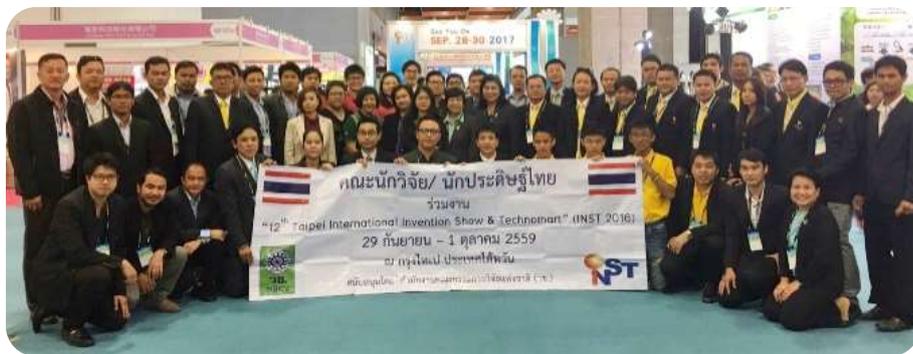




Newsletter

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16th FERCAP (Forum for Ethical Review Committees in the Asian and Western Pacific Region) International Conference



The 16th FERCAP International Conference is an annually held international meeting. The participants comprising those involved in human research in various and sundry fields: Medical Science, Humanities, Social Science, and Behavioral Science such as Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmaceutical Science, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences, Medical Technologist, Psychology, Demography, Law, etc., come from countries in the Western Pacific Asia, including pharmaceutical research and development institutions and experts or representatives of international organizations such as the Food and Drug Administration of the United States, European and the Asia-Pacific countries, etc. The objectives of the conference are to exchange knowledge, experience and work problems on policy of the organizations in the Asian countries, together with the supervision of research on humans, research ethics of traditional medicine and integrative medicine in different countries, research ethics in social science and behavioral science, research and development of medical tools and devices, and clinically studied data to support registration and to enhance the development of ethical research on humans of institutions in each region.

In the year 2016, the NRCT, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, and Thai Red Cross Society co-hosted the 16th FERCAP International Conference “Advancing Best Practices in Research Ethics across Asia and the Western Pacific” between 20-23 November 2016 at Bhumisiri Mangkhalanusorn Building, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital. Mr. Kenji Hirayama, the president of FERCAP, delivered a welcoming remark in the meeting over which Clinical Professor Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, Minister of Public Health, presided and lectured on “The Contribution of Best Practices in Research Ethics to a Harmonized Approach toward Health Research across Asia”. 900 attendees from 16 countries took part in the meeting. Noticeably 55 International institutions and six agencies in Thailand received prize shields and certifications of SIDCER-NECAST.



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Promotion, Support, and Development of Bioplastic Research



The National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), the main agency in charge of supervision of national research direction for developing and solving problems of the country, realizes the importance of bioplastic industry; it has hence allotted bioplastic research funding in upstream, midstream and downstream levels under the name "Innovative Helix on Biodegradable Plastics in Thailand" from 2007 onwards. Concurrently, the NRCT has made strategic policy and research directions of bioplastic development in order that research framework and problems can be set and achieved the target. In the passed ten years, the government has funded a lot of researches on bioplastic, enabling Thai researchers to research, develop and advance greatly in technology for advancement on a par with the industry leaders in bioplastic, and to highly increase competitiveness in the global market continuously. However, any commodities or technologies acquired from research work may be incomplete. The private sector is likely to further the development of plastic products or technologies at a more advanced level that lead to the concrete use.

From the mentioned reasons, the NRCT in collaboration with Thai Bioplastic Industry Association and Plastics Institute of Thailand has furthered research on bioplastic so as to reach Thailand 4.0 and to enter a competition in the industry level by signing MOU on promotion, support, and development of bioplastic research at Ruay Petch Room, 1st Floor, Maruay Garden Hotel, Bangkok on September 1, 2016 where Ms. Sukunya Theerakullert, Secretary General of the NRCT presided over the signing ceremony.

The signed MOU is deeming a vital step to promote, support, develop bioplastic research and to stimulate the investment in the bioplastic industry so as to push forward the creation of a domestic market of bioplastic sustainably in the future.



Training the Officers of the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) on the Animals for Scientific Purposes Act 2015



The Institute of Animals for Scientific Purpose Development (IAD), the NRCT, got NRCT's officers to train on the Animals for Scientific Purposes Act 2015 on November 9, 2016 at Prof. Dr.Sanga Sabhasri Meeting Room, 1st floor, NRCT Building 1 in order that they acquire knowledge, understanding of the task related to the supervision of the use and care of animals appropriately conforming with the above act. In the training, Dr.Pattamarat Kunjara, Expert in Research System, acted as the chairwoman, and Mr.Bovorn Bunlop, Public Prosecutor attached to the Office of the Attorney General joined as speaker.



Oil Palm Bunch Harvesting Car



Oil palm is a kind of plant with highly competitive potential in production and marketing other than other plants. Major producing countries are Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. A lot of palm trees have been planted in Thailand specially for industry over 40 years. Aged palm trees have been around for years. Since the palm trees are approximately 12 meters of height, cutting with sickles and gathering bunches of oil palm become extremely hard as laborers get unable to control the sickles and fix the right position of oil palm bunches to be cut; this may harm and lessen the quality of oil palm bunches.

To tackle the mentioned obstacle, Thailand Research Organizations Network (TRON) in the name of the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) and Agricultural Research Development Agency (Public Organization) funded a project "Oil Palm Bunches Harvesting Car" carried out by Asst.Prof.Dr.Sirichai Torsakul, Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi. This project aims to design and develop a versatile car for harvesting oil palm bunches. As the car is capable of moving on slope area, uneven ground, and of transporting 1.5 tons of palm oil bunches, it assists in reducing the number of laborers in harvesting to 50 percent.

