

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

The 8th Kumamoto University Forum held in Hanoi, Vietnam

Kumamoto University (KU) organizes the Kumamoto University Forum annually in different locations around the world, with the objectives of increasing its global presence and strengthening the international networking and trained manpower. This year, the 8th KU Forum was organized in Hanoi, Vietnam, during December 4-5, 2010 with the central theme of Academic Collaboration for Asian Development and Prosperity. The Forum was co-hosted by The National University of Civil Engineering (NUCE) and the Vietnam National University (VNU).



KU has ongoing agreements with six universities from Vietnam, and many Vietnamese students are studying at KU. Further, KU is a part of the ongoing JICA project in Vietnam: "Capacity Building of Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology to Strengthen University-Community Linkage". Also, this year marks the 1000th anniversary of the establishment of Hanoi City.

The program on DAY1 was held at NUCE campus. President Isao Taniguchi of KU called upon the delegates to explore the possibilities of developing cultural, economic, academic relationships in addressing global challenges. Rector Le Van



Thanh of NUCE welcomed the delegates. The program consisted of the introduction of KU and NUCE, as well as research presentations. Also there were panel exhibitions on Kumamoto City and Prefecture, academic institutions and industries of Kumamoto region.

The event on DAY2 was held at Sofitel Plaza Hotel. The program began with the address by the President Taniguchi followed by a congratulatory speech by Prof Bui Cach Tuyen, the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Vietnam. The invitees who addressed the gathering included Mr Yasuaki Tanizaki, Am-



bassador of Japan in Vietnam, Mr Akira Shimizu, Senior representative of JICA Office in Vietnam, President Mai Trong Nhuan of VNU. Keynote lectures were delivered on KU and other universities of the Kumamoto region which are member of the "Higher Education Consortium Kumamoto". Formal university-level academic agreements were signed between KU and the three Vietnamese universities, namely, NUCE, Hue University and Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology. In the afternoon, Some of Cutting-edge research activities of KU were introduced, followed by the panel discussion on "new Horizons for Industry-Institute Collaboration under Globalization".

KU organizes International Student Party



International Student Party is organized annually in order to provide a platform for bringing together all the international students, their tutors and research supervisors, and also the general public who are supporting the students in various ways.

This year, the party was held on December 13, 2010 at the 100th Anniversary Memorial Hall within the campus of Kumamoto University. More than 400 people participated in the party. 6 groups of international students from different countries gave impressive cultural performance including songs and dances, as special attraction. An exchange student from Poland who won the most votes received the Best Performance Prize from the President of Kumamoto University.



KU hosts delegation of students from Chosun University

Kumamoto University hosted delegation of students from Chosun University, Korea which has ongoing agreement for academic collaboration with our university. The delegation included 13 students and 2 faculty members. The visiting team from Chosun University met with 15 students of Kumamoto University.

During the round table talk held in the morning, the students made presentations about their university and exchanged opinions on various issues. The visiting team was also taken on a campus tour. At the Memorial Museum of the Fifth High School, the visitors were briefed about the historical background of this former High School, as the predecessor of Kumamoto University.



Presentations by students who studied in universities abroad

On December 15, 2010, the students who had gone abroad as exchange students and for summer internships gave presentations on their studies and their experiences. The event was held in Kusunoki Kaikan within the Kurokami North Campus.

Those who had studied abroad for a year made presentations in the language of the countries where they studied, including Chinese, French, and English. About 60 people, including students who intend to study abroad in the coming years were present. President Taniguchi stressed, in his concluding remarks, on the importance of international experiences and networking for younger generations.



KU participates in the International Presidential Forum 2010, Organized by KAIST

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea which has ongoing agreement for academic collaboration with Kumamoto University organized the "International Presidential Forum 2010" at Seoul, Korea on October 11, 2010.

In this Forum, Presidents and Vice presidents of 24 universities from 15 different countries participated and contributed to the event. President Taniguchi from Kumamoto University attended the Forum and delivered an invited lecture. During the Forum, President Taniguchi and President Nam Pyo Suh of KAIST reconfirmed the desire for further strengthening the linkages between the two universities in the coming days.

KU Vice President visits Beijing University of Technology

As part of the 50th year of its establishment, Beijing University of Technology, China organized the 50th Anniversary Celebration and the International Presidential Forum during October 15-16, 2010. Vice President Kenji Furukawa participated in the events.

The theme of the Forum was "Universities' Roles in Serving Regional Economic Development and Educating High-Quality & Innovative Students in a Globalized World. During the panel discussion, Vice President Furukawa explained about the ongoing efforts towards globalization at Kumamoto University and exchanged ideas with the other panelists.

KU Trustee attends the ITS International Presidential Forum

ITS Surabaya, Indonesia, with which Kumamoto University has ongoing agreement for academic collaboration, organized the International Presidential Forum during November 8-10, 2010. Professor Shin-ichi Abe, Trustee / Vice President, participated in the event. The theme of the Forum was "development and networking for quality up-graduation of higher education". Presidents and vice presidents of 41 universities from 11 countries participated in the Forum.

Our University had signed agreement for academic collaboration with ITS in 2004. Since then, there have been regular exchange of visits and joint activities including the setting up of Kumamoto University Liaison Office in ITS Surabaya campus.

KU organizes Faculty Development Program

Kumamoto University has recently initiated several ambitious projects to enhance its international reach and to promote the university as a global academic hub in higher education and innovative research. One of them is related to the efforts towards increasing the preparedness of the faculty members to deliver undergraduate and graduate courses in English. As part of this program, four faculty members took part in the training at the University of Alberta, Canada during Sept.23-oct.6, 2010 to undergo an intensive Faculty Development Program.

The program consisted of various modules such as lectures, seminars, group discussions, class room observations, presentations, meetings with senior faculty etc. The topics covered include: English language review; overview of teaching methodologies and learning strategies; building confidence in teaching in English; leading discussions and handling questions; developing critical thinking skills in students; keeping students motivated and engaged; dynamic presentation skills – strategies in using visual aids; effective classroom management; providing constructive feedback and so on.

Later, after returning to Kumamoto University, the participants gave presentations on their experiences at a special seminar on Nov.9, 2010. They expressed their overall satisfaction on the contents of the FD program, in improving their teaching and communication skills in English. It is planned to conduct a similar FD program in March 2011 at California State University, Fullerton.



Prof Hisato Saito

Graduate School of Science
and Technology

Please tell us about the effectiveness of FD Program in which you participated

University of Alberta consists of faculty and students from around the world and was a right choice for our FD program. We could learn about the use of multimedia (internet), I-clicker etc in teaching-learning process. Also we got many useful clues on teaching in English to students whose second language is English. Above all, we could get first-hand experience on the aspects of globalization at the University of Alberta.

How do you intend to apply the points which you learnt through the FD program?

In the University of Alberta, the education is oriented towards improving the critical thinking of students, which a global society demands. We also learnt about the application of social media to make the lectures more affective, especially to those students whose second language is English. I would like to incorporate such concepts to improve my teaching at Kumamoto University. Also, I intend to deliver some of my lectures of the Biology course in English to the first year undergraduate students.

International Students from KU participates International Student Symposium

International Student Symposium which is annually organized by Kumamoto Foreign Student Exchange Promotion Regional Conference was held on December 18, 2010 at Kumamoto City International Center. More than 150 people participated in the symposium including international students studying in Kumamoto and the local residences.



The first half of the program consisted of panel discussion on the theme of "My Impression of Mochi (Japanese Rice Cake)" and world food culture. The international students spoke, in fluent Japanese, on their first impressions on Mochi. They also suggested new and unique methods of enjoying Mochi by eating it with other foods such as honey, peanut butter, curry etc.

During the second half of the program, the participants enjoyed rice cake making. Many international students tasted Mochi for the first time in their lives. Along with Mochi, they enjoyed selection of teas around the world including coffee from UAE, jasmine tea from Indonesia, banana tea from Philippines.



"Get to Know Kumamoto ! Kumamoto Castle Volunteer Guide Training Course"

"Get to Know Kumamoto ! Kumamoto Castle Volunteer Guide Training Course" was held from June to December 2010. Shuichi Torii, Vice director of Center for Globalization presented certificates to the participants who successfully completed the program.

This course, presented by Kumamoto Foreign Student Exchange Promotion Regional Conference was designed for international students studying in Kumamoto to deepen their knowledge of Kumamoto Castle so that they would be able to take tourists of their countries around the Kumamoto castle in their own languages.

About 20 international students attended in this course and learned not only about the Kumamoto castle but also about Japanese history.



Upcoming Events

Field trips for International students (February 15-16)

With the objective of deepening the understanding of Japanese history, culture and locality, and also to provide an opportunity for exchange between Japanese and international students, a field trip to Fukuoka and Yamaguchi region has been planned in February 15-16 2011. About 120 participants are expected.

Visiting the University of Leeds and the University of Bonn

Toshiyuki Imanishi, Lecturer
Masden Mariko, Lecturer



From October 31 to November 5, two lecturers from the Department of Language Education at the Center for Globalization visited the University of Leeds (U.K.) and the University of Bonn (Germany). These universities have undergraduate and graduate programs in Japanese Language and Culture as well as institutes of Japanese studies. Every year 3 to 5 students from these universities study at our university as exchange students. The main purpose of the visits was to collect information on the course contents in Japanese language education in order to improve our curriculum to best fit the needs of the exchange students from these universities.

During the visit they observed beginning- to advanced-level Japanese conversation and grammar classes as well as Japanese literature and history classes. In both universities, great efforts were being made to increase the overall Japanese-language ability of the students by encouraging them to use Japanese for communication.

The visiting team from Kumamoto University exchanged views on various aspects of Japanese-language education and have built deeper cooperation with the concerned faculty members at the University of Leeds and the University of Bonn.



My Experiences of Studying in China

Department of Mathematics and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
Akimasa Nishiyama

I studied for one year, starting from September 2009 at Tongji University, China. I decided to study abroad as I had not been out of Japan. I chose China because it was not only one of the world's major powers in the present age but also it was a country which had a significant influence to our country.

In the beginning, as I did not know Chinese, I had a great difficulty in communication and I communicated with other people mostly by gestures. As I thought I should not let it end like this, I started putting real efforts towards improving my Chinese. In about six months, I was able to manage the daily conversation in Chinese without much problem.

At the University, I could make friends not only with Chinese students but also students of different countries. By interacting with people of different nationalities, color and background, I learnt a lot of new things. I often realized that the things which are obvious in Japan are not so in other countries, and also vice versa.

The most appealing point of studying abroad for me is that I could interact and make new friends with people from around the world. After my studies in China, I went to Germany and stayed at the home of my former roommate in China. Together we visited many places in Germany and also travelled to other countries of Europe. I am convinced that studying abroad made me see life from a different spectrum.



International Student Voices

South Korea

Yoo Insik School of Medicine

The most difficult part when I arrived in Japan was communicating with other people in Japanese. As I was the only international student in the School of Health Sciences, I had difficulties in communication. Everything seemed to be difficult at the beginning. I did not understand the lectures and did not know how to write the reports. With help of my supervisor and tutor, I was able to overcome those difficulties. I was also able to improve my Japanese in a relatively short time as I made many Japanese friends.



Later, with my close friends, I have travelled to other places in Japan. I am happy that I could interact with so many people and experience Japanese culture. It was interesting to see all the processes that take place in seminar classes of the universities in Japan.

Now I am fairly well-settled in Japan and have friends not only from Kumamoto University but also from outside. I have been invited to their homes and have enjoyed their warm hospitality. I am really thankful to my supervisor and all my friends for providing me this excellent opportunity to study in Japan. I am hoping to make the best use of the remaining two months of my stay in Japan.

England

Katherine Helen Walters Faculty of Letters

Hi. I'm an exchange student from England. Before I came to Kumamoto, I was a little apprehensive about speaking Japanese. At first I did have difficulty understanding and speaking the language. However, I was lucky enough to make good friends. With their help, I soon settled in and I can now converse a little more easily in Japanese.



I've only lived in Kumamoto for 3 months but I've already done a lot. For example, I completed Empo - a 60km walk from mount Aso to Kumamoto University. My legs were in agony afterwards, but it was worth it because I felt like I'd achieved something. I also went to the Suizenji Park Festival. England doesn't really have festivals so I haven't had a chance to experience one before coming to Japan. I had the opportunity to wear a Kimono. Many Japanese people were startled to see me and my other friends dressed in traditional Japanese clothing and took photos of us. We felt famous!



Kumamoto is a very green city with friendly people and a good university. Overall, I'm having a great time. I would encourage other exchange students to study here too.

