

熊本大学国際化推進センターニュース

The News Letter of the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University

Message from the President



Isao Taniguchi

Kumamoto University has ongoing agreements for academic collaboration and student exchange with more than 100 institutions from 27 countries around the world. At present, we have roughly 380 international students from 43 countries. Every effort is being made to increase the number of international students at our university.

At the same time, encouragement is given to Japanese students to go for higher studies at reputed universities abroad.

Our University has enhanced its global reach by regularly inducting expert faculty and researchers from abroad and also by opening liaison offices in several countries.

We provide education to our students so that they become global citizens and contribute to the development of the world beyond national boundaries. In particular, we have focused on countries of East Asia which are closer to the Kyushu region where Kumamoto University is located.

The Center for Globalization is in the forefront of our efforts to become a global academic hub. On the occasion of the release of the inaugural issue of the newsletter by the Center for Globalization, I wish all the best in its endeavors.

Message from the Vice President



Kenji Furukawa

With the objective of further opening to the world and promoting our university as a global academic hub, the Center for Globalization was established in January 2009, by reorganizing and expanding the International Student Center of Kumamoto University.

The tasks undertaken by the Center include Japanese language education of the international students and researchers at Kumamoto University, providing assistance in matters related to the admission, scholarship, accommodation and other needs of their daily lives, encouraging Japanese students to study abroad, promoting international exchanges, maintaining liaison offices of Kumamoto University in foreign countries, and other similar matters related to the globalization of the University.

Now the newsletter is being launched by the Center for Globalization, for more frequent and timely communication of its activities for wider audience inside and outside the University. All faculty and students of Kumamoto University are requested to contribute to this newsletter and make use of this opportunity for enhanced reach of their international activities

● Summer Program 2010 ●



The 4th Kumamoto University Summer Program was organized for two weeks, starting from July 26, 2010, at the Center for Globalization. This time, there were 26 participants from China, Taiwan and Korea.

In this program, in addition to Japanese language classes, lectures were delivered by experts on topics of interest such as waste recycling, water resources and case study of industrial pollution in the region. Students were exposed to Japanese traditions and culture, through practical sessions such as wearing Kimono, participating in the tea ceremony, making Japanese sweets and handicrafts. Field visits were arranged to places of importance in the vicinity such as Kumamoto Castle, Mount Aso and Minamata. The participants also paid a courtesy call on the Mayor of Kumamoto City. In all the programs, Japanese students accompanied the participants and helped them to understand each event better. The Summer Program provided an excellent opportunity for interaction and developing friendship between the international students and the students of Kumamoto University.

On the last day of the program, a research workshop was held and the participants gave short presentations in Japanese about their experiences and what they had learnt from the Summer Program 2010. Among them, a group of participants gave presentations under the theme "Falling in Love with Japan". They talked about the Japanese cuisine, the recycling of waste for preservation of environment and other interesting topics which they had the opportunity to learn during their brief stay in Kumamoto. Presentations of the other participants were equally impressive, including "Surprise Kumamoto", "Experience of Japanese Culture", "Welcome to Kumamoto" and "Food culture in Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan".

In the evening, a Farewell party was organized and was attended not only by the participants of the Summer Program 2010, but also by the Kumamoto University student supporters (who assisted in the smooth conduct of the Summer Program), faculty and staff, the members of the Kumamoto University International Exchange Support Organization (VOGIES).



KU opens a Liaison Office in ITS, Surabaya, Indonesia

Kumamoto University opened a new Liaison office at the campus of the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), at Surabaya on April, 2010.

The opening ceremony was attended by the President of Kumamoto University, Isao Taniguchi and professor Usagawa of the Graduate School of Science and Technology, and staff of the Center for Globalization. From ITS, many people, including Professor Suprobo, the Rector of ITS, participated in the ceremony. The Consular General of the Japanese Consulate at Surabaya Masaaki Takano was invited to the ceremony as a special guest.

With its continuous efforts towards strengthening international networks, Kumamoto University had initiated the process of opening its offices abroad. The first liaison office was opened in Shanghai, China, in 2005, followed by another office in Daejeon, Korea, in 2006. The academic interactions, mainly in terms of exchange of researchers and students, have been rapidly increasing and expanding with universities from East Asia and South-East Asia.

ITS has been an important partner of Kumamoto University in various collaborative activities, including the JICA funded project namely, PREDICT-ITS and the 6th Kumamoto University Forum which was held in Surabaya in 2008. Indonesia also ranks third in the number of international students studying at Kumamoto University.



The newly-opened liaison office is expected to contribute greatly to the strengthening of research collaboration and student exchange between the two universities, as well as the other leading universities of Indonesia. The office will provide updated information on the Kumamoto University to prospective students and researchers. It will also assist in networking of our Alumni who are living in Indonesia.



TOEFL-iBT Special Seminar

Since 2007, Center for Globalization has been regularly organizing special coaching classes for those students who would like to prepare for TOEFL with the intention of going abroad for higher studies or internship.

This year, apart from the regular classes, a special seminar was organized on the afternoon of June 28 at the Kusunoki Hall located in the campus of Kumamoto University, by inviting Professor Megumi Kawate-Mierzejewska from Temple University, Japan Campus (TUJ) who is an expert in this area and has been recognized as a consultant by the Council on the Education Testing Service (ETS). Prof. Kawate explained in minute detail how to prepare effectively for the TOEFL with regard to all the four components of the test: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing including various types of questions and answering strategies in order to obtain high scores.



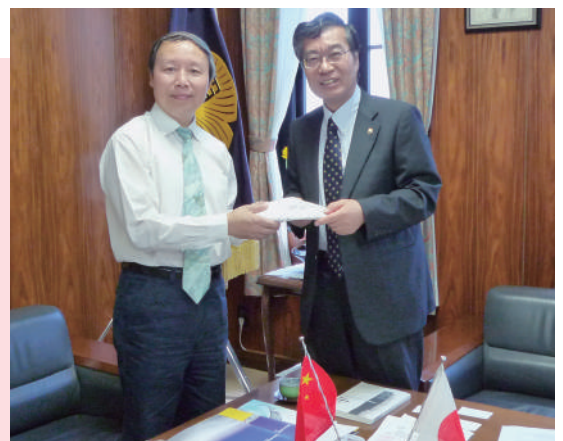
Seminar on Crisis Management

With the objective of preparing the students for crisis management in case of emergency situations while studying abroad, an orientation program was held on July 21. Experts were invited from the Emergency Assistance Japan Co., which is operating a support system for students called Overseas Student Safety Management Assistance (OSSMA). About 70 students including those who plan to go abroad for internships or study attended the seminar. During the seminar, the students were introduced to some probable problems that may arise during their stay abroad in different countries, and were told how to deal with them. The seminar was extremely useful in enhancing the preparedness for emergency and unforeseen events. It is planned to conduct such orientations about three times in an academic year.

Dean of Shanghai Normal University visits KU

Prof. Su Zhiliang, the Dean of College of Humanities and Transmission, Shanghai Normal University, China, visited Kumamoto University on July 22 for an official meeting with Prof. Isao Taniguchi, President of Kumamoto University.

Kumamoto University and Shanghai Normal University have signed agreements in April 2008, for academic collaboration and student exchange. During the meeting, the president and Prof. SU Zhiliang discussed about the current situation and future plans for the academic collaboration between the two universities. It is hoped that, through this visit, the collaboration between the two universities will be further enhanced in the future.



KU signs an academic agreement with the UTSA



An Signing ceremony for academic cooperation between Kumamoto University and the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) took place within the campus of the UTSA on September 3. The agreement was jointly signed by President Taniguchi of Kumamoto University and President Ricardo Romo of the UTSA. The signing ceremony was attended by the Dean of faculty of Engineering, Prof Morozumi and Assistant Manager of the University's International Affairs Section, whereas by Prof Taeg Nishimoto of the UTSA College of Architecture and other senior administrators & officials from UTSA.

As special invitees, Consul General Tsutomu Osawa of the Consulate of Japan in Houston, Beth Costello, international affairs director for the City of San Antonio and Naoko Shirane, senior adviser to the State of Texas for Japan, were also present at the ceremony.

After the ceremonial event, the visiting team of Kumamoto University was taken around the education and research facilities of the UTSA. Since both universities have academic programs in a wide variety of disciplines, it is expected that the collaboration can be extended to include many topics such as those from natural sciences, life sciences, cultural and social sciences. The agreement also enhances the longstanding relationship between Kumamoto City and San Antonio, which signed the sister-city agreements in 1987.



Course Completion Ceremony for Short Term Exchange Program and Intensive Japanese Course



The Course Completion Ceremony for the Short Term Exchange Program and Intensive Japanese Course was held on August 5 at the Kusunoki Hall located in the campus of Kumamoto University. There were 46 international students in the Short Term Exchange Program from partner universities, based on the student exchange agreement, and 2 international students in the Intensive Japanese Course. These students had studied at Kumamoto University since October 2009 and now received the course completion certificates from President Taniguchi.

While the students of the Short Term Exchange Program will return to their home universities to continue their studies, the students of the Intensive Japanese Course will join the graduate programs at Kumamoto University.



KU participates in Japan Education Fairs



The Center for Globalization has been regularly participating in university promoting events including the Japan Education Fairs organized by Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) as well as similar other events which are held within and outside Japan, attracting international students to Kumamoto University.

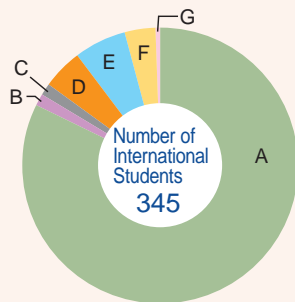
This year, such events are being organized at 22 locations (14 cities within Japan, and 8 cities in 4 other countries including Korea, Indonesia, China and Vietnam) during July to December. The faculty and staff associated with the Center for Globalization participated in these programs and explained to the prospective students about the education and research opportunities at Kumamoto University as well as other useful information related to life in Kumamoto.

Statistics

Number of International Students

(As of May 2010)

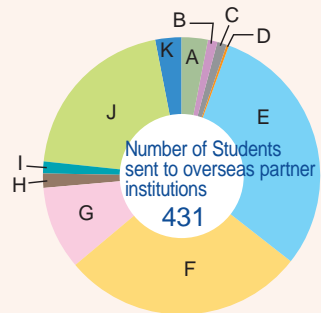
A : Asia	284
B : North America	5
C : South Middle America	5
D : Europe	16
E : Middle East	21
F : Africa	13
G : Oceania	1



Number of Students sent to overseas partner institutions

(1977-2009)

A : China	14
B : Korea	4
C : Taiwan	5
D : Vietnam	1
E : U.S.A	130
F : U.K	122
G : Germany	42
H : France	7
I : Turkey	6
J : Australia	88
K : New Zealand	12

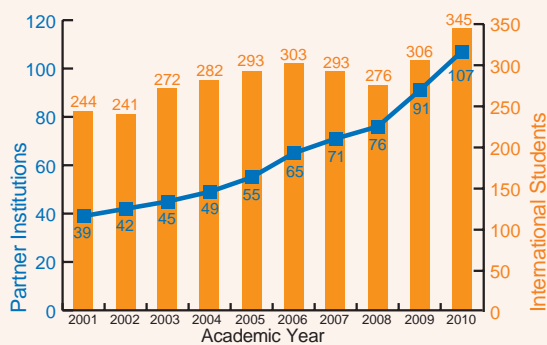


Number of International Students

(As of May 2010)

Number of overseas partner institutions

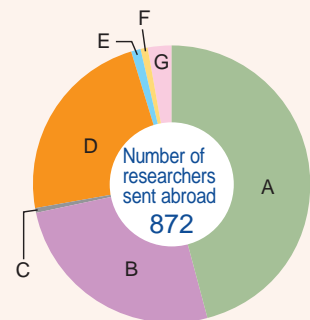
(As of September 2010)



Number of researchers sent abroad

(2009 April-2010 March)

A : Asia	402
B : North America	223
C : South Middle America	7
D : Europe	201
E : Middle East	8
F : Africa	8
G : Oceania	23



Center for Globalization

Vice President, Director

Professor **Kenji Furukawa**

Deputy Director

Professor **Shuichi Torii**

〈International Exchange Promotion〉

Professor **Katta Venkataramana**

〈International Language Studies〉

Professor **Mitsuo Kowaki**

Assoc.Professor **Izumi Umeda**

Lecturer **Sigeko Matsuse**

Lecturer **Mariko Masden**

Lecturer **Toshiyuki Imanishi**

〈Adjunct Faculty〉

Assoc.Professor **Akira Hamada**

Professor **Jinichi Itoh**

Professor **Hironori Ito**

Professor **Hironobu Kimura**

Professor **Takashi Yano**

Professor **Ye Lingling**

Assoc.Professor **Mitsuyo Kishida**

Professor **Song Wen-jie**

Professor **Junji Shiraishi**

Assoc.Professor **Yoichiro Isohama**

Professor **Sadahiro Kumamoto**

Professor **Fuyuki Shimojo**

Assoc.Professor **Kim Daehong**

