Globalizing the university is complex.

President Harada: Please talk about globalization in general strategy.

Harada: For the last decade or more, we have been involved in globalization. What real globalization is, I think, to encourage different people and different ways of thinking. Now KUMAMOTO University is opening the door for international students for all people, including minorities. The Global Leader Course (GLC) is also opening the door for students who want to study global issues or want to work internationally in their lives.

—Everyone, please talk about your impressions about GLC as first GLC students.

Higashi: Before entering KUMAMOTO University, I was eager to spend my time with unique friends and international students. Now my university life is much better than I thought because teachers are very kind and have a good sense of humor. I think it's a very interesting life. Various kinds of students from different backgrounds are valuable to share their ideas and think about the aspects of their majors.

Minakami: I learned English and wanted to communicate with people from other countries when I was a high school student. In this university, there are many foreign students and I have a lot of opportunities to communicate with them in English and other languages. I love English and Korean also. My English and Korean skills can be improved at KUMAMOTO University.
Shimazoe: I really want to study communication and of course English, and actually I want to learn about mass media. Because I am interested in jobs like teaching Japanese culture to people throughout the world.

Morita: I have been studying English, Chinese, and Korean. I major in law and want to study about the constitution and laws more. I want to improve my languages and want to communicate with native speakers of Chinese, Korean, and English.

Higashi: I would like to talk with science students more because I major in science. I want to go overseas in the future. So now I should know about other countries. Yesterday, I had lunch with students from Thailand at the university cafeteria and talked about their hometown and education. I want to know more about them. If I go overseas, this knowledge can be very useful.

Minakami: I specialize in civil engineering and I am interested in various kinds of disasters. Disasters are often caused by nature not only in Japan but also in places such as developing countries. I am interested in going there. Many international students come here and I think it’s a good opportunity to think about other countries and to continue to focus outside of Japan. Also, Kumamoto University has many Muslim students from Indonesia and Malaysia. To communicate with them is very important and interesting to learn about the world.

Harada: I also have many friends from Cairo. They’re all Muslim. They are quite strict regarding food. They don’t drink alcohol, don’t eat pork. When I visited Cairo, they invited my wife and me to dinner, and I saw that women covered their faces even at the home dinner table. Their culture is very special and I respect it. To learn about different people and cultures is very important for your future.

—President Harada, what do you think the GLC students have to study, and what will their studies bring them in their future?

Harada: I think it’s better to talk about my experience to answer this question. After I entered the department of medicine of Kumamoto University about 50 years ago, I studied medicine very hard, but I also enjoyed playing tennis. Do you know the proverb “All work and no play makes Jack the dull boy”? Studying hard is very important at university. I wanted to be a surgeon, but after I graduated from graduate school, I decided to go abroad, to the U.S.A. to do basic research on AIDS. That experience affected me a lot. I had many friends from various countries because my professor invited colleagues and researchers from all over the world such as the U.K., France, and Belgium. It was very good for me. While I was in the States, I decided to do real basic research and wanted to quit clinical work. When I was back to Japan, I started research work only. All of those experiences affected my future, way of thinking, and how I do basic research. Today my activities are totally based on those experiences. I recommend you to study very hard at university, and also recommend you to go abroad if you get a chance. Going abroad is very nice and brings you very nice experiences and your way of thinking can be broader and more international. That’s very important especially for young people. You have to have such an environment while you are at the GLC and that’s what I hope.

Minakami: I am going to Philippines this summer. I am going to learn English for a month at Ateneo de Manilia University which is affiliated with Kumamoto University.

Now I have more confidence to speak English compared to before.

Your job in your future spreading to the world
—What kind of job would you like to do in your future?

Shimazoe: I haven’t decided exactly yet. But I want to have a job in which I can introduce Japanese culture to other people in the world. When I was in Thailand, I had time to talk with Thai people and people from other countries. When I talk with foreign people, they often ask about my hometown and my culture. I
recognized it was so interesting to share cultures and my life in other countries. I want to tell more people about Japanese culture and the Japanese story and want them to know about Japanese culture more. I am going to learn more about my own culture and also want to learn about other cultures. As I said before, I haven’t decided what job I want to do yet. But in any job, I want to tell people about beautiful Japanese culture.

**Harada** You have to learn about Japanese culture also, right? When I first went to the States, my friend said to me “While you are in the States, don’t talk about your religion and politics because they are complex and hard to explain. But please talk about your culture. It is interesting and makes your conversation nice”. But unfortunately, I had no idea what Japanese culture is then. That was a problem.

**Moria** I haven’t decided yet either. But I think I want to work at the legal department of a global company, so I have to study law, English and other languages. I want to be “a bridge” who can connect Japan and other countries. So I think I have to improve my English skill first and legal skills and also other languages.

**Higashi** I want to be a biotechnological researcher. I major in science. I am especially interested in a biotechnology called biomimetics. Creatures have a lot of skills to live. I want to use these skills to help people in Africa. In Africa, many people are suffering from drought and wars. I want to help them by using biotechnology.

**Harada** Biotechnology is now very competitive. Again, you have to study hard. You’ve never been to Africa, right? It is very interesting place to live and work. I was in Ghana 15 years ago. When my colleague took me to outside of Ghana’s main city to visit a hospital, I was so surprised that all the facilities there were very old. The Japanese government provided support and gave very expensive machines to the hospital but they couldn’t maintain those instruments. All the brand-new machines were still there but once they were broke, they were never repaired. They were wasting a lot of money. The same situation was present in other areas. So you have to learn about the special situation in Africa, otherwise your help won’t be effective. Another example is AIDS. AIDS is prevalent in Africa. When I went to Africa, WHO supported African countries with some kinds of vaccine. It was a polio vaccine, not for AIDS. It should be very useful that the polio vaccine was supplied to Africa, but people had no knowledge at how to store the vaccine. The vaccine sent to Africa was kept outside, even though it should be kept in freezers. The expensive vaccine was almost ruined by the heat. You have to educate people in Africa before you help. Otherwise your help won’t be effective.

**Minakami** I haven’t decided clearly either. But I would like to work for a kind of NPO. When the earthquake happened in Kumamoto, many NPOs came to Kumamoto and helped our lives. I was very impressed by their action. I want to contribute to something like that as was done for me. I want to go outside of Japan and work at places I couldn’t normally see.

**Harada** What type of NPO activity do you want to do?

**Minakami** Kind of volunteer work. Not only NPOs but for example UNICEF. I want to contribute my major, civil engineering, but my future career is not limited in my major.

**Harada** But developing countries need proper engineering and techniques. Because engineering is very important for infrastructure. That’s why many professors of the engineering department go abroad to help. Water is also a problem.

**Shimazer** If you want to learn and practice English at the GLC, there are a lot of opportunities to use English in daily life. So you can enjoy university life at GLC at Kumamoto University. Let’s practice English together step by step.

**Harada** It’s very important to have dreams, what you want to do in your future, that’s very important. And also, please aim very high for your dream. Otherwise, you cannot improve yourself. To make your dreams come true, I say again, you have to study hard. We will help you as much as possible.

**Moria** I think international laws are becoming very important because we have new properties and companies outside Japan and there are some problems there. To solve them, international legal knowledge is very important. You have to study hard.

**To make your dreams come true, you have to study hard.**