

The News Letter of the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University

The 9th Kumamoto University Forum and Opening Ceremony of the Kumamoto Shanghai Office held in Shanghai, China.

The 9th Kumamoto University Forum (Shanghai)

Kumamoto University organizes the "Kumamoto University Forum" annually in various locations around the world, with the aim of increasing its global presence, strengthening international networking, and promoting human resource exchanges.

On January 10, the 9th Kumamoto University Forum (Shanghai) was held in Shanghai, China. Taking the recent co-establishment of the Kumamoto Shanghai Office by Kumamoto Prefecture, Kumamoto City, and Kumamoto University as a good opportunity, the Forum, which targeted partner universities in China, (a crucial base for Kumamoto University from an international strategic standpoint), provided a place for people with the experience of studying at partner universities in China and at Kumamoto University to deliver their recommendations towards promoting exchanges between Kumamoto and China. At the same time, the Forum presented information regarding recent academic and research activities achieved by Kumamoto University.

The Kumamoto University Forum started with an opening speech given by President Taniguchi of Kumamoto University, followed by a congratulatory speech by Hikaru Maekawa, Director of the Public Diplomacy Center of the Japanese Consulate General in Shanghai. Following a presentation on Kumamoto University's academic and research overviews by Vice President Yamanaka and Vice President Harada, Prof. Chishima, Vice Dean of the Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences, Prof. Nishiyama, Dean of the Graduate School of Science and Technology, Prof. Takeya, Dean of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences and Prof. Nishimura, Vice Dean of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences respectively explained their fields.

Following these presentations, Prof. Fan Liming, Vice President of Shandong University delivered lectures on the values, issues, and prospects of exchange programs with Kumamoto University. Furthermore, Ms. Maho Ideguchi of the Kumamoto Prefectural



A Ceremonial Picture of the Kumamoto University Forum

Office and Ms. Tomoko Kitazoe of the Kumamoto City Office introduced Kumamoto, to promote the area in which Kumamoto University is located. Prof. Chen of the Center for Globalization introduced the Higher Education Consortium Kumamoto. Finally, five former exchange students who had studied abroad at Kumamoto University gave presentations on their university lives in Kumamoto.

In conjunction with the Forum, a variety of events were held, including some meetings party between the delegates of 22 partnership universities in China and President Tanguchi, an exchange party held by Kumamoto University graduates living in Shanghai, a booth dedicated to introducing Kumamoto University and the Higher Education Consortium Kumamoto, as well as panel exhibitions promoting Kumamoto University's faculties, departments, and so on.

In total, over 170 people including Chinese and Japanese university faculty and staff members, students, Kumamoto University graduates, as well as government and corporation officials participated in the Kumamoto University Forum and its series of events allowing everyone to deepen their relationships.

A reception was also held at the Shanghai International Airport Hotel from 6:30 pm on the same day, attended by approximately 200 participants including the Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture, the Mayor of Kumamoto City, the president of Kumamoto University, delegates of the Kumamoto Prefectural and Municipal Assemblies, Shanghai City officials, and officials from the Japanese Consulate General in Shanghai as well as from the Association of People from Kumamoto in Shanghai.

The Kumamoto Shanghai Office staff consists of a Kumamoto Prefectural officer, a Kumamoto City officer, and three local employees. The office provides services such as developing exchanges between academic and research institutions in China and Kumamoto University, providing information to students who wish to join exchange programs in Japan, and strengthening the network of Kumamoto University graduates living in China. In addition, the office supports local Kumamoto companies that wish to enter into the Chinese market. Finally, the office works to further attract tourists from China to Kumamoto.

Kumamoto Shanghai Office Opening Ceremony



Kumamoto Shanghai Office Ribbon Cutting (President Taniguchi, second from the left).

The Kumamoto Shanghai Office was jointly established by Kumamoto Prefecture, Kumamoto City, and Kumamoto University on the 15th floor of the Westgate Mall (Shanghai Isetan Building), Shanghai, China.

The Kumamoto Shanghai Office Opening Ceremony was held at 11am on January 11. The opening ribbon was cut by President Taniguchi along with the Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture, the Mayor of Kumamoto City, the President of the Kumamoto Prefectural Assembly, the President of the Kumamoto Municipal Assembly, and the President of the Kumamoto Prefecture Foreign Trade Association.

Courtesy Visits to Universities in Shanghai

For the purpose of seeking newly cooperative relationships with universities in Shanghai, Kumamoto University staff made courtesy visits to Shanghai Sanda University on January 11, and Shanghai University on January 12.

Shanghai Sanda University was established in 1992 as the first private university in China, while Shanghai University is a comprehensive university comprising of approximately 50,000 students, and is designated as one of the key higher education institutions in Shanghai directly under the Municipal Government. Through the Kumamoto University Forum, the opening of the Kumamoto Shanghai Office, and related events, it is expected that exchanges between China and Kumamoto University will be further strengthened.

"Kumamoto University Global Academic Excellence Seminars" Held in China, Vietnam, and Taiwan.

"Kumamoto University Global Academic Excellence Seminars" were held at our partnership universities: Shenzhen University (China), Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (Vietnam), and Southern Taiwan University of Technology (Taiwan), for the first time this year. These seminars' aims were to strengthen research exchanges, and provide information effectively to students who wish to study abroad in Japan by introducing our academics and research as well as our activities related to international human resource exchanges, in the form of seminars at partnership universities.

On October 31, 2011, a seminar was held at Shenzhen University. During the seminar a workshop was provided to introduce Kumamoto University's research activities, where tutors and students actively exchanged their views. Following the seminar, a University Fair, mainly targeting students, was held and was attended by many students studying the Japanese language.

On November 9, 2011, a seminar was held at Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and was attended and participated in by approximately 150 researchers and students. The focus of this seminar was to introduce unique research and laboratory activities by Kumamoto University graduate students. Furthermore, Associate Professor, Leu Tho Bach, a Kumamoto University graduate currently working for Hanoi Architectural University, gave a presentation on his experience staying in Kumamoto. This presentation provided a good opportunity for seminar participants to become familiar with Kumamoto. On November 16, 2011, a seminar was held at the Southern Taiwan University of Technology, and was attended by undergraduate and graduate students, including Japanese language department students. This seminar explained Kumamoto University's faculties, graduate schools, summer programs, major competitive funded research, and Kumamoto University's support system for international students relating to fees, accommodations, events, living expenses, etc.

Following the seminars, many inquiries were made by participants regarding exchange programs, Kumamoto University, and Kumamoto in general, which reflected participants' high interest in the seminars and Kumamoto University itself. Through these seminars, we are expecting that more and more students will visit Kumamoto with the aim of participating in exchange programs, and pursuing future degrees.



The Kumamoto University Global Academic Excellence Seminar at Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology

The Party for Kumamoto University International Students 2011 Held

On December 21, 2011, the party for international students was held at the 100th Anniversary Memorial Hall, Kumamoto University. Kumamoto University hosts the party annually, with the objective of encouraging international students who are dedicated to studying and researching in a different life style, as well as strengthening mutual exchanges and friendships among international students, their supervisors, tutors, and off-campus related people. The party started with an opening speech by President Taniguchi, and was followed by a speech by the head of the Chinese Students Committee and a toast by Vice President Furukawa. The party was enjoyed by all participants.

In addition, 8 groups of international students gave performances such as traditional musical performances, songs, and dances. The student performances were voted on, and the Best Performance Prize was awarded to the winning group by President Taniguchi. Other events hosted by the Volunteer Group of International Exchange Support for Kumamoto University, such as a draw, were also held and enjoyed by more than 400 participants.



International Students with President Taniguchi

Job Guidance Fair for International Students

On December 18, 2011, a job guidance fair for international students was held at Building No.2, Faculty of Engineering, Kumamoto University, as the first project in Kumamoto that was sponsored by Kumamoto Prefecture and co-sponsored by the Higher Education Consortium Kumamoto.

The fair was joined by 92 students in total, of whom 56 were international students from Kumamoto University including graduate students. The job guidance fair received favorable comments; "I could gain better understanding about local companies in Kumamoto. This is a very good opportunity for international students, and I am happy to get such information about recruiting."

15 local companies including manufacturers joined this fair, and high evaluations of the fair were also received from such companies; "We hope to utilize international resources to operate overseas, so we appreciate these kinds of opportunities." "Employing international students in local Kumamoto companies can be a benefit for companies who wish to enter into overseas markets and to promote their internal globalization." It is expected that the job guidance fair will be organized from next year as well.



International Students listening intently to the Job Guidance Fair

Lecture on Nagasaki's Atomic Bomb Experience

On November 19, 2011, a lecture on Nagasaki's atomic bomb experience co-sponsored by the Kumamoto International Students Exchange Promotion Meeting and Nagasaki Prefecture was held at Building No.2, Faculty of Engineering, Kumamoto University. This program aimed to allow many people to understand about the preciousness of peace. Approximately 40 attendees participated, including members of the general public, international students, and high school students.

First, participants watched a movie about the atomic bomb, following which they took in a lecture by Mr. Joji Fukabori who was affected by the atomic bomb in Nagasaki. The movie and lecture were given with English translations and explained with English materials to enable international students to understand easily. Many questions were actively asked by the international students during the Q&A session after the lecture. Students were also seen taking photos of the panel exhibitions outside the hall with their own cameras.



The Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Experience Lecture

2011 Debriefing Presentation by Returnee Exchange Students

On December 20, 2011 a debriefing presentation on exchange programs was held at Kusunoki Hall. The seminar consisted of two sections; the first, a presentation on foreign exchange experiences, the second a presentation on short-stay study abroad program experiences.

In the first section of the seminar, exchange students who returned this year from various overseas universities that hold international exchange agreements with Kumamoto University gave presentations in the languages they learned in each country. During the second section of the seminar, students who participated in short-stay programs of two to four weeks, either in Spring or Summer of this year, shared their short-stay program experiences with participants. Each presenter included pictures to help make their presentations vivid and comprehensive. President Taniguchi addressed the students, and expressed his expectations that they would develop upon what they had learned, to work actively and globally in the future. Almost 40 students, who were either interested in, or thinking of studying abroad, joined in the seminar and listened intently to the presentations.



Returnee Exchange Students Presentation

A visit from the Deputy-director and Associate Professor of l'École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Saint-Etienne

On October 25, 2011, Deputy-director and Dean of international affairs Michel Courmil and Associate Professor Woo-Suck Han of the l'École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Saint-Etienne (National Graduate School of Engineering, Saint-Etienne, France) visited Kumamoto University.

They paid a courtesy visit to President Taniguchi and exchanged views on research and student exchange.

While visiting our Graduate School of Science and Technology, the visitors exchanged opinions with Prof. Nishiyama, the Dean of our Graduate School, and took a look at some of our laboratories.

l'École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Saint-Etienne is one of the most prestigious higher educational institutions for industry in France (called a Grandes Écoles) and offers a top class education.

Its educational and research activities cover a wide range of fields, such as materials, environment, information, electronics, and life sciences.

Interest in Japan is extremely high at the school; indeed, ten percent of the students enrolled there study Japanese, and it is expected that significant research and student exchange with Kumamoto University will soon commence.



l.r: Associate Professor Woo-Suck Han, Deputy-director and Dean of international affairs Michel Courmil, President Taniguchi, Vice President Furukawa

Courtesy Call Paid on President Taniguchi by the Vice President of Montana State University

On October 26, 2011, Vice President Norman Peterson of Montana State University and his staff in charge of international affairs, paid a courtesy call on President Taniguchi of Kumamoto University. Montana State University is one of the universities with which we have Academic Exchange Agreements. For over 20 years, we have promoted mutual interaction with Montana State University, especially in the field of mutual student exchange.

Among other topics, President Taniguchi and Vice President Norman Peterson exchanged views on the possibility of a new exchange program for both academic personnel and students. The visit was mutually beneficial, and well received by both parties.



Vice President Norman Peterson and President Taniguchi

A Visit of Delegation from Sichuan University Jinjiang College

On December 19, 2011, a nine member delegation from Kumamoto University's partnership university Sichuan University Jinjiang College, paid a courtesy visit to President Taniguchi. Following a meeting exchanging opinions on the various possibilities of research with professors, the delegation toured laboratories of the Department of Applied Chemistry and Biochemistry together with the Department of Architecture and Building Engineering. The delegation listened intently to research explanations by professors.



Courtesy Visit to President Taniguchi

Shanghai Tourism Delegation Visits Kumamoto University

On November 28, 2011, Kumamoto University received a visit from a seven member Shanghai Tourism Delegation from Shanghai, China. Kumamoto University and the delegation exchanged information regarding the globalization of Kumamoto University and its international development, particularly in relation to China.

Taking the upcoming co-opening of the Kumamoto Shanghai Office, jointly established by Kumamoto Prefecture, Kumamoto City, and Kumamoto University as a good opportunity, Kumamoto Prefecture invited the delegation which included newspaper writers and famous journalists, to make a courtesy visit to Kumamoto University.

President Taniguchi and top executives including Director Yamanaka described Kumamoto University's history as well as the current state of its academics, research, social contributions, and globalization. Opinions were also exchanged on how Kumamoto University has followed in the cultural footsteps of GOKO (The Fifth High School) where politicians and great novelists of modern Japan have come from, and discussed the richness of Kumamoto's natural environment, geographical conditions, and resources, as well as the longstanding human and cultural exchange activities with Shanghai, China.



A Commemorative Picture of the Information Exchange Meeting Participants

International Joint Education Research Team from Shandong University, China Visited Kumamoto University

On December 12, 2011, a seven member Research Team from Kumamoto University's overseas partnership university, Shandong University, China, including Dean Liu Chie of the School of Philosophy visited Kumamoto University.

The purpose of their visit was to enhance more substantive academic exchanges between the two universities by comparing their curriculums and credit systems. Executive officials including Deans, Prof. Okuma of the Faculty of Letters, Prof. Yamazaki of the Faculty of Law, and Prof. Satonaka of the Faculty of Engineering, described Kumamoto University's educational programs and English based educational approaches, according to the student handbook and syllabus etc., and actively discussed on how to foster students under the international joint education program.

In the afternoon, they exchanged information on the autumn enrollment system for transfer students, which is currently being discussed with Faculty of Engineering, to recruit students and accept foreign students. After their research, the delegation visited the site of the Fifth High School, and listened attentively to the explanations by staff about the architecture, appearance, and utilization of this red brick building which is designated as a national cultural property.



Commemorative Photo with the Research Team

Briefing Session by the Participants of the "Overseas FD Training Program for the Globalization of Education"

On December 21, 2011, a Briefing Session of the Overseas FD Training Program was held. This training program has been conducted since 2010 as part of Kumamoto University's promotion programs for globalization. In this latest program, five Kumamoto University faculty members participated in a two week course at California State University, Fullerton, with the goal of improving English based teaching methods and communication abilities. During the session, the participants presented what they had learned at the training, following the opening address by Vice President Furukawa.



A Photo of the Presentation

President Taniguchi participates in the 4th International Presidential Forum by KAIST, Korea

The 2011 International Presidential Forum on Global Research Universities was held in Seoul, Korea on November 8, 2011, organized by Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), one of KU's overseas partner institutes. Presidential leaders representing 44 institutes from 27 countries attended the forum by presenting speeches and exchanged opinions. President Taniguchi from KU participated in the event and addressed on "Role and Strategies of Kumamoto University in Borderless and Creative Education to Produce World Leaders". On November 9, President Taniguchi met with Prof. Kim Seung-Taik, the president of Chungbuk National University (Cheongju city, Korea), and exchanged views on promoting practical collaborations after exchanging the agreements between the two universities. Both presidents agreed to further strengthen the existing partnership between the two universities.



A Ceremonial Picture of the 2011 International Presidential Forum on Global Research Universities

Introduction of a New Professor at the Center for Globalization

On November 1, 2011, Prof. Chen Qiang took up a position as a new professor at the Division of International Exchange Support at the Center for Globalization.



Kumamoto University participated in the 7th Yellow Sea Rim University Presidential Forum

"The 7th Yellow Sea Rim University Presidential Forum" was held at Daejeon Convention Center in Daejeon, Korea on November 16 and 17, 2011 as part of the program of the 11th Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference. There were 25 presidents and vice-presidents from Japan (Kyushu region), China and Korea, who attended the Forum by introducing practices conducted in each university and exchanging opinions on common issues of interests. There held two sessions on November 16, i.e. "Session I: University-Industry Collaboration in the area of Yellow Sea Rim" and "Session II: Joint Fostering of the Talented in the area of Yellow Sea Rim". Vice President Furukawa of Kumamoto University, who represented Japan on session II, debated on the theme of "ICAST and its Aim to Foster the Talented who Contribute to the Advancement of Science and Technology". On the next day, the 11th Yellow Sea Rim Economic and Technological Conference was held at the same place. President Lee Won Mook of Hanbat National University, the host university of the Forum summarized in his closing remarks that the Forum worked out with great meaningful results.



Vice President Furukawa giving his lecture

New international exchange agreements signed October– December, 2011

Level		Partner institution	Country	Type
University-level		University of the Philippines, Diliman	Philippines	studentexchange
		Ajou University	Korea	Academic/ studentexchange
		East China University of Political Science and Law	China	Academic/ studentexchange
Department-level	Faculty of Letters Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences	Chang Jung Christian University, College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Taiwan	Academic/ studentexchange
	Faculty of Science Faculty of Engineering Graduate School of Science and Technology	Kosin University, Graduate School, College of Natural Science	Korea	Academic/ studentexchange
	Faculty of Engineering Graduate School of Science and Technology	Hezhou University	China	Academic/ studentexchange
	Faculty of Engineering Graduate School of Science and Technology	University Joseph Fourier - Grenoble I, Polytech Grenoble and L' ufr Phitem	France	Academic/ studentexchange
	Faculty of Life Sciences Graduate School of Health Sciences	University of California, San Francisco, School of Nursing	U.S.A	Academic

Two exchange agreements were formally signed with Faculty of Engineering and Graduate School of Science and Technology in December, 2011.

On December 9, 2011, a signing ceremony with University Joseph Fourier - Grenoble I, France, was conducted with Vice President Eric Beaugnon and Prof. Gioacchino Viggiani from France attending the ceremony. Prof. Viggiani had a lecture for the intensive course of the Global Joint Education Center for Science and Technology(GJEC) at Kumamoto University, for its intensive seminar. Kumamoto University and University Joseph Fourier - Grenoble I, specifically with its X-Earth Center, have long been collaborating on academic exchange fulfilled in this agreement.

On this day, the professors also paid a courtesy visit to President Taniguchi and they exchanged their opinions and ideas for future exchanges.

On December 20, 2011, a four member delegation from Hezhou University, China, including President Xie Qing Lin who once was a research scholar at Kumamoto University, visited the faculty of Engineering, Kumamoto University. This visit came to fruition in response to a prior official visit by the Hezhou University delegation, including Prof. Pan Liwen, Party Secretary last November. At the meeting with

President Taniguchi and Vice President Furukawa during their visit, both parties' intention to execute a partnership agreement was confirmed. The preparation for this partnership agreement was completed, allowing the current visit to take place. In the discussion prior to the signing ceremony, it was confirmed that the exchanges would start with advisors, and then lead to future active student exchanges, such as accepting students into Kumamoto University summer programs.

It is expected that further opportunities for exchanges will be increased between the above two universities and Kumamoto University.



Signing Ceremony with University Joseph Fourier



Hezhou University Delegation