

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

### Kumamoto University Summer Program 2014



Field trip to Mt. Aso

Kumamoto University Summer Program 2014 welcomed 40 students from partner universities in China, South Korea and Taiwan during the period from July 29 to August 8. The year 2014 marks the 8th year of the Program, which was launched in 2007.

This summer program is intended to provide an opportunity for international students to deepen their interest in and understanding of Japan. It offers a wide variety of educational and cultural activities for international students, enabling them to discover the attractiveness of Japan and Kumamoto. Specifically, the program includes Japanese language learning; Japanese cultural experiences such as making Japanese sweets and wearing yukata cotton kimonos; off-campus lectures on Kumamoto's history and cultural assets such as Kumamoto Castle and the former residence of Hosokawa Gyobu; and a field trip to Mt. Aso.

On August 2, students visited Japanese homes, where they enjoyed ordinary Japanese life

as members of families who warmly welcomed them.

Program activities are supported by Kumamoto University's student volunteer supporters, who are reliable companions for international students. For volunteer supporters, participation in this program provides a valuable opportunity to interact with people from overseas. During a short, two-week period, volunteer supporters and international students build strong ties with each other, which will lead to more international exchange opportunities in the future.

On the final day of the program, for their Japanese language class work project, international students presented the results of interviews with Kumamoto University students at a group presentation session and received certificates from President Isao Taniguchi. The following day they reluctantly returned home.



Experiencing the tea ceremony while wearing a yukata cotton kimono

### Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Burkina Faso to Japan paid a courtesy visit to President Taniguchi

His Excellency Mr. François OUBIDA, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Burkina Faso to Japan visited Kumamoto University on July 12.

Ambassador Oubida came to Kumamoto to attend the "22nd Day of the African Child in Kumamoto—Let's learn more about Africa... and Japan" an event held from July 11 to 13, and paid a courtesy visit to President Taniguchi. During the courtesy visit, they confirmed their common will to continuously develop exchanges between Kumamoto University and Burkina Faso.

After that, President Taniguchi gave a lecture to introduce the attractiveness of and distinctive efforts by Kumamoto University. Approximately 80 Burkina Faso and other international students, having gathered from around Japan, deepened their interest in our university and Kumamoto.

It is expected to contribute to the further development of exchanges between the African regions and Kumamoto University in the future.



President Taniguchi, Ambassador Oubida (fifth from the left) and students from Africa

### Prof. Trevor J. Pinch of Cornell University came to Kumamoto University

Prof. Pinch of Cornell University in the U.S. paid a courtesy visit to President Taniguchi and Vice President Mitsuo Morozumi on July 3. Cornell University is a prestigious private university founded in 1865 and is based in the city of Ithaca, New York. It is also an Ivy League university which provides comprehensive education.

Prof. Pinch engages in the development of STS (Science & Technology Studies), and serves as the STS Director at Cornell University.

The courtesy visit in the morning was concluded successfully following an introduction to Kumamoto University by President Taniguchi and an explanation on STS in the U.S. by Prof. Pinch. In the afternoon, a special lecture titled "Beyond the interdisciplinary education - Kumamoto University" was held. The lecture was attended by approximately 40 faculty members including the president and trustees, and included an exchange of questions and answers.



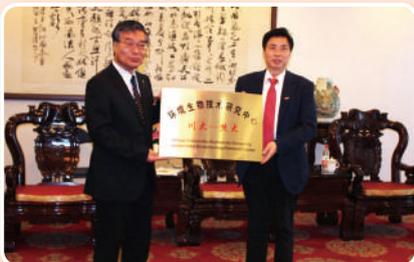
Prof. Pinch (left) and President Taniguchi (right)

## Attending the opening ceremony of the Environmental Biotechnology Research Center of Sichuan University-Kumamoto University at Sichuan University (China)

On May 12, a group of staff members including President Taniguchi visited Sichuan University in China to attend the opening ceremony of the Environmental Biotechnology Research Center of Sichuan University-Kumamoto University. The center is an international collaborative research center between our university and Sichuan University. We signed a memorandum on its establishment in 2011, and construction of the institute was completed in 2012. Kumamoto University entered into an inter-faculty exchange agreement in 1997 and an inter-university exchange agreement in 2009. Since then, our institutions have actively developed academic and student exchanges.

During the ceremony, President Taniguchi and President Heping Xie introduced their respective universities and the partnership between them thus far.

Based on this visit, we agreed to further relations between our institutions via the development of collaborative research at the center.



President Taniguchi(left)and President Heping Xie(right), holding the commemorative plate

## Signing Ceremony for University-level Exchange Agreement and the University's School of Medicine's 19th Graduation Ceremony Held at Nankai University (China)



President Taniguchi(left)and President Gong Ke(right)

On June 28, Kumamoto University's delegation members, including President Taniguchi, visited Nankai University in China, and attended both a signing ceremony for a University-level Exchange Agreement and the 19th graduation ceremony of Nankai University's School of Medicine. Nankai University boasts one of the longest histories in China. Our

university and Nankai University have actively developed academic exchanges since 2009, when the two universities concluded a University-level Exchange Agreement.

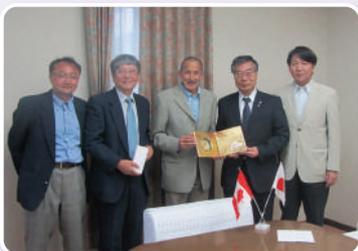
After the two universities' outlines and fields of study were introduced respectively by President Taniguchi and President Gong Ke, a signing ceremony for a University-level Agreement was held, closing the morning part on an amicable note. In the afternoon on the same day, President Taniguchi gave his guest speech at the 19th graduation ceremony of the School of Medicine, Nankai University.

Based on this visit, we agreed to further deepen exchanges between our universities in the future.

## Courtesy visit to Kumamoto University by Prof. Sirish L. Shah of University of Alberta

On May 26, Prof. Sirish L. Shah of the University of Alberta in Canada paid a courtesy visit to President Taniguchi and Vice President Ihara (in charge of international exchange). The University of Alberta has an ongoing academic collaboration agreement with our university.

Kumamoto University entered into an inter-university academic collaboration agreement with the University of Alberta in 2001. Since then, we have overseen numerous academic exchanges involving both teachers and students, and sent students overseas on language seminars and summer programs. On this visit, Dr. Shah and President Taniguchi exchanged views on the level of participation in overseas language seminars and the promotion of future relations, and agreed to further develop future relations between our institutions.



(from left)Associate Prof. Ikuro Mizumoto, Emeritus Prof. Zenta Iwai, Prof. Shah, President Taniguchi, Vice-President Ihara

## President Taniguchi Offers Encouragement to Student Participants of The "TOBITATE! Young Ambassador Program"

July 25, President Taniguchi held an informal meeting with students chosen to participate in the "The 2014 Japan Public-Private Partner Student Study Abroad Program ~TOBITATE! Young Ambassador Program~".

This program was established by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) through collaboration between the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) and private enterprise for the purpose of offering enriching experiences that provide the opportunity for students to think and act independently. This year is the first year that the study abroad program will be carried out, and from an initial applicant pool of 1,700 people, 323 students have been selected. Eight students were chosen from our university.

On the day of the meeting, President Taniguchi told participants to "make lots of friends, stay healthy, and have fun while pursuing your studies." He also encouraged the students by adding that, "The interpersonal network you form during your study abroad will connect you to the world and help expand Japan's influence around the world."

Participants will study abroad in many different host countries, including western countries, like America and Britain, as well as Asian countries, such as India and Singapore.



President Taniguchi and the participants of the program

## Students from Griffith University (Australia) Came to Kumamoto University

On July 9, 14 people, including Dr. Jeanne McConachie and 10 students, visited Kumamoto University from Griffith University.

Griffith University is a public university located in Queensland, Australia with a total of 24,000 students. Since 2012 this university and Kumamoto University's Faculty of Engineering and Graduate School of Science and Technology have engaged in exchange activities after concluding a department-level Exchange Agreement.

With support from the "New Colombo Plan," under which the Australian government gives importance to interactive exchanges with the Indo-Pacific region and supports Australian students' opportunities for study abroad and internships, the members continued to film a documentary of the region at Gokanoshō in Yatsushiro City, a place known for the legends of Heike no Ochiudo (Heike fugitives). Members arrived in Japan on June 30, continued filming until July 8, and held a screening of the documentary and introduced Griffith University on July 9 at Kumamoto University's 100th Anniversary Memorial Hall in Kumamoto City.

In response to the film screening, Kumamoto University gave a special class on



"Zanshi", test-cutting with Japanese sword

Japanese culture, "Samurai and Japanese swords-demonstration of zanshi (test of cutting objects such as a straw post and tatami mat)", including the introduction of Japanese swords and demonstration by Master Genrokuro Matsunaga of Kobudo Shodai Ryu Zanshi Genseikai.

The film screening and special

class were also attended by approximately 90 international students studying at our university as well as Japanese students, in addition to President Isao Taniguchi from Kumamoto University.



With the members of Griffith University

## Vice-President Ihara Pays Courtesy Visits to the University of Leeds (U.K.) and JSPS London

Hirota Ihara, Vice-President for International Affairs, and two international officials paid a courtesy visit to KU student exchange agreement partner, the University of Leeds in the U.K., on March 17.

The University of Leeds was founded in 1904. It has language education, philosophy, law, medical science, electric and electronic engineering, and Asian studies. Kumamoto University and the University of Leeds have exchanged students bilaterally since a university-level exchange agreement was concluded in 2006.

They visited the International Student Office and the Japanese Language Course offices. They exchanged views with those involved in the dispatch and acceptance of students and the status of exchanges with other universities. Also, they introduced Kumamoto University to students from the University of Leeds who were interested in studying in Japan.

On March 18, they visited the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) London, and exchanged opinions with Professor Kozo Hiramatsu, Director of JSPS London, regarding the latest trends in academic research and higher education.



With the staff members of International Student Office of the University of Leeds

## General assembly of Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference

The general assembly of the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference was held at Kumamoto University on June 6. This committee, which consists of higher education institutions in Kumamoto Prefecture, national and local public organizations, economic organizations and international exchange organizations, helps provide a better living and learning environment for international students and promotes mutual understanding between them and the local people through community exchange events.

Prior to the general assembly, Mr. Toshiaki Sato of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), explained facts regarding international students studying in Japan and Japanese students studying abroad, as well as related measures taken by MEXT.

The general assembly also held lively discussions on measures to bring in more international students and develop students into leaders in a globalized world.



General assembly

## Opening ceremony for 2014 1st semester Intensive Japanese Course and Short-Term Exchange Program

The opening ceremony for the 2014 1st semester Intensive Japanese Course (offered by the Center for Globalization) and Short-Term Exchange Program (offered by Kumamoto University) was held at the University Hall on April 4.

President Taniguchi gave a warm congratulatory speech, encouraging newly enrolled international students to make a lot of Japanese and non-Japanese friends, keep in good shape and enjoy their lives in Kumamoto.

Five international students were newly enrolled in the Intensive Japanese Course this semester. They will receive language training at the Center for Globalization for six months in preparation for upcoming graduate courses.

A total of 25 international students were newly enrolled in the Short-Term Exchange Program this semester. As undergraduates, students participating in this program will take classes offered by the Center for Globalization as well as specialized subjects and liberal arts subjects based on their individual Japanese proficiency level and interests.



Opening ceremony

## Asian undergraduates and graduates visit Japan

Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science (SAKURA Exchange Program in Science)



Students from the Institute of Technology Surabaya

Kumamoto University's six proposed plans were accepted under the Japan-Asia youth Exchange Program in Science (SAKURA Exchange Program in Science) launched by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Of the six

proposed plans, four were selected through the first open competition and two were selected through the second open competition. This program is intended to invite competent young Asians to Japan, promote scientific and technological exchanges between them and their young Japanese counterparts, enhance their interest in Japan's cutting-edge science and technology, and help develop promising overseas students into competent human resources who will meet the future demands of universities, research institutions and corporations in Japan.

Based on the plans selected for the project, Kumamoto University decided to invite 64 people, including undergraduates, graduates and researchers, from China, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar and Taiwan, introduce them to the University's education and research activities, have them discuss freely with Japanese researchers and students, and provide them with opportunities to learn about Japan's science and technology endeavors through visits to museums and corporations.

This program is expected to increase participants' interest in studying at Kumamoto University.



Students from Shandong University and President Taniguchi



Students from the University of Health Sciences, Laos receiving guidance in a P2-level laboratory

## 2013 Annual International Student Field Trip

On February 13 and 14, Kumamoto University held an overnight field trip to Oita Prefecture (Yufuin, Usa Jingu Shrine, Oita Works of Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal and Beppu City Traditional Bamboo Crafts Center) for international students. A field trip for international students is held annually to enable them to deepen their understanding of Japan by allowing them to gain firsthand knowledge of Japanese history, culture and climate as well as Japan's latest technologies, and to provide an opportunity for international students to interact with one another and with Japanese students. A total of 96 international students from 14 countries participated in the trip this time round, accompanied by five students who supported them. During this field trip, snow fell and covered the ground, which was a rare occurrence for the Kyushu region.

Students from tropical countries who had never experienced snow before viewed in awe Yufuin's townscape and Usa Jingu Shrine covered in white snow. This field trip is sure to be an unforgettable experience for them.



Student deeply engaged in making a bamboo bell

## New international exchange agreements signed January-June, 2014

Level		Partner institution	Country	Type
University-level		Airlangga University	Indonesia	Student Exchange
		University of California, Los Angeles	U.S.A	Academic Exchange
Department-level	Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Faculty of Engineering	Thailand	Academic/Student Exchange
	Magnesium Research Center	Korea Institute of Materials Science, Light Metal Division	Korea	Academic Exchange
	Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture	Vietnam	Student Exchange
	Faculty of Life Sciences	Faculty of Nursing Sciences, University of Health Sciences	Laos	Academic Exchange
	University Hospital Faculty of Life Sciences	National Cheng Kung University Hospital	Taiwan	Academic Exchange
	Institute of Pulsed Power Science	Institute of Chemistry and Chemical Technology (ICCT) of National Academy of Science of the Kyrgyz Republic	Kyrgyz Republic	Academic Exchange
	Institute of Resource Development and Analysis	Australian Phenomics Facility, The Australian National University	Australia	Academic Exchange
	Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	Queen's University at Kingston	Canada	Academic Exchange

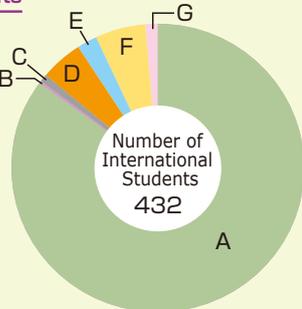
Number of overseas partner institutions  
 University-level: 72 Department-level: 88 Total 160 32 countries and regions (as of June 1, 2014)

## Statistics

### Number of International Students

(As of May 2014)

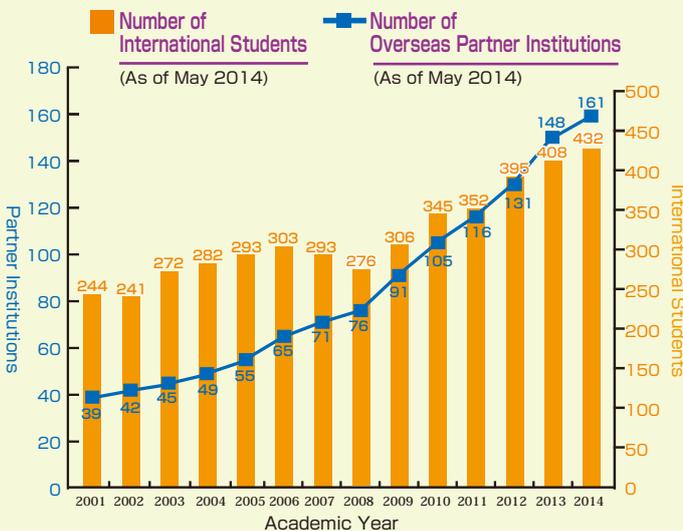
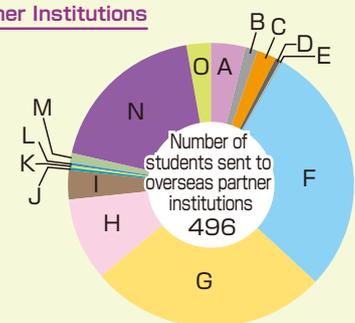
A : Asia	368
B : North America	1
C : South Middle America	4
D : Europe	20
E : Middle East	10
F : Africa	24
G : Oceania	5



### Number of Students Sent to Overseas Partner Institutions

(1978-2013)

A : China	20
B : Korea	7
C : Taiwan	11
D : Vietnam	2
E : Indonesia	1
F : U.S.A.	143
G : U.K.	133
H : Germany	47
I : France	17
J : Poland	1
K : Czech	2
L : Slovenia	1
M : Turkey	6
N : Australia	92
O : New Zealand	13



### Number of Researchers Sent Abroad

(April 2013 - March 2014)

A : Asia	481
B : North America	420
C : Central and South America	17
D : Europe	370
E : Middle East	21
F : Africa	8
G : Oceania	39

