

*>Welcome Remarks from the Dean of Ratchasuda College,  
Mahidol University*



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**Honorable Guests, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of Ratchasuda College, it is our great pleasure to warmly welcome you to **the 7<sup>th</sup> Ratchasuda Virtual International Conference on Disability 2021**. This College was established in accordance with the generous mercy of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn who dedicates her life to enhance quality of life of persons with disabilities. According to the college's missions, higher education and academic services have been provided to persons with disabilities, rehabilitation professionals, and educators for over 30 years. Whereas knowledge production to serve as the wisdom for all has increasingly been addressed.

The College also aims to extend the learning and sharing spaces across nations and cultures among those who are interested and working on disability-related areas for quality of life development and empowering people with disabilities. To serve this purpose Ratchasuda International Conference on Disability has been continually annually operated for 7 years ago. Besides this kind of meeting, the other ways of collaborations would also be expected such as exchanges of visiting professors and students, as well as the particular collaborative researches.

*"Inclusion Futures: Policies, Practices and Funding"*, the theme of this year conference addressing five significant areas to promote inclusion persons with disabilities naming; education, environment, technology, society, and policy. Inclusion is well recognized as the critical principle regarding the UN

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), as well as the Disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, equal rights and opportunities, accessibility and non-discrimination need to be explicitly practiced particularly in education areas.

For your information, we would like to inform that there were many issues of our interests which been in operation and wish to have broader collaboration with all of you, for instance, 1) the development of competency-based Bachelor degree curriculum and flexible education program for persons with disabilities; 2) human resource development to provide services for people with disabilities including teacher, Thai SL interpreter, and other rehabilitation professionals; 3) the development of rehabilitation service model such as orientation and mobility training for the blind and low vision persons, and 4) the research and development on assistive technology for better access to information and learning of people with disabilities.

This year conference, we are very honored to have Professor Dr. Chang, Heng-Hao from National Taiwan University to give a keynote speech. Moreover, there will be Associate Professor Dr. Mandia Mentis, Dr. Wendy Holley-Boen, Dr. Lucila Carvalho, and Ms. Malia Iona Tuala to share their great experiences on the panel discussion.

According to COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was then virtually arranged which I believe that all participants will gain valuable knowledges and experiences from our speaker, panelists, and all presenters. Finally, I would like to thanks all of you for your participation and kindly support our learning platform and to jointly promote inclusive society for all particular in education areas.

May you enjoy the conference, please.