

The News Letter of the Center for Globalization, Kumamoto University

Celebrating the Opening of Kumamoto University Dalian Office

Kumamoto University opens Dalian Office as an activity base to extend its international networking in northern China

As its international vision, Kumamoto University makes every effort in aim to form a global academic hub. Cooperation with East Asia, therefore, is one of the most important international strategies of the university. A series of events, including the opening of Dalian Liaison Office, continued in October to strengthen its tie with China



On unveiling: President Taniguchi (left) shook hands with President Ou

Opening Ceremony of Kumamoto University Dalian Office



Inside office: President Taniguchi (middle) inspected office with Vice President Furukawa, left.

A ceremony was held on October 20 to celebrate the opening of Kumamoto University's Dalian office. About 50 people connected to the office attended the ceremony, including University President Taniguchi, Vice President Furukawa, Professor Fumihiko Yamada of the Graduate School of Science and Technology, and President Ou Jinping and Vice-President Ning Guiling of Dalian University of Technology. The unveiling of the new office sign by President Taniguchi and President Ou was met with rapturous applause by those in attendance. President Taniguchi remarked in his address that China is a very important area for the global strategy of Kumamoto University. He then stated his intention to use the Dalian office as a base for the university's activities in northern China, from which the university shall make efforts to woo excellent foreign students in the future, construct a graduate network, and carry out other activities.

Moreover, President Ou of Dalian University of Technology told the audience that he hoped to take advantage of the opening of the Dalian office to strengthen the relations between Dalian University of Technology and Kumamoto University in various fields. Located in Dalian in the Liaodong Peninsula, Dalian University of Technology is one of the leading national universities in northeast China and was designated as a National Key University in 1960. Kumamoto University signed an Academic Exchange Agreement with Dalian University of Technology in 2006 and has since developed a strong relationship. The Kumamoto University Dalian office is located in the campus of Dalian University of Technology. It is the fourth overseas office of Kumamoto University, following the offices in Shanghai (China), South Korea and Indonesia. The office measures about 80m², with a meeting space and an area for Kumamoto University Press publications as well as books and brochures regarding Kumamoto and Japan.

(Kumamoto University Dalian office: Postal code 116024, Room 106, Building B, Science Park, No.80 Software Park Road, Dalian, Liaoning, People's Republic of China)

Participation in Celebrations Commemorating the 110th Anniversary of Shandong University

On October 14 and 15, President Taniguchi attended celebrations commemorating the 110th anniversary of Shandong University, China, as well as an International Exchange Fair at the same university.



President Taniguchi (left) met with President Xu

While attending the International Exchange Fair held on October 14, President Taniguchi introduced activities involving exchange students at Kumamoto University to the students and staff of Shandong University. Moreover, he gave a presentation about Kumamoto University to participants from academic partner universities of Shandong University

On the same day, there was a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of Shandong University Medical School, which was attended by Prof. Takeya, the Dean of Faculty of Life Sciences, Kumamoto University.



Prof. Takeya (2nd right) met with Vice President Zhang (middle).

On October 15, a ceremony commemorating the 110th anniversary of Shandong University was held. The ceremony was attended by guests from all over China and from overseas

partner universities, along with current students and graduates from Shandong University. During this visit, President Taniguchi had a meeting with President Xu Xianming of Shandong University. At this meeting, the presidents exchanged views on the achievements of their partnerships thus far, as well as its future direction. The presidents concluded the meeting by agreeing to further strengthen the friendship between Shandong University and Kumamoto University.

Kumamoto University attends Shandong-Ajou-Kumamoto workshop of engineering

The Shandong-Ajou-Kumamoto three university workshop of engineering was held at Shandong University, China on October 14, This workshop is the fourth in its series, and is held annually and organized alternatively by Shandong, Ajou (Korea), and Kumamoto Universities. There were 12 faculty and 7 post-graduate students of Kumamoto University, headed by Dean Yamanaka of the faculty of engineering, who attended the workshop which had four sessions such as materials science, for example. It was the first attempt for students to present in the workshop and their presentations turned out to be very impressive. Prior to the workshop, a memorandum among the three universities was signed which is expected to promote significantly exchange activity and research progress among three universities.

International students of Kumamoto University perform at HINOKUNI festival

The 34th HINOKUNI festival in Kumamoto was enjoyed on August 6 by about 40 foreign students who are from China, Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia and other countries, and are currently studying at Kumamoto University. The students formed a team called "Conso-Kumamoto International Students team" and participated in Otemoyan Dance Parade. The event was realized upon the appeal of Higher Education Consortium Kumamoto. The team practiced hardly for the festival show and danced with red happi. The Foreign students performed favorably compared with other teams and enjoyed fully themselves this traditional Japanese summer entertainment. President Taniguchi greeted the team with some other faculty and staff of Kumamoto University.



President Taniguchi (middle) posed with international student dancers

Kumamoto University chairs 2011 Japan-Korea joint promotion fair in Seoul

On August 28, a big promotion fair for the Japan-Korea Joint Exchange Program for undergraduate Students in Science and Engineering held at the National Institute of International Education in Seoul, Korea in order to provide vivid information of Japanese universities in the program to 150 Korean qualified candidates who passed the written examination as well as their families. There were 37 Japanese universities joined in the fair, which was chaired by Kumamoto University this year. Speakers from the National Institute of International Education, Korea, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan and Vice-President of Kumamoto University addressed in the morning followed by a special speech by President Taniguchi. Students from Tohoku and Tsukuba Universities talked about their experiences have been living in Japan after the East Japan great Earthquake to ease strong anxiety among the Korean students and their relatives. President Taniguchi also took part in the guidance session at Kumamoto University booth in the afternoon.



President Taniguchi talked to visitors

Staff of Kumamoto University counsels at college guidance fairs

Staff of the center for globalization participated in two college guidance fairs held at Osaka Japanese language Education Center on September 9 and at Okayama Institute of Languages on September 30 respectively, explaining to the prospective international applicants the exams and application documents required for admission to Kumamoto University at either undergraduate or graduate levels. Guidance to government scholarship fellows who were interested in undergraduate admission was provided at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies on October 20 and at Osaka University on November 4.



KU Staff made explanations

Kumamoto University promotes at Japan Education Fair in Seoul

On September 17, faculty and staff of the center for globalization participated in 2011 Japan Education Fair in Seoul, Korea organized by Japan Students Services Organization in order to recruit more international students. About 50 visitors appeared with their interests in and questions on education and research at Kumamoto University as well as living in Kumamoto. A message video from current Kumamoto international students was played during the fair to alleviate Korean students' concerns on studying in Japan after the great East Japan Earthquake. Among the visitors, there were some students who attended 2010 summer program at Kumamoto University and prepared for enrolling in the coming academic year, implying that international students from Korea will hopefully increase.



Korean students visited KU booth

Kumamoto University holds completion Ceremony for Intensive Japanese Course

A completion ceremony was held on August 5. President Taniguchi took part in the ceremony and granted in person certificates to international students. There were 4 students who finished an intensive Japanese course received their completion certificates. Other 45 students in the short term exchange program and 2 students in the program of Japanese and Japanese Culture got their evidences of attendance and a collection of reports, respectively. After the ceremony, international students joined a social gathering at the newly opened Exchange Room by chatting and taking photos with their teachers who had taught them in the last academic year.



President Taniguchi (2nd left) with international students

Guidance scheduled for international students enrolled in October, 2011

The center for globalization conducted an orientation for international students who enrolled in Kumamoto University in last October, by introducing the following events and services provided by the center to support their lives both on-campus and off-campus.

- Resident Orientation of International Houses (September 27 – October 4, four times)
- Course Guidance (September 28)
- Student Life Support Orientation in Kurokami campus (September 29)
- Japanese Learning Consultation (September 30)
- Specialized Subjects Consultation (September 30)
- Student Life Support Orientation in Honjo-Kuhonji campus (October 5)
- Lending Service of Bicycles (October 7, by lottery)



Student Life Support Orientation



Course Guidance

Third Overseas FD Training for the Globalization of Education

To improve communication skills and teaching ability in English for its faculty members, Kumamoto University managed the third overseas faculty development (FD) training program at California State University, Fullerton from September 12 to 23, 2011. The training program has been conducted since the academic year of 2010 and counted three by this time. Five faculty members from the Graduate School of Science and Technology received the training by taking part in lessons on teaching methodology in English, workshops and class tour. At the end of the training, each faculty member practiced a 15 minute trial teaching in English and presented to local students and instructors the skills and ability mastered through the program. On returning to Japan, participants commented that the program was very meaningful to them. It is expected that the participants of the overseas FD training program will play a core role in enhancing international education programs at both undergraduate and graduate levels to make advances to the globalization of Kumamoto University.



Participants from KU at the training class

University of Alberta visits Kumamoto University

On July 6, Ms. Katy Campbell, the Dean of Faculty of Extension and two other guests from University of Alberta (Canada) paid a courtesy visit to President Taniguchi by exchanging views on the development of international exchange between the two Universities. The University of Alberta, since it signed an agreement with Kumamoto University in 1994, has continued exchanging with KU for more than 17 years. Last September, four faculty members of KU received FD training at the University of Alberta. The delegation also met with the faculty members who took part in the last year's FD training program and asked their impressions on the training program. A guided tour to the Memorial Museum of the Fifth High School was presented and the delegation listened with much interest to the explanation by Prof. Ito, the Director of the museum. Further development will be expected in the international exchange cooperation between the University of Alberta and Kumamoto University.



President Taniguchi with Ms. Campbell (2nd right)

AY 2011 Professional Skills Enhancement Training (International Work) started

In September, 2011, Specific English Training Classes were started for Kumamoto University employees who have the need to use English when dealing with international students, foreign researchers, and visitors. The classes, offered at Beginner and Intermediate levels, ran twice a month, for a total of ten times finishing in February, 2012. The Beginner Class focused on acquiring basic oral skills including giving directions and self-introductions, as well as writing e-mails and making phone calls in English. The Intermediate Class focused overall English skills, especially with regards to smooth, accurate communication.

Although on the first day the attendees appeared slightly nervous, they gradually became accustomed to English and by the second half of the class asked questions on their own and made presentations in English. The half-year training classes are expected to have improved to a great extent the ability of Kumamoto University employees' English skills, with regards to international-related university business.



Participants Listening Intently

Center for Globalization's Exchange Room

The Center for Globalization's Exchange Room, renovated in April, 2011, is located on the 2nd floor of the General Education Building A, within the center of Globalization. The room is south-faced, bathed in bright sunshine, and the voices of both international and Japanese students chatting happily can be heard sometimes. There exhibits a lot of booklets and the latest news information, provided by the international strategy unit and various international students support associations and volunteer organizations. It becomes a perfect place for both Japanese students who intend to study abroad and international students to gather whatever information they need. International students' room opens on weekdays from 8:15 to 17:00.



Center for Globalization's Exchange Room with large glass windows in a bright atmosphere

New international exchange agreements signed July – September, 2011

Level		Partner institution	Country	Type
University-Level		National University of Laos	Laos	Academic/ studentexchange
		Shenzhen University	China	Academic/ studentexchange
		Institut Teknologi Bandung	Indonesia	Academic/ studentexchange
Department-level	Faculty of Engineering Graduate School of Science and Technology	Korean Maritime University, College of Engineering	Korea	Academic/ studentexchange

Kumamoto University signs Department-level agreements with Korean Maritime University, College of Engineering

On September 16, Prof. Choi II-Dong (Dean) and Prof. Kim Yun-Hae from Korean Maritime University(KMU), College of Engineering paid a courtesy visit to Kumamoto University(KU) to attend a signing ceremony for a department-level partnership agreement with KU's Faculty of Engineering and Graduate School of Science and Technology. Both KU and KMU have been collaborating on academic exchange such as co-hosting of international conference and visiting to the faculty of engineering, KU by the faculty members and students of the College of Engineering from KMU. This visit and the new partnership agreement is sure to result in more active exchange into the future.



Prof. Choi (middle) with Prof. Nishiyama (left) and Prof. Satonaka



Meeting with delegation

Report of my stay at the University of Montana in the United States



Campus of the University of Montana

For a period of about one year starting in July 2010, I had the opportunity to act as an exchange teacher at the University of Montana in the United States. The State of Montana has an international exchange relationship with Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan, and as a result international exchange activities between the University of Montana and Kumamoto University are performed in a variety of fields. During my time at the University of Montana, I carried out primarily education and research training in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, in addition to participating in international exchange activities with school staff, faculty and students.



Taikei Suyama
Assistant Professor,
Graduate School of
Science and Technology

The University of Montana is located in the city of Missoula, a college town with a population of 70,000 situated at the foot of the Rocky Mountains not far from Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park, two popular sight-seeing spots in the United States. The University is surrounded by some of the most breathtaking scenery in the country, with its vast vistas and beautifully distinct seasons. A large white letter "M" near the summit of one of the mountains near the University can be seen from anywhere in the town and has come to be known as a symbol of Missoula. Wild deer often come down from the mountains to browse on grass on the University campus and in the yards of houses in town. At first, I was very surprised to see wild animals such as deer and squirrels, which can be seen in trees throughout Missoula, at such close range. Missoula truly has a close relationship with the natural environment. The University of Montana also has a strong sense of community involvement and connection to local residents through various activities. The University's graduation ceremony, Homecoming, American Football game and concert are open to local residents, and the campus always has a lively, festival-like atmosphere. In addition, many community members attend public presentations at the University to engage in discussions about economic, medical and environmental problems and to exchange ideas. In classes at the University, ideas and opinions are freely exchanged between teachers and students. I found the students at the University to be upbeat, active, and independent, both in classes and in their lives off-campus.

Because Montana is a very large state, an automobile is absolutely necessary for transportation. Japanese vehicles are particularly popular in Missoula. Perhaps due to the city's cold mountain climate, the four-wheel-drive Subaru Hatchback, Honda CR-V, big SUV and truck are popular choices among Missoula residents. Unlike Japan, there is no automobile inspection system in Montana, so very noisy cars or those with broken windows can sometimes be seen driving around town. Montanans tend to view their cars as simply a vehicle that gets them from one place to another. This is a big difference from the situation in Japan.

The people in Missoula are very friendly, and the town has a comfortable small-town feel. During my stay in Missoula, I often went for walks around the campus and in town. The people I met on the way usually greeted me with a bright smile. When I went shopping, store clerks talked to me about the weather and told me, "Have a good day" or "Have a good weekend".

Due to Missoula's history as a western pioneer town, cooperation plays a large role in residents' attitudes toward one another. Unlike residents of big cities, people in Missoula like to cooperate and communicate with one another, and they tend to warmly welcome newcomers, including foreigners. I will always remember my time in Missoula and I am looking forward to visiting again in the future.



Graduation ceremony



Homecoming