

The News Letter of the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University

The 10th Kumamoto University Forum (Surabaya) held

Kumamoto University held the 10th Kumamoto University Forum in Surabaya, Indonesia for two days on November 25 and 26, 2013. Working among ASEAN countries with which exchanges have been promoted through Japan's policies for higher education in recent years, this Forum was held placing a particular focus on the initiation of exchanges with Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR), which is highly valued as one of Indonesia's prominent universities, and the expansion of exchanges with the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), with which our university has long had lively educational and research exchanges and student exchanges using Kumamoto University Liaison Office at ITS as the base, under the cooperation of those universities.

On November 25, a signing ceremony for an inter-university academic exchange agreement between UNAIR and Kumamoto University was held at UNAIR. In the afternoon, researchers and students interacted with each other at the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Public Health, and Faculty of Humanities of UNAIR. Also, at ITS, special lectures by professors from Kumamoto University were given at all six venues, attended by over 600 researchers and students in total.

On November 26, using the Sheraton Surabaya Hotel & Towers as the venue, the Forum was opened with an opening address by the Forum Chair and Vice President Shinji Harada of Kumamoto University. After the opening of the Forum, signing ceremonies for the agreement of "Double Degree Program" for master's degree courses between ITS and Kumamoto University, and the renewal of inter-university academic and student exchanges agreement between the Consortium of Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember and Kumamoto University were held respectively. Keynote speeches were then given by presidents of the three universities—Kumamoto University,



Indonesian students asking eagerly on the opportunity for studying in Kumamoto University

tations regarding recent research.

In the meantime, various events were held concurrently with this Forum, such as a courtesy visit to Consul General Noboru Nomura of Consulate-General Japan at Surabaya by presidents of the three universities, an exchange meeting for Kumamoto University's alumni living in Indonesia; a booth exhibition intended to introduce Kumamoto prefectural and municipal governments, the Consortium Kumamoto, and "HIGO Program," Kumamoto University's Program for Leading Graduate Schools; and a panel exhibition that introduced the three universities' faculties and departments. Furthermore, high interest in this Forum was proven with a press conference by the local media.

Having attracted over 400 participants, such as faculty members and students from ITS and UNAIR to the events held at the Sheraton Surabaya Hotel & Towers, the Forum ended in success.

Through the Forum, Kumamoto University forged closer ties with Indonesian universities. Further advancement of international exchanges between the two countries can be expected.



Latest research introduction by the researchers from two universities in Indonesia and Kumamoto University

ITS, and UNAIR. In the afternoon, participants were divided into two venues according to the natural sciences- and life sciences-related group and human and social sciences-related group, and were given an introduction to the faculties and graduate schools of those universities from Indonesia and Japan, as well as presen-



Alumni living in Indonesia and President Taniguchi

President Taniguchi at the International Presidential Forum, Hosted by KAIST of Korea

With the theme of "The Role and Responsibility of Research Universities: Knowledge Creation, Technology Transfer, and Entrepreneurship," the International Presidential Forum 2013 was held in Seoul, Korea on October 15th. The forum was hosted by KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), which has concluded an international exchange agreement with Kumamoto University.

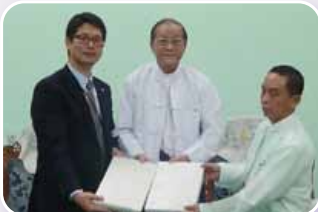
Presidents and vice presidents of 57 institutes from 28 countries attended the forum. President Taniguchi participated as a representative of our university.

President Taniguchi also paid a courtesy visit to the Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST) on October 14th, had talks with President Hasuck Kim and delivered a lecture on education and research activities at Kumamoto University.



President Taniguchi with Sung-Mo "Steve" Kang, President of KAIST (left), and Prof. Kan's wife (right)

Collaborative Relationship in Education and Research Established with Yangon Technological University



Professor Chen, Former President Nyi Hla Nge (middle) and President Aye Myint

Professor Qiang Chen, of the Center for Globalization, visited Yangon Technological University on December 6th for the purpose of strategically acquiring high-level students for the Faculty of Life Sciences. This trip was based on the HIGO Program*. Professor Chen also used this trip to open a new collaborative relationship in education and research with Yangon Technological University.

Yangon Technological University, established in 1924, has the longest history of all higher education institutions administered by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Myanmar, and is in a position to provide advice on academic affairs to other high-level education institutions under the umbrella of the Ministry.

During talks, Professor Nyi Hla Nge, former President of the university and former Minister of Science and Technology, and Professor Aye Myint, the current President, expressed a great interest in the HIGO Program, and promised to cooperate in recommending top students. In addition, they discussed international exchanges in various research fields, including civil engineering, chemistry and information engineering, and expressed a strong desire to establish a friendly relationship.

*HIGO is an acronym representing Health life science: Interdisciplinary and Glocal Oriented. It describes a graduate school educational program that aims at nurturing glocal (global + local) leaders as pioneers in the health and life science field.

JICA Trainees from Afghanistan Accepted into the Graduate School of Science and Technology

Responding to a request from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Kumamoto University has accepted three Afghan trainees into the master's course of the Graduate School of Science and Technology. They are enrolled as students under the International Joint Education Program (IJEP) for Science and Technology for two years, from October 2013.

This initiative is part of the Project for the Promotion and Enhancement of the Afghan Capacity for Effective Development (PEACE), which aims to

nurture human resources who will be a driving force in leading reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan.

The trainees are currently acquiring the knowledge and techniques required to promote infrastructure development in their home country, studying in such fields as water treatment and urban transportation planning.



From the left: Mr. Aqili Sayed Waliullah, Mr. Qudratullah and Mr. Jalal Elyasuddin

A Visit to Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University

During December 10th and 11th, Lecturer Shigeko Matsuse and Lecturer Toshiyuki Imanishi, of the Center for Globalization, visited the Japanese Language Education Department, the Faculty of Education of Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University (Turkey). During the visit, the two lecturers introduced an overview of the Japanese Studies Program at Kumamoto University, observed a Japanese class. A former student of Kumamoto University (who completed a doctoral course at the Graduate School of

Social and Cultural Sciences) teaches a course in the Japanese Language Education Department. Also, for the first time last year, a student from this department came to Kumamoto University to study. Although an exchange agreement has not been concluded with this university, the eventual establishment of a partnership is expected.



Class taught by a former student of Kumamoto University

Visit to Khon Kaen University (Thailand) and National University of Laos

Professor Kiyoshi Fukuzawa (Faculty of Letters), Lecturer Toshiyuki Imanishi (Center for Globalization) and Lecturer Masden Mariko (Center for Globalization) visited the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Education of Khon Kaen University, as well as the Faculty of Letters of the National University of Laos from November 3rd to 9th.



With Dr. Kulthida Tuamsuk, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Khon Kaen University (3rd from the right) and others

During the visit, the three exchanged opinions with interested locals and conducted on-site observations with the theme of potential future educational training abroad in the Japanese language curriculum, which started at the Faculty of Letters of Kumamoto University this year. In addition, they introduced the Kumamoto University Japanese Studies Program and the Short-Term Exchange Program, and also reported on the current status of students who had come to Kumamoto University from these two universities, and who are now enrolled in these programs.

Faculty Development Training Program for the Globalization of Education 2013



Participants at the training class

From September 3 to September 5 2013, Kumamoto University held an FD Training Program for the Globalization of Education for the purpose of improving English communication and teaching skills at Kumamoto 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. Since the 2012 academic year, we have invited lecturers from the University of Alberta to conduct training at Kumamoto University. Nine faculty members in 2012 and 25 members in 2013 participated in the training course.

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. The participants commented, "It was a good opportunity to reconsider daily teaching methods and attitudes. There were many topics covered that can be used for classes for Japanese students. It was also a good experience to be able to exchange opinions with teachers from other departments whom we rarely communicate with."

2013 Debriefing Presentation by Returnee Exchange Students Held

The 2013 Debriefing Presentation on the Results of Studying Abroad by Returnee Exchange Students was held at Kumamoto University's Kusunoki Hall on November 12th.

Prior to the presentations, President Taniguchi delivered some words of encouragement, saying "I hope you will use these study abroad experiences to help you play an active role in the global arena as internationally-minded talent."

The speakers reported on their experiences of studying abroad and the achievements they earned through them, with photos and anecdotes. Approximately 40 participants, including students who hope to study abroad in the future, attended the session, asked many questions, and helped the session to conclude as a success. The participants commented that the presentations of those who studied abroad were very informative and stimulating.



Presentation by student who studied abroad

Job Fair for International Students

For the purpose of encouraging the employment of international students by Kumamoto-based companies and others, the Job Fair for International Students was held at the Kumamoto Prefectural Community Center PAREA on December 14th, under the auspices of the Kumamoto Prefectural Office and Consortium Kumamoto.

This year marks the third such event, and 16 companies, including Kumamoto-based firms and more than 110 international students, participated. Approximately 40 students from Kumamoto University attended the fair. They were enthusiastically listening to the explanations given at company booths, and asked a lot of questions. The program also included a panel discussion with former international students who landed jobs at companies in Kumamoto, and a lecture that offered useful job interview tips.



International students collecting corporate information

Participation in the Promotion Fair for the Japan-Korea Joint Scholarship Program for Science and Engineering Students

The Japan-Korea Joint Scholarship Program for Science and Engineering Students is a program where graduates of Korean high schools are invited to enter science and engineering departments at Japanese national universities. This is for the purpose of providing education in cutting-edge technology and knowledge, as well as to enhance mutual understanding.

Two academic staff members from our university took part in the promotional fair, which was held at the Institute of International Cooperation and Education in Seoul, Korea on September 1st. In addition, two former Korean students who graduated from Kumamoto University by going through this program, and who currently live in Korea, came to the event to assist as interpreters.

Ten to 15 groups of applicants visited our booth and intently listened to detailed descriptions of study and life at Kumamoto University given by the academic staff and Korean former students.



International Students at Kumamoto University Participate in the International Students Symposium, Hosted by the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference

The International Students Symposium for the Kumamoto area was held on December 7th, and was attended by 130 people, including residents and international students who study at higher education institutions in the prefecture.

The first part was entitled "Let's Learn from International Students! - Before and After: International Students' Experiences in Kumamoto." Six international students (Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Canada, China and Poland), including one Kumamoto University student, made presentations in Japanese, explaining their images of Japan and Kumamoto before coming to Japan, impressions they had after their arrival, and what future they want to pursue after finishing their studies in Kumamoto. Their speeches, delivered in fluent Japanese, and their unexpected viewpoints brought waves of applause from the audience.

For the second part of the symposium, the international students and residents made rice cakes together under a clear blue sky. The participants tasted fresh rice cakes, and had an enjoyable time.



International student is making rice cakes (right) with President Taniguchi

"Get to know Kumamoto!" Volunteer Guide Training Course Concluded



Students who completed the course and Vice-Director Torii

This course was hosted by the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference (sponsored by Consortium Kumamoto) and held for international students enrolled in universities in the prefecture. The purpose was to provide these students with the knowledge needed to guide tourists visiting from their home

countries around Kumamoto.

The participants attended a lecture on the history and culture of Kumamoto and Aso, which was held at the Kumamoto City International Center on November 30th. They then received on-site training in Aso on December 8th. Sixteen international students, including nine from Kumamoto University, took this course. Those who completed the course were given a certificate of completion from Vice-Director Torii of the Center for Globalization.

"Third Exchange Meeting with International Students in Kuhonji Campus" Held

On November 5th, the "Third Exchange Meeting with International Students between International Students and Students of Health Sciences" was held at Kuhonji Campus, under the sponsorship of the Internationalization Promotion Committee of the School of Health Sciences. This event is held annually to promote the understanding of different cultures and English speaking skills through communications with non-Japanese students. There were 58 participants in all, including nine international students, Japanese students and academic staff.



Kumamoto University promotes at Japan Education Fair in Indonesia and Shanghai

The Japan Education Fair 2013, hosted by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), was held in Surabaya, Indonesia on October 26th and in Shanghai, China on November 9th and 10th. Faculty and staff of the Center for Globalization took part in these fairs in order to recruit more international students.

In Surabaya, 115 people visited our booth. The university staff and those of the Kumamoto University Liaison Office at ITS gave explanations and answered questions in English and Indonesian.

In Shanghai, over 70 people visited our booth and asked questions about the departments, graduate schools and life in Kumamoto. Former exchange students at Kumamoto University who are now studying at a university in China, and students who have been sent to a Chinese university from Kumamoto University, explained life at Kumamoto University from student viewpoints.



Surabaya venue, Indonesia (Oct. 26)



Shanghai venue, China (Nov. 9-10)

Our university has established locally staffed offices in Surabaya and Shanghai. Prospective students can ask about studying at Kumamoto University in their native languages at either office. Exchange activities with Indonesia and China are expected to be further promoted.

2013 Kumamoto University International Students' Party Was a Success

The International Students' Party was held on December 3rd. The university hosts this exchange party every year in order to encourage students who are working hard with study and research to experience a different environment, to deepen mutual understanding and to promote friendship. Academic staff members, tutors and other people from outside the university who offer regular assistance to the students are invited.



President Taniguchi and international students who performed

The party started with an opening address delivered by President Taniguchi and a speech given by a student from Indonesia, followed by a toast proposed by Professor Chen, Director of the Division of International Exchange Support of the Center for Globalization. All of the participants, including the international students, academic staff in charge, tutors and non-campus attendees, enjoyed the environment of friendship.

In addition, as one of the programs, six groups of international students performed traditional music, songs and dance. Their performances were judged by the President and by non-campus attendees, and the winning group was awarded the Grand Prize for International Students' Performance by President Taniguchi. A drawing was also held, hosted by the Volunteer Group of International Exchange Support for Kumamoto University (Vogies), and the party venue was filled with great excitement coming from the 320 participants.

New international exchange agreements signed July – December, 2013

Level		Partner institution	Country	Type
University-level		Airlangga University	Indonesia	Academic Exchange
		Jilin Institute of Chemical Technology	China	Academic/ Student Exchange
		Mahidol University	Thailand	Academic/ Student Exchange
Department-level	Graduate School of Science and Technology	Yonsei University, College of Engineering	Korea	Academic Exchange
	Graduate School of Science and Technology	Sun Yat-sen University, School of Geography and Planning	China	Academic/ Student Exchange
	Center for Policy Studies	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China	Academic/ Student Exchange
	Faculty of Letters Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences	College of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Tamkang University	Taiwan	Academic/ Student Exchange
	Faculty of Science Graduate School of Science and Technology	National University of Mongolia, School of Mathematics and Computer Sciences	Mongol	Academic/ Student Exchange
	Faculty of Science Graduate School of Science and Technology	Mongolian State University of Agriculture (MSUA), School of Economics and Business	Mongol	Academic/ Student Exchange
	Graduate School of Science and Technology	Leibniz Institute for Applied Geophysics	Germany	Academic Exchange
	Magnesium Research Center	Division of Materials Engineering, The University of Queensland	Australia	Academic Exchange
	School of Pharmacy Faculty of Life Sciences Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Georgia State University Center for Inflammation, Immunity & Infection	USA	Academic Exchange

Number of overseas partner institutions

University-level: 71 Department-level: 85 Total: 156 30 countries and regions (as of January 1, 2014)