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Preface

Since April 2006 till March 2009, more than 40 researchers from Thailand and Japan have engaged in a Thailand-Japan joint project under the funding from National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The project title was "Establishment of Bioproduction Research Center for Southeast Asian Bioresources" which aims to develop ways for more efficient use of Thai bioresources into actual bioproduction of value-added products as the model system for bioresources of Southeast Asian countries. Joint researches resulted in a lot of fruitful results by hard and sincere efforts of the participating researchers, but in addition to these scientific results, during this joint project, we have accumulated significant amount of data relating to bioresources of Thailand, such as survey data on the present status of Thai bioresources, Thai biotechnology companies, funding trend for biotechnological researches in Thailand, and inputs and insights on bioresources from the participating researchers of both sides. Based on these survey data and accumulated knowledge from core researchers of Thailand and Japan, in this document, we would like to show our proposal on how to utilize Thai bioresources when aiming to establish bioproduction of value-added products.

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NRCT-NSTDA-MEXT Joint Project
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Members involved in the joint project

Team/Unit	Member in Thailand	Member in Japan	Mission
Total Design Team	Prof. Amaret Bhumiratana (Mahidol U) Prof. Morakot Tanticharoen (BIOTEC) Prof. Skorn Mongkolsuk (Mahidol U) Prof. Watanalai Panbangred (Mahidol U) Dr. Kanyawim Kirtikara (BIOTEC) Dr. Therapatt Prasansarakij (BIOTEC)	Prof. Takuya Nihira (Osaka U) Prof. Satoshi Harashima (Osaka U) Prof. Hisao Ohtake (Osaka U) Prof. Eiichiro Fukusaki (Osaka U)	Accumulate and analyze data on present and unexplored Thai bioresources, evaluate their potential value, and select and propose proper targets
Basic Research Unit	**Member in Thailand**	**Member in Japan**	**Mission**
Unexplored bioresources and its evaluation	Prof. Watanalai Panbangred (Mahidiol U) Prof. Vithaya Meevootisom (Mahidol U) Prof. Savitree Limtong (Kasetsart U) Dr. Wichien Yongmanitchai (Kasetsart U) Dr. Arinthip Thamchaipenet (Kasetsart U)	Prof. Takuya Nihira (Osaka U) Prof. Tatsuji Seki (Osaka U) Prof. Kazuhito Fujiyama (Osaka U) Prof. Kozo Asano (Hokkaido U) Prof. Yasuhiro Igarashi (Toyama Prefectural U)	Search for novel micro- organisms which can produce novel bioactive compounds, useful enzymes or can con-vert biomass into useful materials
Breeding and improvement of biocatalyst	Dr. Chuenchit Boonchird (Mahidol U) Dr. Ruud Valyasevi (BIOTEC) Dr. Wonnop Visessanguan (BIOTEC) Dr. Khanok Ratanakhanokchai (KMUTT)	Prof. Satoshi Harashima (Osaka U) Prof. Kenji Sonomoto (Kyushu U) Prof. Kazumasa Hirata (Osaka U) Prof. Kazuo Sakka (Mie U)	Upon the potentially useful microorganisms, such as the yeasts, breed or improve its ability using genetics/genome information/metabol ic engineering
Development of bioprocess platform	Dr.Thunyarat Pongtharangkul Dr. Aisa Vangnai (Mahidol U) Dr. Verawat Champreda (BIOTEC) Dr. Suchada Chanprateep (Chulalongkorn U)	Prof. Hisao Ohtake (Osaka U) Prof. Yasuo Igarashi (U Tokyo) Prof. Suteaki Shioya (Sojo U) Dr. Yoshio Katakura (Osaka U)	Develop and evaluate bio-processes from Thai bio- resources into practically affordable bioprocess plat-form

Organization of the Joint Project between the Thai Consortium and the Japanese U Consortium