

The News Letter of the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University

KU President Visited Universities in China

Prof. Taniguchi, the President of Kumamoto University, visited Nanchang University, Shanghai Normal University and Sichuan University during his visit to China from May 3-8, 2011. These universities have ongoing academic collaboration agreements with our university. At each university, Prof. Taniguchi expressed gratitude for China's aid and support after the March 11 earthquake and explained the current situation in Japan before moving on to discuss the future strengthening of relations.



【Photo-1】Nanchang University 90th Anniversary Ceremony



【Photo-2】Commemorative Photo with Prof. Zhou and Other Executives

On May 4, Prof. Taniguchi attended a commemorative ceremony celebrating the 90th anniversary of Nanchang University and an International Presidential Forum. (Photos 1-2)

The 90th anniversary festivities took place in the Nanchang University stadium in front of an audience of 12000 people. Attendees included guests from within China, presidents from overseas partner universities including Prof. Taniguchi, alumni and current students. Thereafter, the presidents moved to the meeting room for the forum, in which Prof. Taniguchi gave a keynote speech explaining the current internationalization status and initiatives at Kumamoto University. Moreover, Prof. Taniguchi held talks with Prof. Zhou Wenbin, President of Nanchang University, and the heads of Nanchang University Medical College, Software School and International Exchange College. During the talks, Prof. Taniguchi and Prof. Zhou discussed the current status of and future strengthening of relations between Kumamoto and Nanchang Universities, and agreed to further deepen the friendship between the two.

Prof. Taniguchi subsequently visited Shanghai Normal University (Photo 3) on May 6 and Sichuan University (Photo 4) on May 7, where he exchanged opinions regarding the furtherance of inter-university relations. He also visited Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology. Kumamoto University has emphasized academic collaboration with universities in China. As a result, the number of Chinese universities entering into ongoing academic collaboration agreements with Kumamoto University has increased from 11 to 36 in the past ten years.

In addition, our university opened its Shanghai Office in 2005 and its Dalian Office in 2011. Also in 2011, we will transform our Shanghai Office into a joint office in association with the prefecture and the city of Kumamoto. In commemoration of this, a Kumamoto University Forum in Shanghai is being organized.



【Photo-3】Shanghai Normal University Vice President, Lu Jianfei (Leftmost)



【Photo-4】Sichuan University Vice President, Shi Jian (Right)

Kumamoto University Summer Program 2011

The 5th Kumamoto University Summer Program began on July 5, 2011. This program has been held annually since the academic year 2007. This year's program was designed to provide more opportunities for international and domestic students to interact with one another.

The Center for Globalization announced details of the program to our overseas partner universities and offered place for 40 students, 10 more than last year's program. 39 students participated from six universities in China, South Korea, and Taiwan.

This program also attracted a great deal of attention from students of our own university. The number of applicants from Kumamoto University wishing to assist foreign students' activities on the program exceeded 80. The international and domestic students spent almost two weeks together, attending classes on Japanese language and society at the Center for Globalization, visiting tourist spots and enjoying hands-on experiences of Japanese culture.



Students Visiting Kumamoto Castle

Study Abroad Orientation Seminar 2011 "Encouragement to Study Abroad"

The Center for Globalization has organized a series of study abroad orientation sessions. The first seminar, entitled 'Encouragement to Studying Abroad', was held at the multipurpose conference room on the first floor of the Inter-Departmental Education Building on May 31, 2011. It was held during the lunch break, instead of class hours, to make it easier for students to participate.

First, Prof. Torii, Assistant Director of the Center for Globalization delivered the opening speech, explaining the importance of studying abroad and the increasing demands of globalization in modern society. Then, the International Strategy Unit provided basic information about the student exchange programs, documents for application, and the procedure students should complete before leaving Japan.

The students were listening attentively because most of them intend to study abroad this or next year. We will continue to provide various resources regarding overseas study, such as information relating to transferable credits, job hunting, TOEFL, and the experiences of students who have returned from their overseas studies.

Language Program at the University of Newcastle

Kumamoto University annually sends students to a language program at an overseas partner university for the purposes of improving their international communication skills, developing their cross-cultural understanding, and motivating them to undertake long-term study abroad.

In the academic year 2010, our university sent 15 students, in excess of the initial capacity of 10, on a three-week intensive language course at the University of Newcastle (UoN) in Australia from March 19 to April 5. The UoN is one of our most longstanding partners, having exchanged students for over 20 years since we concluded the academic exchange agreement in 1986.

The program is intended not only to provide the students with language classes at the university, but also to offer them opportunities to practice and further improve their English in their daily lives. While staying with local host families, students enjoyed local cuisine and learned about customs and lifestyles which differ from their own. Another highlight of the program was their visits to stunning vistas in Australia.

UoN Language Centre accepts students from various countries around the world. The classes are conducted in friendly atmosphere in which students are encouraged to communicate with their classmates and teachers. This gave our students opportunities to learn different cultures and to see just how much more advanced the English level of their foreign counterparts are, which motivated our students to think more seriously about their own English studies.

After returning from Australia, the students mentioned that they would like to broaden their international perspective and make use of their experience to further their English ability.

Japan-Korea Joint Exchange Program for Undergraduate Students of Science and Engineering

A conference of the Japan-Korea Joint Exchange Program for Undergraduate Students of Science and Engineering was held in the lecture hall on the third floor of the Kumamoto Study Center of the Open University of Japan on July 1, 2011. The program was organized in accordance with an agreement between the Japanese and South Korean governments, while the conference was held to provide opportunities for task force members to gather and exchange information. Members from national universities with science and technology faculties accepting South Korean students attended the conference. Representatives from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the National Institute for International Education Development (NIIED) of South Korea, and Kyunghee University (Japanese language institution in South Korea) talked about the background of the program and its current status.

Kumamoto University hosted the conference this year. The conference was attended by an impressive 81 guests; five from South Korea, four from MEXT, and 72 from 34 member universities, and many others from Kumamoto University. It proved to be a great success.

The Center for Globalization is to participate in a student exchange fair for students selected for the program, which is to be held in Seoul, South Korea. The aim of the fair is to attract as many prospective South Korean students as possible to come and study at Kumamoto University.

First Semester TOEFL-iBT Seminar

The First Semester TOEFL-iBT Seminar started on June 14, 2011. This extracurricular program is aimed at enhancing students' command of English for academic purposes as well as facilitating them to go abroad to study at universities, including our partner universities. The seminar consisted of 10 classes which were held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All



TOEFL-iBT Class

of the 22 students who attended the seminar intend to study at universities in English-speaking countries where TOEFL scores are acknowledged. They worked earnestly during the lessons, which were given by native English teachers, and completed assignments to the best of their abilities in every class.

Each of the students took a practice test for the TOEFL-iBT before and after attending the seminar. They are expected to take the real test by the end of the academic year 2011 and submit their score reports. The Center for Globalization will examine whether the students improved their command of English through the course.



Students Intently Listening to Their Teacher



Opening Ceremony of Short-Term Exchange Programs

The opening ceremony of the first-semester Japanese Language Intensive Course and Short-Term Exchange Program Course was held on April 5, 2011. Prof. Taniguchi, the President of Kumamoto University, made a warm congratulatory speech, telling the students to keep in good shape and make a lot of Japanese friends.



In this semester, four international students from Tonga, Benin, Mongolia and Papua New Guinea have entered Kumamoto University to attend the Japanese Language Intensive Course. They will take language training at the Center for Globalization for six months in preparation for upcoming graduate courses. At the same time, 12 students enrolled on the Short-term Exchange Program Course. Five of the students hail from China and seven come from South Korea. The students taking the course will belong to the undergraduate school of their respective subjects, where they will take classes offered by the Center of Globalization as well as those in liberal arts and specialized subjects. Moreover, they will attend lessons based on their individual Japanese language ability and interests.



Commemorative Photo of the Ceremony

Lecture Held at the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University

On Monday 25th April 2011, Kumamoto University held a lecture meeting entitled "Recent Trends in Higher Education and Research in France," at its Center for Globalization. For this event, the university invited Professor Yoichi Nakatani, the Head of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Strasbourg Office.



Prof. Nakatani giving his lecture

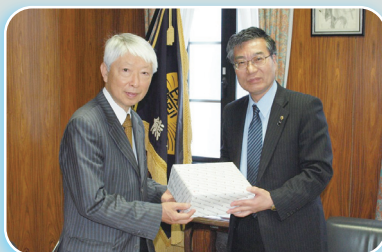
As well as devoting himself to chemistry research at the University of Strasbourg in France, Prof. Nakatani also continually contributes to the progress of academic, scientific and student relations between Japan and France.

More than forty members of staff listened attentively to the lecture regarding the current state of French higher education and research, before contributing to a lively question and answer session.

Before the lecture started, Prof. Nakatani paid a courtesy visit to Prof. Isao Taniguchi, the President of Kumamoto University.

Kumamoto University has recently signed inter-university exchange agreements with the École Nationale Supérieure d'Électronique, Informatique et Radiocommunications de Bordeaux (ENSEIRB) and the University of Bordeaux Association, and is involved in the exchange of students and researchers therewith. Moreover, Kumamoto University Graduate School of Science and Technology signed a new inter-departmental exchange agreement with Polytech Clermont-Ferrand in 2010.

During the visit, Prof. Nakatani and Prof. Taniguchi discussed the exchanges between Kumamoto University and France, and agreed to further develop links between the two.



Prof. Nakatani and Prof. Taniguchi

Interview with Professor Eto: Impressions of the 2010 "Overseas FD Training Program for the Globalization of Education"

Associate Professor Kou Eto, one of the eight faculty members who participated in the Overseas Faculty Development Training Program at California State University, Fullerton from March 7 to 18, 2011, talked about the training and his experiences and thoughts in an interview with the Center for Globalization.



Biological Science,
Graduate School of Science
and Technology

Kou Eto

Associate Prof.

■What impressed you the most during the training?

I reaffirmed that teachers are entertainers. For each professor, the raised platform in front of the blackboard is like a theater stage. But this stage has no boundaries. They are able to walk right into the audience and involve students in their show, and before you know it, you have a healthy and enjoyable study environment. They used various teaching techniques one after another to attract students' attention. They never let the students get bored. I felt like I was watching a live television show. The interaction between teachers and students was very entertaining. Quizzes and questions for consideration followed by discussion in class had gradually let the students focus on what was going on in class. This technique would prove to be useful in any subject, whether it be science, art, or lecture/laboratory training session. I was so impressed by so many things that took place during the training, especially the warm and friendly attitudes of the participants and the lax attitude of the professors—bathroom and cell-phone breaks were given. This kind of consideration was also a part of their quest for efficiency.

■Please tell us how you use your findings in practice?

It is true that students in the U.S. ask many questions in class and are generally more self-motivated and self-independent compared to Japanese students. But before I give up on my students, saying that they are lacking in such areas, I would much rather give my students opportunities to have discussion in groups and lead them to ask me questions or say something, using what I learned from the training as food for thought.

A Visit from Dr. Chung Yeon-ho, Pukyong National University

On May 9, Dr. Chung Yeon-ho, Executive Director of Office of International Relations, Pukyong National University, paid a courtesy visit to Prof. Taniguchi, the President of Kumamoto University.

Pukyong National University (PKNU) is located in Busan Metropolitan City, and focuses on the teaching of engineering and fisheries sciences. PKNU and KU have an ongoing academic collaboration agreement, which was concluded in 2011. However, both universities have had a relationship for more than ten years since inter-departmental exchange agreements were concluded in 2000 between PKNU College of Engineering, KU Faculty of Engineering and KU Graduate School of Science and Technology. We are looking forward to further strengthening of our relations in the future.



Dr. Chung Yeon-ho, Pukyong National University (Left)

Commemorative Symposium "Recent Constitutional Issues in Japan/South Korea"

The Faculty of Law held a symposium entitled "Recent Constitutional Problems in Japan/South Korea" on May 28, 2011, commemorating the renewal of academic and student exchange agreements with Hannam University College of Law (South Korea).

The symposium included three reports; "Post-Disaster Reconstruction and the Constitution" (Prof. Nobuharu Obinata, Faculty of Law), "Autonomy in National Universities" (Prof. Etsuo Yamamoto, Kumamoto University School of Law), "Comparative Study of Japanese and South Korean Constitutions" (Prof. Jeong Sangik, Hannam University College of Law). These reports were followed by enthusiastic discussion and exchange of opinions. Approximately 50 people, including faculty members and students from both universities, participated in this event.



(from the right) Prof. Jeong, Prof. Yamamoto, and Prof. Obinata

Welcome Party for International Students in Kumamoto

On May 14, the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference, which consists of institutions of higher education and other organizations in Kumamoto Prefecture, held a welcome party for new international students who had joined a university or technical college in Kumamoto this April.

About 250 people, including new and existing international students and Japanese students in Kumamoto, attended the party and enjoyed games, the introduction of new students, and various performances organized by members of university clubs or circles. It was a good opportunity for them to make friends from both inside and outside their respective schools. We at the Center would like to thank every student who supported the event.



KU Cross Cultural Communication (C3) Circle



Students Talking at the Party

Volunteer Guide Training Course (8-Day Program)

The Volunteer Guide Training Course organized by the Kumamoto Foreign Student Exchange Promotion Regional Conference was held from May 28 to July 16.

This course was designed for international students who are fluent in Japanese to deepen their knowledge of Kumamoto and Japan through experiences not available to them in their daily lives.

This was the program's second consecutive year. Twenty-one international students enrolled in a university or a technical college in Kumamoto participated in the program.

The participants listened attentively to the lecturer, who is a volunteer guide from the Kumamoto International Convention and Tourism Bureau, and then visited Kumamoto Castle for a field exercise. After completing the training course, they took a bus tour sponsored by Kumamoto City and had a good time together.



Students Attending a Lecture

New international exchange agreements signed March-June, 2011

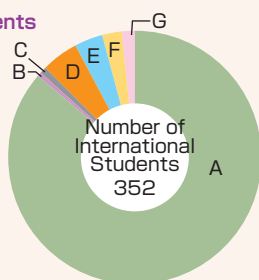
Level	Partner institution	Country	Type
University-Level	Pukyong National University	Korea	Academic/studentexchange
	University of Seoul	Korea	Academic/studentexchange
	University of Macau	People's Republic of China	Academic/studentexchange
Department-level	Faculty of Engineering Graduate School of Science and Technology	Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Engineering	Thailand Academic/studentexchange
	Faculty of Engineering Graduate School of Science and Technology	Inha University, College of Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Regional Innovation Center for Environmental Technology of Thermal Plasma	Korea Academic

Statistics

Number of International Students

(As of May 2011)

A : Asia	304
B : North America	2
C : South Middle America	2
D : Europe	17
E : Middle East	13
F : Africa	9
G : Oceania	5

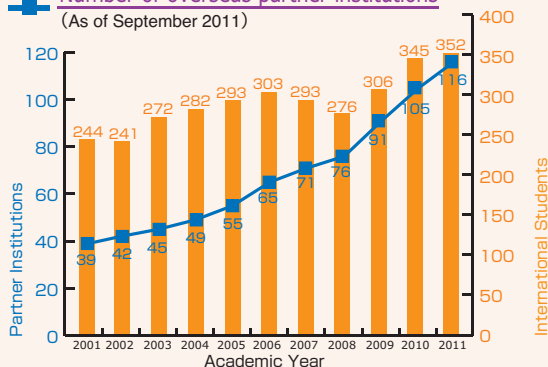


Number of International Students

(As of May 2011)

Number of overseas partner institutions

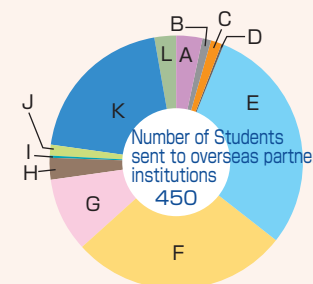
(As of September 2011)



Number of Students sent to overseas partner institutions

(1977-2010)

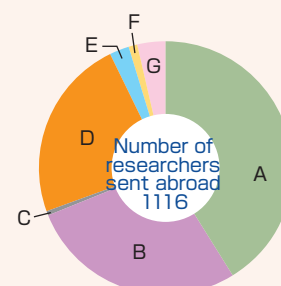
A : China	16
B : Korea	4
C : Taiwan	7
D : Vietnam	1
E : U.S.A	133
F : U.K	124
G : Germany	43
H : France	13
I : Czech	1
J : Turkey	6
K : Australia	90
L : New Zealand	12



Number of researchers sent abroad

(2010 April-2011 March)

A : Asia	460
B : North America	311
C : South Middle America	6
D : Europe	259
E : Middle East	28
F : Africa	13
G : Oceania	39



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