Thai Schools Renew Cooperative Links With IU’s School of Dentistry

Since the early 1990s, when the IU School of Dentistry and Thailand’s five dental schools signed educational agreements, the schools have been steadily building a bridge of friendship between Thailand and Indianapolis.

Another plank was added to that bridge when IUSD renewed its commitment to Thailand during ceremonies held at the IU dental school August 15 when visitors representing Thai universities, and IU administrators, faculty, and staff gathered in the Gorman Center to witness the signing of a Letter of Agreement by Dr. Visaka Limwongse, director of the doctoral program at Chulalongkorn University, and Dr. George Stookey, acting dean of dentistry at IU.

The signing reaffirmed an interest in collaboration between the Ministry of University Affairs of Thailand and the IU School of Dentistry. The document, which will be valid for four years, will serve as an umbrella agreement for the five individual school contracts IUSD signed in 1993 and 1994 with Chulalongkorn, Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Mahidol, and Prince of Songkhla universities.

The primary goal of the signatories to the agreement is to promote the development of graduate dental education in Thailand.

A number of Thai students and faculty members have participated in educational opportunities at IU since the original school agreements were signed.

Through its Ministry of University Affairs, Thailand has sent doctoral students to dental schools at IU and other American universities for advanced training in key areas of dentistry. After completing their studies, the Thai students return home to train others.

Thailand hopes that this kind of exchange will ultimately ease the severe shortage of dental healthcare workers in some parts of this Southeast Asian country. Plans for the construction of three additional dental schools in Thailand is currently under way. — IUSD School of Dentistry

Alumni Bulletin

IUPUI Chancellor Gerald Bepko (center right) holds the Letter of Agreement extending IU’s cooperative links with Thai schools of dentistry which was signed by Dr. Visaka Limwongse (center left) of Chulalongkorn University.