

ROYAL ADDRESS
(To accept the most prestigious International Union of Toxicology Merit Award)
by
Professor Dr. HRH Princess Chulabhorn
at
The 13th International Congress of Toxicology (ICTXIII)
30 June 2013, Seoul, Korea
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It gives me very great pleasure to be here today to accept the most prestigious International Union of Toxicology Merit Award, which has been so graciously presented to me.

Toxicology is one of the most important fields in protecting human health and the environment. Countries that have experienced rapid industrial development involving the use of chemicals need to invest in human resource development in the discipline of toxicology in order to promote sustainable development and the prevention of environmental deterioration as well as protection of human health.

For me this award represents the recognition not only of my own work as a scientist but also the now internationally recognized work of the Chulabhorn Research Institute in Thailand.

As the founding president of the Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI), one of my most important goals has been to inspire and assist the development of a scientific research institute that ranks with the best in the world and which contributes to research and education that improves the quality of life of people throughout our region.

The first twenty years in the establishment and development of CRI have brought many successes and a great many challenges that are largely a result of the recognition and encouragement our work has received from international scientific communities, as well as from some of the most prestigious academic and research institutions throughout the world, with which we collaborate.

CRI has implemented capacity building programs for Southeast Asian and other developing countries for human resource development both at the post graduate level and as short term training programs in toxicology and risk assessment of chemicals for more than 20 years. We organized 79 training courses with more than 4100 participants from 31 countries. We hope that this will contribute to fulfilling the need for more trainers and qualified personnel in developing countries with a knowledge of toxicology.

Thus CRI is an internationally recognized center for education and training activities and we have earned a reputation for excellence in all our various programs. Indeed our International Center for Environmental and Industrial Toxicology (ICEIT) was in 1990 designated “United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Centre of Excellence in Environmental and Industrial Toxicology”, and more recently, in 2005, as a result of collaboration between CRI and the World Health Organization, CRI was designated WHO Collaborating Centre for Capacity Building and Research in Environmental Health Science and Toxicology.

Most recently, WHO Regional office for Southeast Asia has designated CRI to be a regional training center for chemical safety.

Our success in receiving this degree of recognition owes a great deal to our collaboration with leading institutions worldwide as well as to the individual contributions of distinguished academics and researchers who have assisted us in our endeavors. May I here acknowledge with my personal thanks this important contribution.

The prestigious award that you have presented to me today is a gratifying reflection of the success of our work in the field of toxicology and the vital role of toxicology in environmental and human health protection.

May I in this regard commend the work of IUTOX for its efforts in raising awareness of the importance of toxicology in the context of human health and the environment.

With the increased level of activity that our efforts have brought, our greatest challenge for the future is to maintain the high standards of excellence in our work. In this regard CRI would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with IUTOX in any aspects of our activities that would promote toxicology in preserving and improving quality of life of all who share this planet. Such is our goal for the future.

Thank you.
