



The News Letter of the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University

SUN/SixERS concludes partnership agreement with ASEAN University Network



Signing ceremony

On April 22, 2013, the Six Universities Network/International Education & Research System, Japan (SUN/SixERS), whose membership includes Kumamoto University, concluded a partnership agreement with the ASEAN University Network (AUN), which comprises top universities in ASEAN member states. As a representative of Kumamoto University, Professor Hiroataka Ihara, who became the vice president in charge of international exchange in April 2013, attended the signing ceremony held at Mahidol University in Thailand. One of the goals of the partnership agreement is to promote development of students into leaders in a globalizing world. Toward this goal, attendees at the meeting discussed and made specific proposals on the establishment of a framework for inter-university exchanges and development of student exchange programs.

SUN/SixERS, a consortium of six Japanese national universities—Chiba University, Niigata University, Kanazawa University, Okayama University, Nagasaki University and Kumamoto University—was established in April 2013. This was the first case where Japanese national universities scattered over such a large area formed a consortium. SUN/SixERS strives to create a center for world-class innovative research, develop students into leaders in a globalizing world, contribute to local communities and promote international activities, through various forms of collaboration based on unique strengths of the six member universities.



Attendees at the vice presidents' meeting (Vice President Ihara, fourth from right in back row)

Rwandan Ambassador to Japan Visits Kumamoto University

Dr. Charles Murigande, Rwandan Ambassador to Japan visited Kumamoto University on July 8 to develop his friendship with President Taniguchi of Kumamoto University, who serves as the chairperson of the Kumamoto Association for UNICEF, during his trip to Kumamoto to give a lecture at the event titled "African Children's Day in Kumamoto - Let's learn more about Africa! 2013," held by the Kumamoto Association for UNICEF from July 5 to 7.

At a meeting between President Taniguchi and Ambassador Murigande, President Taniguchi said that Kumamoto University would like to accept more students from Rwanda, and both agreed to continue helping strengthen friendly relations between Kumamoto University and Rwandan universities. Ambassador Murigande offered words of encouragement to Rwandan students studying at Kumamoto University and expressed his expectations about future interactions between Kumamoto University and Rwandan universities.



President Taniguchi (third from right) and Ambassador Murigande (third from left)

University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Visits Kumamoto University

On the 23rd of May, a group of 17 visitors including Vice President Julius Gribou and students from our partner institution, the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) from the United States of America, came to visit President Taniguchi.

The university-level exchange agreement was signed between UTSA in 2010, and since then we have hosted exchanges in a broad range of areas including engineering.

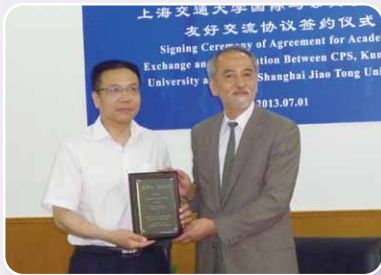
This visit was themed on "Walking the Japanese Culture", targeting students studying Japanese at UTSA to deepen their understanding about Japanese culture and experiences through actual interaction with Japanese students.

The UTSA group visited the Memorial Museum of the Fifth High School and other sights with student guides from our university. In the discussion afterwards with President Taniguchi, UTSA students shared their impressions of Japan from this visit in Japanese and the courtesy visit ended quite amicably. Later that afternoon, a welcome party was held for UTSA students by our students, which made it a fulfilling visit for both of us.



UTSA Delegation and President Taniguchi

A Department-level Exchange Agreement between Shanghai Jiao Tong University's School of International and Public Affairs (China) and Kumamoto University's Center for Policy Studies



Tribute to Vice President Xu Fei

On July 1, 2013, in Shanghai, China, the signing ceremony of a department-level exchange agreement between Kumamoto University's Center for Policy Studies and Shanghai Jiao Tong University's School of International and

Public Affairs was held.

From Kumamoto University, Trustee and Vice President Shinji Harada, in-charge of research and social cooperation, and Professor Shinya Ueno of Policy Studies, and others involved visited Shanghai Jiao Tong University and had meetings with the Vice President Xu Fei. After the signing ceremony, a conference on Public Affairs was held, where Professor Ueno and Associate Professor Yoko Kawamura gave an overview and summary of the activities of Center for Policy Studies.

In this visit, the participants exchanged their views on how the exchange arrangement should be conducted including the visit of students and professors who were involved in the HIGO (Health life science: Interdisciplinary and Glocal Oriented) Program adopted by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Program for Leading Graduate Schools in 2012 to Shanghai Jiao Tong University. It is hoped that the agreement between the universities will lead to even deeper amicable relations in the future.



A memorial photo taken after the signing ceremony

The Spring Welcome Party Held by the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference

On May 19, a spring welcome party was held for newly arrived international students by the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference at Kumamoto University 100th Anniversary Memorial Hall.

After the toast by President Taniguchi, Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Committee member, international students and Japanese students enjoyed various exchange activities. The welcome party also included a performance by Kumamoto University Cheerleader and a dance performance by Prefectural University of Kumamoto's Do DAC which greatly excited all 270 participants.



Performance by Kumamoto University Cheerleader

General assembly of Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference held

The general assembly of the Kumamoto Student Exchange Promotion Conference was held at Kumamoto University on June 11. National and local public institutions, economic organizations and international exchange organizations in Kumamoto Prefecture, helps local academic institutions improve their capacity to accept.

Before the assembly proceedings began, Mr. Kentaro Fukushima, unit chief of the Office for Student Exchange, Student Support and Exchange Division, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), explained the current situation of acceptance of international students into Japanese institutions and Japanese students studying abroad, as well as related programs and facilities. Subsequently, the organization's activities in fiscal 2012 were reported and a lively discussion about the following topics was held: activities in fiscal 2013, promoting acceptance of international students, and developing students into leaders in a globalizing world.



Mr. Fukushima from MEXT speaking

2012 International Student Practical Field Trip

On February 19th and 20th, we held the 2012 Kumamoto University international student practical field trip to Fukuoka and Saga Prefectures. The university holds annual field trips for international students and their tutors, with two main goals in mind. The first is to provide international students the chance to deepen their understanding of Japan via first-hand experiences of Japanese history, culture, topography, science and technology; while the second is to give the international students the opportunity to interact with each other and with Japanese students from our university. This time round, a total of ninety-eight international students from seventeen different countries attended along with five of their tutors.

On the first day, the students first visited the Kyushu National Museum and Dazaifu Tenmangu, and on the second day, they visited The Saga City Cultural Museum and Yoshinogari Historical Park before taking a factory tour of Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory, Inc. Through these visits, students learned about Japanese culture formation and history of cultural relations with Asian countries. Also, the combination of traditional architecture and the uniquely Japanese panorama created by the brightly-colored plum blossoms and other delicate spring flowers left a deep impression on the students. Furthermore, students learned the methods in which Japanese companies deal with recycling and quality control and were given an insight into the Japanese corporate world.

The field trip gave international students enrolled at our university the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Japan and its history, culture, science and technology. It also provided them with the chance to make friends with international students from other departments, whom they would not normally meet in everyday life. A number of participants even stated that they are already looking forward to the next field trip.



At Dazaifu Tenmangu, Fukuoka Prefecture

Opening ceremony for 2013 1st semester Intensive Japanese Course and Short-Term Exchange Program held

The opening ceremony for the 2013 1st semester Intensive Japanese Course (offered by the Center for Globalization) and Short-Term Exchange Program (offered by Kumamoto University) was held at the reception room of Kusunoki Hall on April 5.



Opening ceremony

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.

Three international students from India, Guatemala and Egypt were newly enrolled in the Intensive Japanese Course this semester. A total of 14 international students (two from China, one from Taiwan, and 11 from Korea) were newly enrolled in the Short-Term Exchange Program this semester.

2013 conference for Japan-Korea Joint Exchange Program for Undergraduate Students of Science and Engineering held

The 2013 conference for the Japan-Korea Joint Exchange Program for Undergraduate Students of Science and Engineering was held in Shizuoka City on June 19. Professor Shuichi Torii (Graduate School of Science and Technology), who became vice director of the Center for Globalization in April 2013, and two other persons from the Center attended the conference.

This program was launched in the wake of the announcement of the Japan-Republic of Korea Joint Declaration adopted at a summit meeting held in Japan in 1998 between then Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and then Korean President Kim Dae Jung. Under this program, Korean high-school graduates are invited to study at science and engineering departments of Japanese national universities for four years. This program aims to enable such students to learn cutting-edge knowledge and technologies, contributing to the promotion of mutual understanding between the two nations.

Kumamoto University has engaged in this program since fiscal 2000 (the initial year); the Center for Globalization has provided preparatory education for Korean students, while the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science have offered specialized education. Currently, four Korean students are studying at Kumamoto University under this program.

Prof. Qiang Chen visits seven overseas universities to attract international students to Kumamoto University

Prof. Qiang Chen of the Center for Globalization visited seven overseas universities, including National Taiwan University (Taiwan), Huazhong University of Science & Technology (China), Seoul National University (Korea) and the University of Hawaii (U.S.A.) between January and March 2013, mainly to attract excellent overseas students to Kumamoto University. He introduced Kumamoto University's current educational programs, such as the HIGO Program, and research activities to local students at information sessions and discussed inter-university exchanges with the universities he visited.

One of the universities he visited was Khon Kaen University (Thailand). Kumamoto University concluded an academic exchange agreement with this university in 2004. When Prof. Chen visited this university, he explained to graduate students how to apply for the HIGO Program and exchanged views on inter-university joint research and student exchange with Assistant Professor Kaniittha Volrathongchai, Assistant to the President for International Relations and Cooperation Strategy of Khon Kaen University. It was a fruitful visit.



Prof. Chen (left) and Asst. Prof. Kaniittha Volrathongchai

TOEFL-iBT Seminar

The TOEFL-iBT Seminar started on May 28. This extracurricular program is aimed at enhancing students' command of English for academic purposes as well as facilitating them to go abroad to study at universities, including our partner universities. The seminar consisted of 14 classes which were held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The most recent course attracted 31 students, many of whom desire to study in English-speaking countries where universities require overseas applicants to fulfill certain TOEFL score requirements. They worked earnestly during the lessons, which were given by native English teachers, and completed assignments to the best of their abilities in every class.



Opening address by Prof. Torii, vice director of the Center for Globalization

Visit to Kumamoto University

—Report from the ITS Office (2)—

Kumamoto University (KU) kindly invited me to visit Japan from June 13th to 18th, 2013, as part of my training to be their Liaison Officer at ITS. The main purpose was to discuss the program to increase the number of international students and to exchange information about ITS and Kumamoto University. During my stay, I learnt many important things which helped me to better understand Japanese culture, lifestyle, education and other related matters.

In total, about 160 Indonesian students and researchers have graduated from Kumamoto University, including current students, and it was a great opportunity for me to meet with some of them during my visit to KU Japan. They shared their experiences living in Kumamoto and expressed satisfaction with the education received at Kumamoto University Japan.

Time flies so fast, as it has been almost four years since the KU Liaison office was established at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS) Surabaya, Indonesia. The liaison office of KU at ITS is expected to strengthen the research collaboration and student exchange between Kumamoto University and ITS, consortium partner universities and other leading universities of Indonesia. Another purpose is to assist the networking of alumni who are living in Indonesia. My expectation is to turn KU Liaison Office into not only a bridge to Kumamoto University Japan but also "a wide open door" to introduce Japan to Indonesians. I am sure that my short visit to Kumamoto University Japan will help me to achieve this, and could help me to explain Japan to people here in Indonesia who have never been to Japan, but wish to visit the country one day.



Meeting with Prof. Hiroataka Ihara



Meet and greet with Indonesian students at Kumamoto University

New international exchange agreements signed January – June, 2013

Level		Partner institution	Country	Type
University-level		Gadjah Mada University	Indonesia	Academic/ Student Exchange
		Fayoum University	Egypt	Academic/ Student Exchange
Department-level	Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	University of Waterloo, Faculty of Engineering	Canada	Academic Exchange
	Faculty of Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology	University of Maribor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering	Slovenia	Academic/ Student Exchange
	Institute of Resource Development and Analysis	Laboratory Animal Resource Center, Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology (KRIBB)	Korea	Academic Exchange
	Institute of Resource Development and Analysis	Mouse Biology Program, University of California, Davis	U.S.A.	Academic Exchange
	Faculty of Life Sciences, Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Center for AIDS Research	School of Medicine, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences	Tanzania	Academic/ Student Exchange

Number of overseas partner institutions

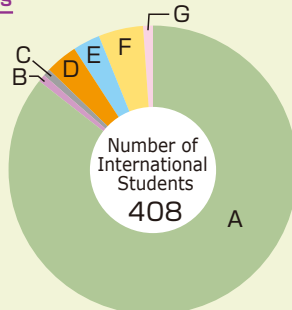
University-level: 69 Department-level: 82 Total: 151 30 countries (as of July 1, 2013)

Statistics

Number of International Students

(As of May 2013)

A : Asia	350
B : North America	3
C : South Middle America	3
D : Europe	15
E : Middle East	13
F : Africa	20
G : Oceania	4

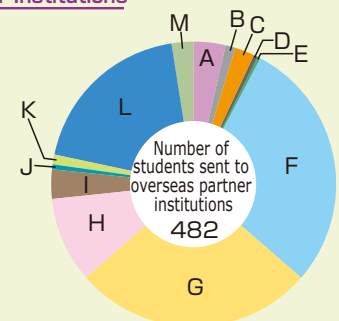


Number of Students Sent to Overseas Partner Institutions

(1978-2012)

(1978-2012)

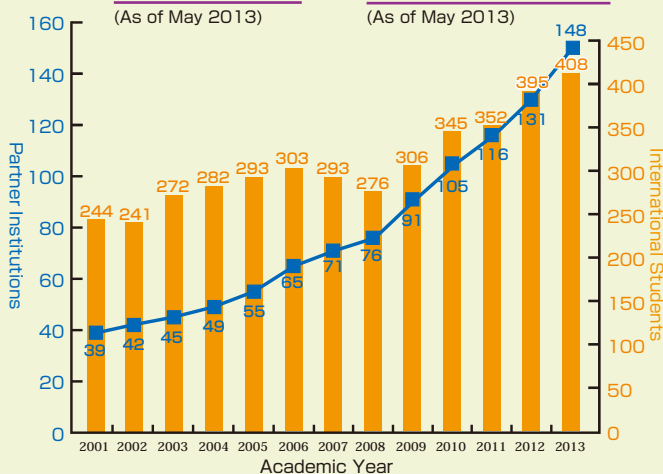
A : China	18
B : Korea	6
C : Taiwan	10
D : Vietnam	1
E : Indonesia	1
F : U.S.A.	139
G : U.K.	132
H : Germany	47
I : France	16
J : Czech	2
K : Turkey	6
L : Australia	92
M : New Zealand	12



Number of International Students and Number of Overseas Partner Institutions

(As of May 2013)

(As of May 2013)



Number of Researchers Sent Abroad

(2012 April - 2013 March)

A : Asia	514
B : North America	388
C : Central and South America	7
D : Europe	366
E : Middle East	17
F : Africa	12
G : Oceania	44

