との時間は何物にも代えがたい宝物となる。さらに、自分の長所や短所、将来へのヒントに気付く良いチャンスにもなる。今年のカセサート大学派遣は 2 名という少ない人数だったが、来年以降は一人でも多くの後輩たちにこの素敵な経験をしてほしい。来年以降の学生にアドバイスするなら、英語で自分の意見を発言する Speaking の練習をしておくにより有意義な留学になると思う。もし英語力や海外での生活に自信がなくて迷っている学生がいるなら不安に思わず飛び込んでほしい。

末筆ではございますが、今回の派遣でお世話になった先生方及び関係者の皆様には重ねてお礼申し上げます。誠にありがとうございました。



(左:先生の指導のもと、剖検に供するブタを安楽殺しているところ。)

(右:最後の発表会にてお世話になった Aksorn 先生と。)

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派遣先大学名	カセサート大学
名前	小林 茉弥
学年:	5 年

2023 年度 IVEP カセサート大学派遣プログラムに参加し学び得たことをここに報告します。

本年度のプログラムでは、水生動物、産業動物(馬、牛、豚)、エキゾチックアニマル、獣医公衆衛生学、臨床病理学の臨床実習に 1 週間交代で参加させていただきました。私の興味は感染症学で、将来は家畜感染症や人獣共通感染症を含む感染症問題の解決に貢献することが目標です。特にフィールドでの感染症の伝播や制御、また感染症伝播に関わる社会的要素に関心があり、本プログラムを通してフィールドの視点を獲得したいと思い参加しました。そして実際に多くを学び得ることができました。

本プログラムでは牛や豚などの農場に訪問する機会が提供されており、実際に現場を観察し農家や先生方に質問するという貴重な経験をさせていただきました。活動を通して家畜感染症の制御には、効果的なワクチン、移動制限や補償制度などの法整備、迅速で正確かつ安価な診断技術が不可欠だということを、身をもって理解できたと感じています。例えばアフリカ豚熱ワクチンを使用したものの、効果がなく今は使用を停止したと聞きました。また補償金制度がないので口蹄疫が疑われる個体は屠畜場へ持っていくこともあるそうです。制御体制が整備されていない状態で新しい感染症が侵入すると瞬刻間に常在地と化すことが容易に想像できました。一方でタイは現在鳥インフルエンザの発生がなく、鶏肉の輸出量は世界トップクラスで国の経済的利益となっています。そして屠畜 5 日前と屠畜解体時の 2 回、鳥インフルエンザの遺伝子検査が実施されています。現場における感染症の様々な実態を学ぶことができ、大変勉強になりました。そして研究者として病原体の研究やワクチン開発に関わる、また行政獣医師として法整備や政策に関わるというように、将来の進路を考える機会となりました。

また家畜よりも人間社会に直接的に関わる獣医公衆衛生学も大変興味深かったです。Human-Elephant Conflicts が問題となっている国立公園に赴き、One health の概念を基に解決策を考えるという実習内容でした。本国立公園では生息するゾウが周辺の農地に現れ、農作物を食べてしまうだけでなく、住民や家屋にも被害を及ぼしています。ゾウが住宅地に現れるようになった理由、農地の拡大による環境の変化、住民が講じるべき対策など、動物だけでなく人間やその社会についても考えて先生方と議論するのが楽しく、フィールドベースの公衆衛生学に魅了されました。またもとはドリ안의生産地だった本地域ですが、収益になるパームの栽培に切り替えたところ、フルーツコウモリの生息地となりニパウイルスの感染が確認されるようになりました。さらに国境付近ではカンボジアからの労働者が行き来することで感染症が持ち込まれるという事例もあります。本実習では感染症の伝播に人間活動も大きく関わることを再認識できました。

もう一つ印象的だった科目が病理学でした。本プログラムでは臨床病理学に 1 週間参加させていただいた他、各実習にて剖検する機会をいただきました。呼吸器症状や下痢といった症状を聞き、実際に開腹すると肺の部分的肝変化、胃粘膜の炎症、空腸・盲腸の偽膜、浮腫が見られました。各病変が臨床症状として表れている点が興味深かったですし、病変からおよその病原体(サルモネラ菌、大腸菌)を推測できることに、病理解剖の重要性を実感しました。日本でも剖検の経験はありますが、特に症状のない健康個体だったのであまりその意義を理解していなかったと思います。また診断方法としての病理学的診断も勉強になりました。もともと感染症系の研究室にいたり、臨床的な病理学的診断法の意義を考えることがありませんでした。診断には迅速性、正確性も必要ですがコストを考えたとき、まだまだ遺伝子検査は難しい一方で、病理学的検査は

約 10 分の 1 の価格で検査が可能です。臨床分野における遺伝子検査の限界と病理組織学的検査の有用性は自分にとって新たな気づきでした。

本プログラムは臨床実習を提供していますが、私のように感染症や臨床以外に興味のある学生にとっても、勉強になる良い機会だと思います。自分の目標を決めて学ぶことで充実したプログラムになると思います。

生活編を少し紹介します。タイでは毎日の食事が楽しみとなっていました。大学内や大学の近くにマーケットがあり毎日、今日は何を食べようとするのがとても幸せでした。タイの人々は食事をとても大切にされていて、食が充実しているという印象を持ちました。またタイの学生との交流も素敵な思い出です。お互いの国のことだけでなく、その日何を勉強したのかなどより日常的な会話をしました。構内ですれ違ってはちょっと話すという、同級生のような生活はとても新鮮で楽しかったです。週末にはタイのあらゆる観光地(バンコク、アユタヤ、カンチャナブリ、チェンマイ、プーケットなど)に赴きました。飛行機やホテルの予約、観光ルートなどを全て自分たちで計画して毎週のように観光するというのは、人生で一回きりの貴重な経験だったと思います。お金を入れたのに切符が出てこないなど道中のハプニングも全て、なんとかなる、マイペンライという精神でアイデアを絞り出しながら旅行するのはとても楽しかったです。

最後に本プログラムに携わっていただきました、北海道大学関係者の皆様、カセサート大学の先生方、スタッフの皆様、学生の皆さん、授業に協力していただいた方々、素晴らしい時間をありがとうございました。また同時期に派遣だった酪農学園大学の皆さん、1 ヶ月間共に授業を受けた Andor、そして 2 ヶ月間一緒に過ごした咲喜にも感謝の気持ちでいっぱいです。私の人生においてかけがえのない経験と学びを得ることができました。本プログラムで得た経験を活かし、社会に貢献できるように頑張ります。次はカセサート大学の学生さんが北大に来ることをとても楽しみにしています。またいつかタイに行きます。ありがとうございました。コップンナカー！



美しい Wat Arun

IVEP

Hokkaido University-Kasetsart University International Vet Exchange Program 2023 Achieving Global Standards of Excellence in Veterinary Education



Student Report from Kasetsart University January 22th to March 14th 2024

From Kasetsart University

Sena (Teewara) Charoensakdi, 6th year

This international exchange program lasts for 8 weeks. During this time, I had the opportunity to experience a lot and visit many places, not only attending lectures or laboratories in the faculty but also participating in outdoor classes. In the laboratory sessions, we attended lectures and performed laboratory work. I particularly enjoyed this part because there were many different labs with various focuses. For the mini-project in this program, we could select our own laboratory for presentation. I chose the infectious disease laboratory, and my topic was "Diagnosing bovine leukemia virus infection in dairy cattle in Hokkaido, Japan," which I found very enjoyable.

During the large animal and wildlife weeks, we had outdoor classes where we visited Maruyama and Asahiya-doubutsuen. We also had the opportunity to see the zoo animal hospital and explore the behind-the-scenes areas. Additionally, we visited Otaru to see the sea lion that caused trouble for fishermen, showing the real-life conflict between humans and animals. Knowing about the conflict is one thing, but seeing it helped me understand it better. In the theriogenology session, I practiced collecting oocytes, performing rectal palpations, and using ultrasounds.

In the clinical diagnosis and pathology session, most of the time was spent in discussions on topics such as histopathology and blood smear analysis. At the veterinary teaching hospital, we listened to the history taking, diagnosis methods, and conclusions of various diseases, and even had the chance to observe surgeries. In my opinion, it's similar to the animal hospital at Kasetsart University, but here in Hokkaido, there are more cases of tumors, whereas in Thailand, infectious diseases are more common.

During the program, I not only gained academic experience but also cultural exposure, tried various foods, and explored different places. As it was winter, the coldest period in Hokkaido, I had the opportunity to experience the snow, which was very beautiful. I also attended the snow festival during this time and enjoyed the delicious food, including desserts. In terms of learning about history and culture, I participated in the Setsubun party and visited the Hokkaido Museum, where I learned a wealth of information about the Ainu (Northern Japan native people) and the history of war.

In conclusion, this was a wonderful and valuable program that provided the opportunity to experience Japan's veterinary medicine teaching, understand different cultures, and much more. I hope that this program will continue in the future.



From Kasetsart University

Sarisa Chanprame (Chompoo), 6th year

The IVEP program afforded me invaluable opportunities to acquire hands-on experience and expand my knowledge base over the course of eight weeks at Hokkaido University. I benefited from hands-on practice sessions, enlightening field trips, and outdoor classes that broadened my perspectives of being a veterinary in Japan. Throughout the program, these diverse learning experiences expanded my horizons and enriched my educational journey. I embarked on an enriching journey at the Laboratory of Infectious Disease, where I delved into various diagnostic methods for identifying infectious diseases. This immersive experience broadened my understanding of diagnostic techniques crucial in the field. Moving into the second week, I rotated through the Life Science Laboratory, expanding my knowledge base and honing practical skills essential for success in veterinary medicine. I also had classes at the laboratory of wildlife, where I had outdoor classes at Maruyama Zoo. Additionally, I had the opportunity to visit a fisherman village in Otaru and had some discussion with fisherman about human-wildlife conflicts in that area. I also spent time at the Laboratory of Theriogenology in the fourth week. This involved a dairy cow farm and Asahi-yama Zoo visit and having hands-on experience in an IVF lab. I engaged in classes at the Molecular Medicine and Comparative Pathology Laboratory, deepening my comprehension of molecular mechanisms underlying veterinary diseases. I had a rotation at small animal medicine and surgery at the Small Animal Hospital in the last week of the program with some case discussions and presentations.

While I was studying at the laboratory of wildlife, I had a chance to follow the Ph.D. student and the professor to collect some blood and swabs sample from wild deer in Asahikawa during the hunting season. It was so interesting and heartbreaking for me at the same time, because hunting wild animals is not what we usually do in Thailand, but I did find it so interesting to experience the different cultures overseas.

Other than studying, me and my friends were so happy living and spending time in Hokkaido. We had so much fun finding where to go and having fun every weekend. During the program it was winter, and it was so cold every single day, but we kind of got used to it in the couple of weeks after we arrived. We've tried various kind of Japanese food, but my favorite probably would be The Soup curry and all kind of the ice cream.

Being an exchange student at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Hokkaido University offers a multitude of benefits. I gain access to world-class education and research facilities renowned for their excellence in veterinary sciences. This provides a unique opportunity to learn from distinguished professors and experts in the field, fostering a deep understanding of both traditional and cutting-edge veterinary practices. Additionally, being immersed in the rich culture of Japan, particularly in Hokkaido, allows me to broaden my perspectives and adaptability, enhancing my intercultural competence. Furthermore, this program facilitates collaboration and networking opportunities with fellow students and professionals from around the globe, paving the way for future partnerships and career advancement in the field of veterinary medicine. Overall, the experience of being an exchange here not only enriches my academic knowledge but also fosters personal growth and global awareness.



From Kasetsart University

Pimmada Puettimas (Pim), 6th year

An international veterinary program gave me a great opportunity to be an exchange student in Hokkaido university and get a new experience there. During 8 weeks, I gained many skills and knowledge from many laboratories that we joined such as laboratory of infectious disease, laboratory of microbiology, laboratory of theriogenology, laboratory of wildlife biology and medicine, laboratory of internal medicine and laboratory of surgery.

Living in Hokkaido was a new experience for me because I had never lived in a city with snow before. It was a little bit hard for me at the beginning but after that I got used to it. In first two weeks, My friends and I had to change the laboratory that we studied everyday according to schedule and we did many types of lab works instead of cell culture, western blotting and immunohistochemistry. This was a great practicing for us because when we studied in KU, we didn't have many chance to do the lab works like here. In the next two weeks, we studied in laboratory of theriogenology, laboratory of wildlife biology and medicine. We had a chance to go to the field trip. We went to Otaru for learning a conflict between fishermen and sea lions. We went to the zoo that are Maruyama zoo and Asahi-yama zoo for learning a management and visited vet hospital there. It was so fun and interesting because we didn't have many chance to learn something like this before. After that, I had to study in a laboratory that I chose, Laboratory of surgery, and do the mini project with Thai PhD student. In that week, I observed many surgery cases and did that mini project that the topic was cell culture and ELISA determine drug effect on cytokine-induced endothelial cells in the lab. After finishing that week, I had a clinical rotation. I learned how to differential diagnosis from blood smear and histology slide that was a good practice for me because in Thailand we focused on a clinician part not a pathologist part so we never differential diagnosis from only blood smear or histology slides. When I studied in the hospital, it's quite similar to Thailand but the cases were different. Many cases in the vet hospital were mass so we learned a lot about the mass and tumor here.

For the traveling part, I traveled around Hokkaido with my friends almost every weekends. We went to snow festival at Odori, Lake Shikotsu lake and Susukino. We also went to many aquariums that are Odori aquarium, AOA aquarium and Noboribetsu marine park. Some weeks we went out with other KU students who studied at Rakuno gakuen university. We went to Jozankei together. Another week we went to Moiwa for skiing. It had one week that Japanese friends, Maya and Saki, brought us to Ishiya chocolate factory. We can see the procedure of making a chocolate and dessert there. Our last weeks we went to Noboribetsu for sightseeing at the hell valley and went to bear park. We enjoyed traveling around Hokkaido so much. For the food, my favorite food is soup curry. My friends are also love it so we tried a lot of soup curry restaurants because Japanese friends and Professors suggested us that every restaurants are different.

In the last part, I would like to say thank you to every friends especially Maya and Saki, professors, staffs, especially Oikawa san and Thai PhD students for taking care of us and giving us a lot of knowledge. I got a lot of memorable experience when I staying here. I had done many things that I never did before. Lastly, I would like say thank you to the IVEP and Thai professor for selected and gave me a chance to join this program.



From Kasetsart University

Thanakorn Chunui (Sky), 6th year

Before I went to Hokkaido, I was very excited because it was my first time having the opportunity to live abroad and also my first time experiencing life in a snowy country. For studying at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, I attended classes in various laboratory within the faculty such as Anatomy, Physiology, Infectious Disease, Wildlife Biology and Medicine, Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Radiation Biology, Animal Science and Medicine, Toxicology and I attend classes in the small animal laboratory as well, such as Internal Medicine and Veterinary Surgery. I chose the Internal Medicine laboratory for a week-long study period. I am very happy to have studied in this lab. The differences in cases between HUVTH and KUVTH are notable. At Kasetsart university veterinary teaching hospital (KUVTH), there are a large number of infectious disease cases, with approximately 300-500 cases coming to the hospital, which is significantly more than at HUVTH. KUVTH is the biggest animal hospital in Thailand, there divided to specific clinic such as neurology, gastrointestinal disease, endocrine, cardiology etc.

For traveling, I visited many places in Hokkaido such as the Otaru Canal, Otaru Aquarium, AOA Sapporo, Sapporo Beer Museum, Chocolate Factory (Shiroi Koibito Park), Jigokudani Noboribetsu, and Bear Park Noboribetsu. I loved every place so much, and that time was very special to me. Jigokudani was a location where a Thai movie, "Fan Day," was once filmed. I am a big fan of this movie so I was so happy to travel there and also, I am a person who enjoys drinking alcohol a lot. Sapporo beer was very nice taste. I really love to drink it and also I like to eat all Japanese food. It's very delicious.

The student exchange program between Kasetsart University and Hokkaido University is an excellent initiative that provides students with the opportunity to exchange knowledge with each other. Moreover, the program enables veterinary students to envision future collaborations with veterinarians from different countries in preventing the spread of diseases from animals to humans and developing treatment methods for animals in their future professions.

While I was living in Japan, I have been well taken care of by Japanese friends, teachers, dormitory managers, and international friends who live in the same dormitory as me. I am grateful for everything that has allowed me to meet all of you. Thank you to everyone who has helped and taken care of me well, making my life enjoyable and smooth throughout my time there and It's very hard to say goodbye but I need to say goodbye and see you again.



From Kasetsart University

Hattakit Suttiserm (Ray), 6th year

The first moment I arrived in Hokkaido, I felt very cold due to Thailand doesn't have snow like Hokkaido. I have only been exposed to heat and humidity so that is the reason why I felt excited. My second week in Hokkaido was quite more getting used to low temperatures and to get used to Japanese culture. I also had a chance to visit the zoonosis center, animal hospital, and laboratories There are many interesting facilities there and high technology for doing research and diagnosis.

On the second Sunday, We have attended the activity about culture regarding giants and beans. We have made the sushi roll on my own with other international students. After we finished, We had to eat without talking and looking at the northwest and north. The components of sushi are 7 ingredients which means We praise the 7 God. We made our masks and stood at the front of the class. The children threw their beans at us like the giant. It's quite an interesting activity.

Around the third to fourth week of that time, I lived here for around 1 month..We have a chance to go to the Hokkaido Museum. Not only I took a lot of photos but also learned much more about the History of Hokkaido. We had many chances to visit zoos and aquariums such as Maruyama zoo and Asahiyama zoo. I had a chance to give them food and touch the seal. It's a once chance in my life. We got a lecture there by veterinarians who have been working there.

In the fifth week, I studied in our own laboratory and I chose Molecular Medicine, I got a lecture from the Professor in this laboratory regarding the hemolysis and membrane of Red blood cells. We went to Sushi's restaurant. and had lunch together. We have been talking and sharing many topics. It's the best moment for me. From the sixth to last week Mainly I had classes in Animal Hospital (HUVTH) it's quite different from ours such as the number of cases and method of diagnosis. Mainly Thailand's cases are infectious diseases but In Japan, In my opinion, most of the cases are degenerative disorders.

The IVEP program provided me with precious and unforgettable memories. I have gained a lot of experience in the veterinary field that I have never done and seen through all the practices, lectures, and laboratories here. During my journey of 2 months. I have met many foreign friends. before. I appreciate all the staff at Hokkaido University, they always support me. Furthermore, this program provided not only experience but also this program have made a good relationship between both countries.

