

The News Letter of the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University

Attending a Ceremony Commemorating the Signing of a University-level Exchange Agreement between Chungbuk National University (South Korea) and Kumamoto University

From May 2nd to May 4th, President Taniguchi took a delegation from our university on an official visit to Chungbuk National University, based in Cheongju, Chungcheongbuk-do (province), South Korea. Chungbuk National University is ranked among the top 20 Korean national universities and comprises 13 undergraduate colleges and 8 graduate schools; it is now in its 4th year of exchanges with Kumamoto University.

On May 3rd, a ceremony was held to mark the signing of a university-level exchange agreement between the two universities, after which President Taniguchi had the opportunity to meet and talk with Dr. Seung-Taik Kim, President of Chungbuk National University. Before attending the signing ceremony, the Kumamoto University delegation was shown around a number of facilities belonging to its hosts, including Chungbuk National University Hospital.

During this visit, Dr. Kim and President Taniguchi

exchanged ideas regarding specific future exchange activities, such as joint workshops and the development of educational programs, and agreed to further strengthen relations between their respective universities.



A memorial photo taken after the signing ceremony



President Taniguchi in conversation with Dr. Seung-Taik Kim, President of Chungbuk National University

New Shanghai Office (Kumamoto Shanghai Office) Opened Report from the Shanghai Office (1)



Staff members of the Kumamoto Shanghai Office

From left, back row:

Tsugihiko Yoshida
(Kumamoto Prefectural Government officer)

Waichi Nakaura (Advisor)

Yukio Sugimoto
(Kumamoto Municipal Government officer)

From left, front row:

Lu Xiaoyan (Assistant)

He Haiyang
(Specialized staff member/staff member in charge of Kumamoto University)

Yao Shuanghui (Industrial advisor)

Established in 2005 as Kumamoto University's first overseas office, the Kumamoto University Shanghai Office restarted in October 2011 as the Kumamoto Shanghai Office, operated jointly by Kumamoto Prefecture, Kumamoto City and Kumamoto University. This new office in Shanghai is expected to function as a hub in helping Kumamoto companies do business in China and other East Asian countries that have been enjoying high economic growth and increasing allure as markets. The Shanghai office is also expected to play a substantial role in attracting more tourists to Kumamoto and encouraging more students to study in Kumamoto.

The major activities of the Kumamoto Shanghai Office are as follows.

1. Promotes academic and student exchanges with partner institutions
2. Cultivates Chinese students who are interested in studying at KU, and assists students who are preparing to come to KU to study
3. Promotes the international collaboration of the university, industry and government
4. Provides information about KU and its entrance exams, and assists with public relations activities
5. Supports alumni activities
6. Working with Kumamoto Prefecture and Kumamoto City to promote Kumamoto and support joint projects beneficial to all parties concerned

Thus far, Kumamoto University has concluded international exchange agreements with 39 institutions in China. After the founding of our new Shanghai office, our local staff visited universities in and around Shanghai (Tongji University, Shanghai Normal University, East China University of Politics and Law, Hangzhou Normal University and others) from April to June with the aim of strengthening friendly ties with such partner universities. They held interviews and fruitful exchange of opinions with international exchange staff at those universities.

In the years ahead, the Kumamoto Shanghai Office plans to provide partner universities with more information about Kumamoto University's recent education and research activities, and hold various relevant events, thereby further promoting its exchange with universities in China.

Welcome to Kumamoto University Liaison Office at ITS! Report from the ITS Office (1)

The Liaison Office was officially established by Kumamoto University in April 2010, and is located at the prestigious university focusing on science and technology, the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya.

The office will be the center of information about Kumamoto University in Southeast Asia and South Asia. This liaison office is expected to contribute greatly to strengthening international collaboration among research and student exchange programs between Kumamoto University, ITS and other Indonesian universities, as well as assisting the networking of Kumamoto University alumni living in Indonesia.

The ITS Liaison Office provides updated information on Kumamoto University programs to prospective students and researchers, and is involved in numerous discussions and consultations with students and lecturers from ITS, consortium universities (UNSRAT-Manado, UNCEN-Jayapura, UNRAM-Mataram and UNDANA-Kupang) and with other universities in Indonesia. One of our main goals is to promote several programs such as undergraduate and postgraduate student exchanges, the Summer Program, dual doctoral degrees, the ICAST Conference, IJEP and MEXT programs, and other related activities.

Several activities have been implemented to enable closer relationships with students and researchers, with meetings most often in the office to share the ideas and experiences. E-mail communication via a mailing list is also often used to exchange information. Currently, about 250 students and researchers have used the services at the Kumamoto University Liaison Office at ITS.

ITS has given us numerous opportunities to introduce Kumamoto University and its programs through presentation sessions held on May 23 and April 5, 2012. It was wonderful to find that students and lecturers/researchers were so eager to learn more about Kumamoto University and Japanese culture.



Presentation session at ITS

2011 Study Trip for International Students at Kumamoto University

From February 15th to 16th, 117 international students from 20 countries along with a tutor visited Shimabara, Unzen, and Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture. The goals of these yearly study trips are to strengthen international friendships, and deepen Kumamoto University's international students' understanding of Japanese history and culture.

On the first day of the trip students travelled by ferry from Kumamoto Port to Shimabara Port and visited the Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall, Shimabara Samurai Residence and Unzen Jigoku. Many international students were very surprised as a large flock of seagulls flew very close to the ferry as it departed. At the Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall, students participated in an interactive volcano simulation and learned lessons about natural wonders as well as natural disasters. Students then visited a former Edo Period style Samurai house located on the west side of Shimabara Castle, and enjoyed walking around Unzen Jigoku, an area filled with many high temperature hot springs that constantly erupt from all over the place, spewing volcanic gases and gushing large clouds of steam everywhere.

On the second day of the study trip, students travelled from Unzen to Nagasaki City and visited Glover Garden and Dejima. Students explored Glover Garden, which still has the atmosphere of the end of the Edo Period, and Dejima which played a major role in the modernization of Japan as the only point of contact opened to the West at the end of the period of national isolation. After learning about Nagasaki's history as a trade base and Japanese culture and traditions in general at the end of the Edo Period, students returned home.

Although at the time of departure the weather was mixed with rain and drizzle, the rain stopped upon the students' arrival in Shimabara, and the rest of the trip was blessed with fine weather. This trip allowed exchange students to gain a deeper awareness of Japanese history and culture, as well as strengthen relationships between fellow international students from other faculties they would not usually have a chance to interact with. Students were heard saying that they are looking forward to the next study trip.



A commemorative photo in Glover Garden

Courtesy Visit to President Taniguchi by Pai Chai University Delegation

On May 23rd, a delegation including President Kim Young-Ho and three members from Pai Chai University, Korea, which has a university-level exchange agreement with Kumamoto University, made a courtesy call to President Taniguchi.

In 1999, Pai Chai University and Kumamoto University expanded our exchange agreement from department-level to university-level; we currently develop various exchange activities such as the mutual exchange of a considerable number of researchers and students.

This visit was realized for the purpose of further intensifying our exchanges, which included the execution of the Memorandum on double-degrees with the Graduate School of Science and Technology. We agreed to further develop our good relationship, and to steadily promote exchanges of students and faculty members.

The delegation visited the Kumamoto University Shock Wave and Condensed Matter Research Center after the courtesy call to observe the experiment facilities and exchange information regarding the co-development of shock energy, which also made their visit very fruitful.



Pai Chai University Delegation and President Taniguchi

TOEFL-iBT Seminar

The TOEFL-iBT Seminar started on May 20, 2012. 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 15 classes which were held on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The most recent course attracted 20 students, many of whom desire to study in English-speaking countries where universities require overseas applicants to fulfill certain TOEFL score requirements. 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 2012 and submit their score reports. Upon completion of this course, the degree of improvement in each student's English skills will be evaluated on the basis of the student's actual TOEFL test score.



TOEFL-iBT Class

Report from a Participant in the Kumamoto University Young Researcher Support Program for the Start-up of Joint International Research Projects in academic year 2011



Teruya Nakamura
Assistant Professor
Research Area: Functional
Molecular Structure Analysis
Faculty of Life Sciences
(Graduate School of
Pharmaceutical Sciences)

I conducted research in Dr. Wei Yang's lab at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in the United States during April-August 2011. Dr. Yang is a world-renowned researcher in structural biology, which is also my area of specialization. She regularly contributes articles to leading academic journals on the results of her research concerning proteins that act on DNA. The institute I was dispatched to had four other structural biology laboratories. I had opportunities to join in active exchanges with the other laboratories through experiments and seminars, and to listen to presentations given by three Nobel laureates during lecture meetings held regularly by NIH. These experiences constantly motivated me to further my research. During my dispatch to the Yang lab, I conducted X-ray crystallographic analyses to study the reaction mechanism of DNA polymerase η , one of the human DNA synthesizing enzymes (polymerases) that suppresses the

development of UV-induced skin cancer. X-ray crystallography is the most effective method of determining steric structures of enzymes at the atomic level; however, because enzyme reactions are usually very fast, no one has ever observed steric structural changes that occur during enzyme reactions. Although the steric structures of various types of DNA polymerases have been revealed, their

reaction mechanisms have only been inferred on the basis of their structures before and after the reaction. In this research, we discovered that human DNA polymerase η reactions occur very slowly in the crystal—300 seconds from start to finish. This enabled us to determine and visualize a number of three-dimensional structures of the human DNA polymerase η -synthesizing process for different reaction times.

The human body uses more than 10 types of DNA polymerase, in accordance with intracellular environments. Our research results providing the basis for understanding these important polymerases, the actions of which have yet to be clarified, appeared in Nature (Nakamura, T. et al. Nature 487, 196-201, 2012). My being dispatched to the Yang lab was made possible by the Kumamoto University Young Researcher Support Program, as well as by the Institutional Program for Young Researcher Overseas Visits of International Research Experience for Students and Young Researchers, offered by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), and the Kumayaku Alumni Research Fund. I would like to express my deep appreciation to those who supported my valuable opportunity to conduct research in an overseas institute.

* The Kumamoto University Young Researcher Support Program for the Start-up of Joint International Research Projects dispatches outstanding young researchers to overseas institutions and helps them initiate joint international research projects. The purpose of the program is to develop researchers who can lead joint international research projects at Kumamoto University and play substantial roles in the world arena, thereby promoting further globalization of Kumamoto University's research activities. Since its establishment in the academic year 2011, this program has dispatched nine faculty members of Kumamoto University to Europe, the United States and Asia.

The Spring Welcome Party Held by the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference

On May 12, a spring welcome party was held for newly arrived international students by the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference at Kumamoto University 100th Anniversary Memorial Hall. In spring and autumn of each year, the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference holds a welcome party for newly arrived international students, who are entering institutions of higher learning in Kumamoto Prefecture, with opportunities to meet Japanese students and international students already studying in Kumamoto Prefecture.

After the toast by Associate Prof. Shimada, International Exchange Committee Chairperson of the Kumamoto Campus of Kumamoto National College of Technology, international students and Japanese students enjoyed various exchange activities. The welcome party also included a dance and song performance by Sojo University's Yosakoi Circle and a dance and music performance - using traditional instruments - by Kumamoto University's Djembe Kan, which greatly excited all 280 participants.



Performance by Kumamoto University Djembe Kan

"Get to Know Kumamoto: Kumamoto Castle Volunteer Guide Training Course" Held

Offered by the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference to international students studying at universities in Kumamoto Prefecture, the Kumamoto Castle Volunteer Guide Training Course aims to develop international students who can provide guide services in and around Kumamoto, in their own languages, for tourists from their countries.

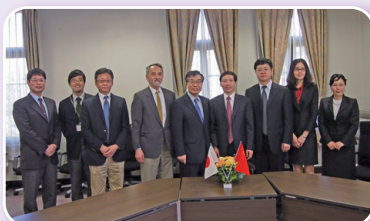
Held from May through July 2012, the training course comprised eight sessions, four lectures and four practical sessions. A total of 17 international students, including 7 from Kumamoto University, participated. On July 14, the day of the final session, the closing ceremony was held at Kumamoto City International Center. Students who had successfully completed the training course were awarded a course completion certificate by Prof. Shiba, International Exchange Committee Chairperson of Kumamoto Gakuen University.

Through lectures and practical sessions, course participants learned about Kumamoto Castle, deepening their knowledge and understanding about the histories of Kumamoto and Japan.



Course participants and lecturer Naohisa Goshio

Delegation from Beijing University of Technology (BJUT) pays visit to President Taniguchi



A delegation from BJUT and President Taniguchi

agreement between BJUT and our university was expanded from department-level to university-level agreement, and a variety of exchange programs including joint-research between faculty and student exchange have been implemented.

The impetus for the visit was the university presidents' roundtable discussion at the 9th Kumamoto University Forum held in Shanghai in January 2012. The two presidents agreed to deepen the friendship between their universities and further expand student

A delegation from Beijing University of Technology in China, with whom we have the university-level exchange agreement, paid a visit to President Isao Taniguchi on April 16. The delegation consisted of BJUT President Guo Guangsheng and five others.

In January 2011, the exchange

and faculty exchange programs.

After the delegation met with our president, they visited the Graduate School of Science and Technology and Faculty of Engineering. There they met with the Dean of the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kazuki Takashima, and other faculty members to discuss the specifics of the proposed international education program and joint research initiative in the field of engineering. It proved to be very productive visit.

Visits to Partner Universities

From early through mid-March 2012, with the aim of further promoting and invigorating student exchange, faculty and staff members of the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University visited the National University of Laos (Laos), Khon Kaen University (Thailand), the University of Leeds (U.K.) and Dong-A University (South Korea). Because these universities have departments specializing in Japanese language and culture, many of their students wish to study in Japan. During the faculty and staff member visits to these partner universities they enjoyed the exchange of information and opinions with the faculty of the respective departments and the staff in charge of student exchange, observed Japanese language class lessons and provided information about campus life at Kumamoto University. The visiting members also met students who had studied at Kumamoto University and Japanese students from Kumamoto University.



Japanese language class at Dong-A University



Providing information about Kumamoto University at Khon Kaen University.
Lecturer Imanishi (Center for Globalization)

Kumamoto University Summer Program 2012 to be Held

From July 30 through August 11, Kumamoto University Summer Program 2012 will be held. This program has been held annually since the academic year 2007 and is celebrating its 6th anniversary.

This year's program was designed to provide more opportunities for international and domestic students to interact with one another and to attract students from many different universities. As a result, we have received applications from South Korea, China, Taiwan, Thailand and Germany; we are planning for 39 students from 20 universities to take part in this program.

Kumamoto University students are also highly interested in this program; about 50 students applied for the position of student supporter, to assist program participants in various activities.

For about two weeks from July 30, the participating students will attend Japanese language and Japanese studies classes

at the Center for Globalization, with the help of student supporters. Programs involving cultural experiences and other activities unique to Kumamoto University or Japan will also be provided.



A scene from last year's summer program (Study trip to Aso)

New international exchange agreements signed January– June, 2012

Level	Partner institution	Country	Type
University-level	Chungbuk National University	Korea	Academic/ Student Exchange
	University Sains Malaysia	Malaysia	Academic/ Student Exchange
Department-level	Faculty of Life Sciences	National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation (NIFDS), Korea Food and Drug Administration (KFDA)	Korea Academic Exchange
	Graduate School of Science and Technology	Vietnam National Museum of Nature, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology	Vietnam Academic Exchange
	Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	Griffith University, Griffith School of Engineering	Australia Academic/ Student Exchange
	Faculty of Science, Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Saint-Étienne (EMSE)	France Academic/ Student Exchange
	Institute of Resource Development and Analysis	National Institutes for Food and Drug Control	China Academic Exchange
	Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	Harbin University of Commerce, School of Energy and Civil Engineering	China Academic/ Student Exchange
	Faculty of Life Sciences, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research Institute (MAPRI)	Sudan Academic Exchange
	Faculty of Life Sciences, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy	College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, St. John's University	U.S.A. Academic Exchange

Number of overseas partner institutions

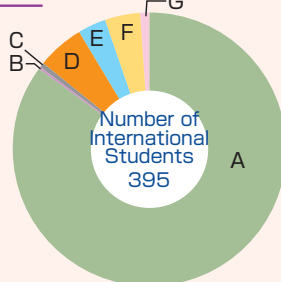
University-level: 57 Department-level: 78 Total: 135 28 countries (as of July 1, 2012)

Statistics

Number of International Students

(As of May 2012)

A : Asia	336
B : North America	1
C : South Middle America	3
D : Europe	21
E : Middle East	14
F : Africa	16
G : Oceania	4

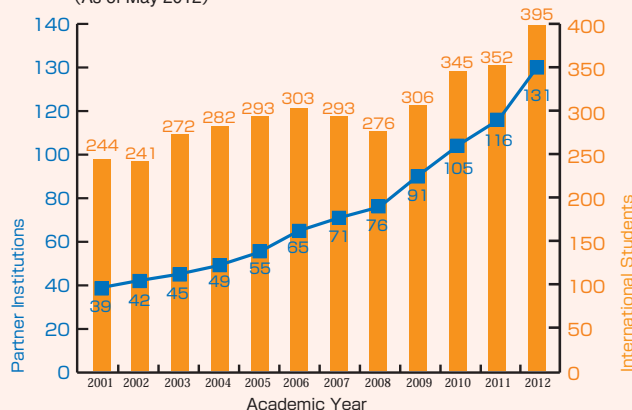


Number of International Students

(As of May 2012)

Number of overseas partner institutions

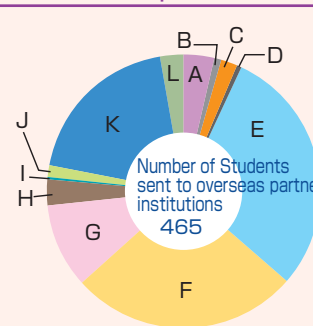
(As of May 2012)



Number of Students sent to overseas partner institutions

(1977-2011)

A : China	17
B : Korea	5
C : Taiwan	9
D : Vietnam	1
E : U.S.A.	137
F : U.K.	126
G : Germany	46
H : France	14
I : Czech	2
J : Turkey	6
K : Australia	90
L : New Zealand	12



Number of researchers sent abroad

(2011 April-2012 March)

A : Asia	492
B : North America	308
C : South Middle America	9
D : Europe	280
E : Middle East	15
F : Africa	4
G : Oceania	21

