



University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP)

27 April 2020

Dr. Etsuko Yaguchi, Secretary General of UMAP IS and President of Toyo University,
Distinguished UMAP Board Members,

I know all of us are overwhelmed with news and stats about coronavirus, but the health and well-being of our community across the country/territory and around the globe are our most important priorities.

Every April, we look forward to celebrating the Thai New Year during Songkran Festival with happiness and joys. But this year is different. Cultural events have been cancelled as well as the UMAP Board Meeting due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Personally, this COVID-19 sure gives many lessons to all sectors. Therefore, UMAP could serve as a catalyst for our higher education to look into the future--plan on what to learn from policies to platforms and practices. Our community will be much stronger if we carefully capture lessons learned from unprecedented changes for future unexpected challenges. With our collective efforts and strong network, together we are tackling this disease and then we will overcome it with the sense of caring without borders.

In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Dr. Makio Takemura, former Secretary General of UMAP IS for his kind support over the past years. I would also like to congratulate and welcome Dr. Etsuko Yaguchi, President of Toyo University for assuming the new Secretary General of UMAP IS. Likewise, thanks also go to UMAP National Secretariats and UMAP IS team for all the best efforts and contributions.

I wish the meeting every success. Your opinions are of great value for the future of UMAP. I look forward to seeing you in the next Board Meeting.

Stay strong and very healthy!

Dr. Sumate Yamnoon
UMAP Chairperson
Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand