

## The News Letter of the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University

### 10th Japan-Brazil International Workshop on Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development Held

On November 14, 2012, the 10th Japan-Brazil International Workshop on Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Development was co-hosted by Kumamoto University, Gifu University and the University of Campinas (Brazil) at the 100th Anniversary Memorial Hall, Kumamoto University.

The University of Campinas and Gifu University hosts this workshop annually, which originated from the first workshop held at University of Campinas (Brazil) in 2003, due to increasing concern about the environment in Japan and Brazil.

This 10th Japan-Brazil International Workshop on Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development was held at



Commemorative photo of speakers and people involved

Kumamoto University, since the University of Campinas has a department-level exchange agreement with the Faculty of Engineering and Graduate School of Science and Technology of Kumamoto University.



Opening speech by President Taniguchi

This workshop aimed to strengthen the partnership between Japanese and Brazilian researchers and to contribute to the development of both countries by making presentations and holding discussions mainly on topics such as energy, biomass, environment, and agriculture. Six Brazilian researchers and five Japanese researchers delivered lectures in English, and had an animated discussion.

About 140 on-and off-campus participants such as graduates and researchers including international students joined the workshop.

The workshop was also delivered to Gifu University via teleconference, where 26 graduates of Gifu University joined as part of their classes.



Active discussions by the participants: the workshop was delivered to Gifu University via the teleconference system (right)

One of the speakers from University of Campinas, Professor Luís Cortez commented, "I could exchange information and have a fruitful discussion with Japanese researchers including the researchers from Kumamoto University through this workshop. Brazil places great importance on Japan for various aspects, including energy, and environment fields, as well as economy and culture. It is also good to try various things in youth, so I hope many Japanese young people visit Brazil where the economy is growing greatly."

One of the listeners from Graduate School of Science and Technology of Kumamoto University, a foreign visiting researcher Jorge Morel (Paraguay) also commented, "I participated in this workshop because there were the presentations by Brazilian researchers from South America, my home area. I was very interested in the topic of green energy which is related to my research field. In particular, the information about bio-ethanol was very useful for me. There were so many helpful presentations and discussions to study various energy issues, since the current main source of electricity in Paraguay is a hydro-electric generation. Japan also should have more discussions in order to introduce more renewable energy sources like these. I expect that the specific benefit will be brought into both countries by strengthening these valuable partnerships, since Japan has excellent science technologies, and Brazil has rich natural resources."



Lecture by Professor Luís Cortez (University of Campinas / Brazil)

## The Party for Kumamoto University International Students 2012 Held

On December 12, the party for international students was held at the 100th Anniversary Memorial Hall, Kumamoto University. Kumamoto University holds this event annually, with the aim of offering encouragement to international students who work hard on their studies and research whilst living in a foreign environment. It is also a great opportunity for them to socialize and strengthen ties with each other as well as with their supervisors, tutors and distinguished guests from outside the school.

At the party, attendees were greeted by Professor Harada, Director of the Center for Globalization, as well as by the President of the South Korean Exchange Student Association. This was followed by a toast from Professor Chen, the Director of the Division of International Exchange Support, Center for Globalization. After the formalities, attendees socialized and enjoyed the event.

In addition, attendees were treated to performances of traditional music, songs and dances by 7 groups of international students. Each performance was judged by our distinguished guests and the group with the highest-scoring performance was awarded the Best International Student Performance Award by President Taniguchi. Meanwhile, a raffle organized by the Volunteer Group of International Exchange Support for Kumamoto University (Vogies) was also held. A total of 350 people came along and enjoyed the party.



International Students with President Taniguchi

## 2012 Debriefing Presentation by Returnee Exchange Students Held

On November 7, 2012, Kumamoto University held the 2012 Debriefing Presentation on the Results of Studying Abroad by Returnee Exchange Students at Kumamoto University Kusunoki Hall.

This seminar consisted of two sections. In the first section, exchange students who studied at our partner universities made presentations in the languages they learned in each country.

In the second section, students who joined the two-to-four week "short-stay program" organized by Kumamoto University in spring or summer, reported on their experiences.

President Taniguchi addressed the students prior to the presentations. The president expressed his expectations for them to make use of their study abroad experiences, to work actively and globally in the future. The speakers reported on their experiences while studying abroad, introduced the universities at which they studied, as well as the outcomes achieved from their study abroad experience, etc. using pictures and episodes.

About 40 students who were interested in, or planning on studying abroad participated in this session. One could hear "It was very good opportunity to hear about the study abroad experiences, and I was motivated by them."



Returnee Exchange Students Presentation

## President Taniguchi Attended the 55th Anniversary Event of Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology

On October 27, 2012, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (Vietnam, which has a university-level exchange agreement with Kumamoto University), held its 55th anniversary event in Vietnam to commemorate the founding of the university. President Taniguchi of Kumamoto University attended this event.

The large ceremony was held at the university arena, as about 1,000 guests such as Vietnam government officials, Ho Chi Minh City government officials, higher education institutions, graduates and undergraduates, as well as corporations including Japanese companies watched. The celebration was held off campus.

Rector Vu Dinh Thanh of Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, and President Taniguchi discussed the future development of educational and research exchanges in the meeting, and agreed to further strengthen their cordial relationship continuously.



President Taniguchi and Rector Vu Dinh Thanh (Center)

## President Taniguchi participated in "The 5th International Presidential Forum on Global Research Universities" hosted by KAIST, South Korea

"The 5th International Presidential Forum on Global Research Universities" was held on October 16, 2012 in Seoul, South Korea. It was hosted by The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), one of Kumamoto University's overseas partner universities, on the theme of "Effective Education and Innovative Learning."

Presidents, vice-presidents and other staff members from 51 institutes in 27 countries took part in the forum. The attendees took the opportunity to listen to lectures and to actively exchange opinions.

President Taniguchi of Kumamoto University attended the forum, and delivered a lecture on the topic of "Activities of Kumamoto University (KU) for Effective Education and Innovative Learning"



A view of the forum



President Taniguchi with President Nam Pyo Suh of KAIST (center) and his wife (far right)

## Courtesy Call to President Taniguchi and Vice-President Harada by Vice-President Teresa Branch of the University of Montana

On October 5, 2012, a delegation from the University of Montana, one of our partner universities located in the United States, paid a courtesy call to President Taniguchi and Vice-President Harada of Kumamoto University. The University of Montana delegation consisted of three people, one of whom was Vice-President Teresa Branch.

They visited our university while staying in Kumamoto in order to attend a commemorative event marking 30 years of sister-city relations between Montana and Kumamoto.

Kumamoto University entered into a university-level exchange agreement with the University of Montana in 1987. Since then, we have overseen numerous academic exchanges involving both faculty members and students.

During the meeting, President Taniguchi and Vice-President Branch exchanged views on such topics as the possibility of a new student exchange program, before the visit was brought to an amicable close.

Before the meeting, the delegation members had the opportunity to chat with University of Montana exchange students currently studying at Kumamoto University. They also were shown around the Memorial Museum of the Fifth High School, and appeared very interested in the history of Kumamoto University and its wonderful educational and research environment.



University of Montana Vice-President Teresa Branch (Center)

## Exchange Meeting between International Students and Health Science Students

On November 5, the 2nd 'Exchange Luncheon Meeting of International and Health Science Students' was held. The event was hosted by the Health Science Internationalization Promotion Committee at the Kuhonji campus, with the aim of giving students the opportunity to improve their English conversational skills through communication with people from foreign countries.

A total of 64 people participated in the event, including current students and faculty and staff members from School of Health Sciences and the Graduate School of Health Sciences, as well as 11 international students from countries such as China, South Korea, Indonesia, the U.S.A., the U.K., Germany, Australia, and Guatemala, all of whom are enrolled on courses at our university.

The luncheon commenced with self-introductions by the international students, followed by group discussions and presentations on a wide range of topics such as 'Seasonal Events' and 'Medical Systems' in students' respective countries.



The 2nd Exchange Luncheon Meeting of International and Health Science Students

## Courtesy Visit to National Key Universities in China – Report from the Shanghai Office (2)

From October 17 to November 9, 2012, Professor Chen of the Center for Globalization visited 20 of China's National Key University campuses across 6 regions. The main purpose of the visits was to acquire prospective Chinese Scholarship Students for our university through the Chinese Government Graduate Student Overseas Study Program held by the China Scholarship Council.

Kumamoto University's Shanghai office is our hub for promoting international exchanges with Chinese universities as well as for acquiring new international exchange students. During this visit, the Shanghai office coordinated visiting schedules with the participating universities and accompanied Professor Chen to the institutions (Beijing University, Beijing University of Technology, Nankai University, Tianjin University, Fudan University, Tongji University, Shanghai University and Nanjing University of Science and Technology).

At each university, Professor Chen and the Shanghai office staff spoke to the international exchange staff and outlined Kumamoto University's acceptance policies and strategies. Furthermore, at the information seminars held for exchange program applicants, students were given an outline of Kumamoto University and Kumamoto City, and received insights into life as an exchange student, information on scholarships and answers to any questions the students had. We feel that we accomplished our goal of improving our university's presence in China through interaction with staff and students at each university.



Providing information about Kumamoto University at Tongji University, Prof. Chen

## FD Training Program for the Globalization of Education 2012

From January 8 to January 10 2013, Kumamoto University held an FD Training Program for the Globalization of Education for the purpose of improving English communication and teaching skills at our university.

In the 2010 and 2011 academic years, faculty members from Kumamoto University were sent to the University of Alberta in Canada (one of our partner institutions) and California State University, Fullerton in the U.S.A. for a 2-week training course. However, this year we invited lecturers from University of Alberta to our university to conduct the training for 9 participants.

The participants sat through lectures on teaching methods and took part in practical exercises to improve their English conversational ability, during which they acquired a lot of valuable skills. On the final day of training, each participant carried out a five-minute mock class in front of the lecturer and other participants to show the results of their training. One of the participants said, "It was a very worthwhile training program. I feel like the methods we learned are useful not only for teaching in English but also for teaching in Japanese."

Looking to the future, the university hopes that the participants use the skills they have acquired on this course to promote activities aimed

at improving Kumamoto University's International Education Program. Furthermore, we all expect the participants to further internationalize education in their respective faculties and graduate schools.



Participants at the training class



Closing Ceremony

## Wide-ranging Exchange Activities in Cooperation with Kumamoto University Liaison Office at ITS, Indonesia

### Global Academic Excellence Seminar held at the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS)

On September 28, 2012, Kumamoto University held the 4th Global Academic Excellence Seminar at the ITS. We have hosted seminars at our overseas partner universities since last year, in which we showcase research carried out at Kumamoto University and hold an exchange student recruitment seminar. Through these seminars, we aim to effectively recruit international exchange students wishing study in Japan and to promote more active research exchange. This is the fourth such seminar.

In the seminar, we introduced our distinctive research activities at Kumamoto University. Approximately 150 students from ITS attended the seminar and listened with keen interest. After the seminar, we fielded a number of interesting questions from the audience, which highlighted their keen interest both in the seminar and in Kumamoto University. The seminar has given us hope for an increase in Indonesian exchange students coming to Kumamoto University in the future.



ITS students listening intently

### Courtesy Call to Vice President Harada by the Head of International Office of ITS



Courtesy Call by Dr. Maria Anityasari (second left) to Vice President Harada (second right)

On October 16, 2012, Dr. Maria Anityasari, the Head of International Office of ITS made a courtesy call to Vice President Harada of Kumamoto University.

This visit was made to make presentations on ITS, with the aim of further strengthening exchange ties with Kumamoto University.

Dr. Anityasari and Vice President Harada exchanged their opinions about further possibilities of student exchanges in the meeting, and the courtesy call concluded in a friendly atmosphere.

Before the meeting, Dr. Anityasari met with 13 international students of ITS currently studying at Kumamoto University.

### Participation in COMMUNITY AND TECHNOLOGICAL (CommTECH) CAMP - Highlight 2012



Program Participants

The COMMUNITY AND TECHNOLOGICAL (CommTECH) CAMP - Highlight 2012 was held at ITS from November 26 to December 4. 2 students from the Graduate School

of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University and 1 staff member from International Affairs Division, Kumamoto University participated in the program.

This program was planned with the goal of familiarizing participants with various technological and cultural aspects of Indonesia through hands-on experience. 32 members from 17 countries participated in this nine-day program. During the final day presentations, participants and ITS students actively discussed topics such as the development of Indonesia.

## A visit by the Director of the University of Newcastle, Australia

On November 26, 2012, Associate Professor Seamus Fagan, the Director of the English Language and Foundation Studies Centre at The University of Newcastle, Australia, paid a visit to our university.

The University of Newcastle, Australia is one of Kumamoto University's partner institutions, with which we entered into a university-level exchange agreement in 1986. Under the agreement, Kumamoto University has sent a total of 90 students to The University of Newcastle, Australia as of the 2011 academic year. Moreover, since the 2004 academic year, students from our university have travelled to Newcastle for two weeks during their spring vacation to attend an ELICOS (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students) course at the English Language and Foundation Studies Centre. As of the 2011 academic year, 68 of our students have taken up this opportunity.

During the visit, Associate Professor Fagan spoke with Lecturer Masden and the staff at the Center for Globalization, with whom he exchanged views on the current situation at both universities and the possibility of further university-level exchange hereafter.

Associate Professor Fagan also took the opportunity to speak with an exchange student from the University of Newcastle, Australia currently studying as a special auditor in the Faculty of Engineering, Kumamoto University.



Associate Professor Fagan (Center)

## Experience of Studying Abroad in Montana



Department of Communication and Information Studies, Faculty of Letters

**Fumihiko Naono**

From August 2011 to May 2012, I had the privilege of studying at Montana University as an exchange student. Although I was going to the U.S., my destination was a rural state called Montana, which I had never even heard of before. Montana is very different from the big cities you all know, such as L.A. and New York. For a start, there is no form of entertainment there, only vast expanses of nature. However, I believe that I was able to experience something truly special there, which I could not have experienced anywhere else.

What I struggled with the most during studying abroad was keeping up in class. Exchange

students at Montana University can choose any subject they like, not just those offered by the faculty that they are enrolled in. Like many others, I decided to take a few subjects which I am not able to take at Kumamoto University, such as tourism, visual editing and politics. However, every class was, of course, in English. Just keeping up with the class was difficult enough and I often spent my time studying until late at night, revising and preparing for upcoming classes with other exchange students. Up to that point, I had never put much effort into my studies, so my year in Montana was the first time in my university life that I felt I had studied hard. I was thus able to rediscover both the difficulties and the joys of learning.

My private time was mostly spent at a restaurant that was popular among the locals. The communication that took place in this restaurant was the best form of English practice for me. The locals were friendly and so would approach me, after which we would communicate through English and gestures over a few drinks. Every week, I was able to either discover something or meet someone new.

Finally, I would like to offer some advice to those who are hesitant to go and study abroad: take a step into the unknown. I am sure that there are many factors and uncertainties affecting your decision. Whether it is monetary, cultural or language differences, these problems can be solved as you face them, one step at a time. It would be a waste not to go when you have so much time to spare as a university student. If you are even remotely interested in studying abroad, stay true to yourself and give it a shot.

## A Message from an International Student



Graduate School of Medical Sciences

South Korea **Jung Minkyung**

I chose to come to Kumamoto University from South Korea with the ambition of becoming a medical researcher. In my early days at the university there were uncertainties such as being unfamiliar with Japanese lifestyle and taking classes in Japanese. However, reminding myself that whatever specialized knowledge I acquire and research conducted at Kumamoto University, would form the foundations and would bring me one step closer to my dream, it gave me the courage.

The main theme for our research laboratory is 'Signaling function of reactive oxygen species', which is considered to be at the forefront in the field. To be blessed in such a privileged research environment, I was able to partake in valuable experiences such as conference presentations and RS (Short-term Collaborative Research).

Through the help of teachers and seniors from the research laboratory, and also the International Affairs Division, my worries regarding research and day-to-day life gradually faded away as time passed. As I am a self-funded international student I was struggling financially, but was able to receive a scholarship.

Although receiving such hospitable support and being able to enjoy my time researching and completing my master's course, being the only South Korean in the Honjo Campus, there were times where I felt quite lonely. However, now that I look back on it, I feel that these were opportunities for me to familiarize myself to the Japanese lifestyle and improve on my Japanese skills. Although being in a privileged environment definitely helped, I also believe that I was able to take advantage of every opportunity. Difficulties and uncertainties can also be seen as opportunities, but they can only be gained if you are able to maintain a clear vision and push through the obstacles. To those who are going to be entering Kumamoto University as international students, I am sure there will be difficulties and uncertainties, but if you stay positive and put in the effort, the results will follow. I intend to continually work hard to become a respectable researcher and will move on to my doctoral course to further develop my research.

## New international exchange agreements signed July– December, 2012

Level		Partner institution	Country	Type
University-level		Chonbuk National University	Korea	Academic/ Student Exchange
		Pusan National University	Korea	Academic/ Student Exchange
Department-level	Faculty of Science, Graduate School of Science and Technology	Vietnam Institute of Geosciences and Mineral Resources (VIGMR), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)	Vietnam	Academic Exchange
	Faculty of Life Sciences, Graduate School of Health Sciences	University of San Francisco School of Nursing and Health Professions	U.S.A.	Academic Exchange
	Faculty of Science, Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	Université Blaise Pascal – Clermont-Ferrand II	France	Academic/ Student Exchange
	Faculty of Science, Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS	Malaysia	Academic/ Student Exchange
	Faculty of Life Sciences, Graduate School of Medical Sciences	Guangxi Medical University	China	Academic/ Student Exchange
	Institute of Resource Development and Analysis	The Spanish National Research Council	Spain	Academic Exchange

Number of overseas partner institutions

University-level: 59 Department-level: 80 Total: 139 29 countries (as of January 1, 2013)

