

Kyushu University

(Publicity)

Kyushu University takes on the challenge to promote G30 policy

Michiru Mekata
SPECIAL TO THE JAPAN TIMES

To further promote the globalization of higher education institutions in Japan and to enroll over 300,000 international students in Japanese universities by 2020, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) launched the Global 30 Project (G30) in April 2009.

Acknowledging the outstanding research and development activities conducted over the years by Kyushu University, MEXT chose this 102-year-old university in Fukuoka Prefecture as one of the 13 core universities of the G30. In response, the university, with a total staff of 7,716 and a student body of 18,925, has started offering courses and processes in English that minimize the cultural and linguistic barriers for overseas students, from on-site admissions to career support.

Degree programs offered to its undergraduate students in English include engineering, bioresource and bioenvironment. Newly established postgraduate degree courses corresponding to the G30 include human science, comparative social culture, human environment, economics, science, mathematics, system bioscience, medicine, dentistry, pharmaceutical science and system information science. Postgraduate courses already offered in English before the G30 selection include law, engineering and bioresource environmental science.

By 2014, the university will be offering over 55 degree-granting programs that are taught entirely in English. The university expects that such consolidation of the study environment will contribute greatly to increasing the number of international students, hopefully to 2,300 by 2014 and to 3,900 by 2022. Continuing efforts to internationalize itself, Kyushu University is also extending assistance to other Japanese universities that are trying to become global by sharing its accumulated knowhow as good practice models.

With its focus mainly on Asia, Kyushu University has selected eight target countries from which to recruit students: China, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan,



International students at Kyushu University participate in classes in an environment that fosters the understanding of cultures from around the world while offering chances to make new friends. KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

Vietnam, Thailand, Egypt and Australia. Its local offices are located in London; Munich; Beijing; Seoul; Washington; San Jose, California; Cairo; Taipei; Hanoi; and Bangkok. The university also has separate branch offices within Mahidol University in Thailand and the Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia, where various collaborative projects are proceeding simultaneously.

With 56 percent of its international students coming from China, Kyushu University positions China as one of the most important countries for its future student recruitment activities. University representatives have visited 18 Chinese high schools in the last four years and have introduced its international courses to hundreds of students. Over the same period, it has conducted introductions to students at 17 high schools in South Korea, 21 high schools in Taiwan, 20 high schools in Thailand, 33 high schools in Indonesia, and 22 high schools in Vietnam.

The Cairo Office is unique for serving as a joint office for the publicity of various Japanese universities besides Kyushu

University. Here, Japanese culture is introduced through cooperation with the Japanese Embassy in Egypt. A Study in Japan Fair was held in Egypt last November with the participation of Kyushu, Tsukuba, Kyoto and Ritsumeikan universities.

To form the environment to more smoothly receive international students, Kyushu University has hired 26 international teachers associated with the main faculty and the International Education Center. They are regularly trained to improve their English capability to offer the international students support in acquiring necessary documents, filling out various applications and making air ticket arrangements before arrival besides helping with procedures at city halls, banks and cell phone shops. These teachers also give orientations, provide daily guidance and residence search support, as well as offer translation or interpretation services on various occasions.

Financial aid is provided to select students. A ¥70,000 scholarship is offered to 18 students each year while all international



students only have to pay half of the tuition for four years. Those who reside outside Japan are offered a one-time travel subsidy to the university, up to ¥100,000. Priority access to the dormitory is given to these students for the first three semesters.

In terms of career development, MEXT, together with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) encourages the cultivation of highly skilled students to work for Japanese manufacturing companies. While enlightening them on the energy and environment issues that are their major fields of study, this MEXT-METI program also stresses the teaching of Japanese language and manners for business settings.

Turning to its Japanese students, Kyushu University seeks to develop global leaders equipped with international perspectives and cutting-edge knowledge on agriculture-oriented biosciences (defined as AgriBio). The ideal profile of global Japanese students sought by the university is those who are armed with AgriBio technologies, multicultural knowledge and logical and creative thinking ability, thereby able to solve regional and global issues with AgriBio as a means to this end.

To this end, 10 to 20 percent of the Japanese students who enter the university through general entrance exams with high scores in English are combined with the G30 international students and take classes with them. Credits earned by the Japanese students enrolled in the G30 courses are interchangeable with general courses in Japanese. The students' presentation, debate and problem-solving capabilities in English are enhanced by encouraging both the international and Japanese students in the G30 courses to take up the problem-based learning methods on prominent, unsolved agriculture-related issues around the world. In addition, short-term language programs at overseas universities are also provided to Japanese students, thus enabling them to brush up on their English for science.

Globalization of the Japanese and international students is further promoted

through various exchange programs with the world's leading universities. The ASEAN in Today's World (AsTW) Program, a short-term overseas program started in fiscal 2009 that is jointly organized by Kyushu University and other prominent universities in the ASEAN region. Students participating in this program learn an Asian language as well as ASEAN-related issues and cultures. Meanwhile, the Strait College Program: Bridging Japan and Korea that was started in fiscal 2011 brings together Kyushu University and Pusan National University students and seeks to nurture next-generation leaders that probe for solutions to problems shared by Japan and South Korea.

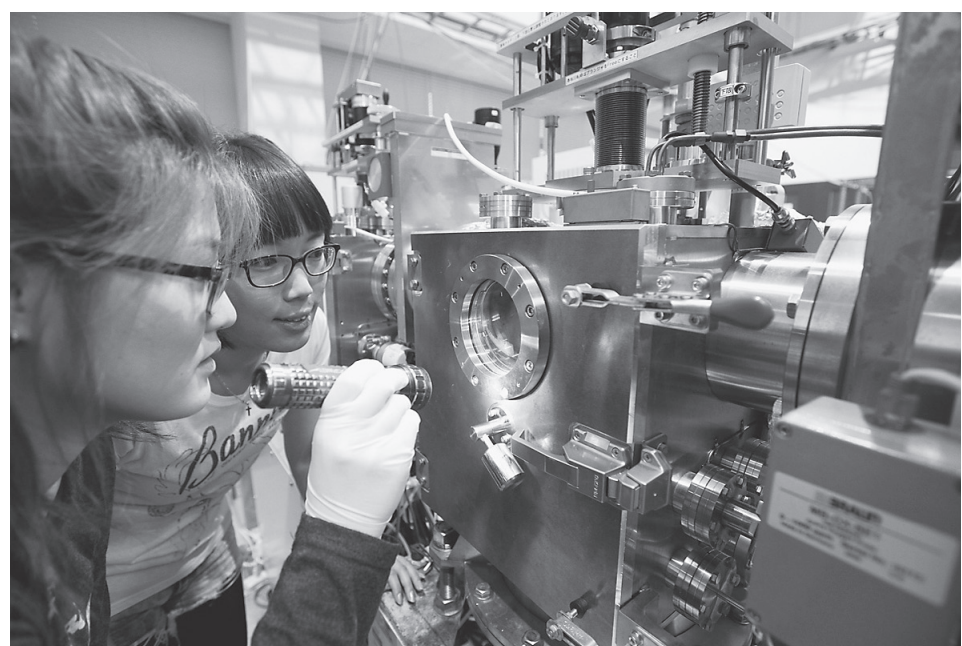
Another project is the Campus Asia Support for the Formation of a Core Center, a project started in fiscal 2011 that organizes a consortium of universities among Japan, China and South Korea. Under this pilot program, exchange programs are unified for credit transfers, transcript administration and degree conferrals. Also of note is the program started in fiscal 2011 to nurture agribiology leaders with a global viewpoint, co-organized by Kyushu University with the San Jose State University in California. In terms of Japanese language training, the concentrated Japanese training program was started in 2012 to receive students from the Mahidol University International College in Thailand.

Kyushu University is also innovative in setting up the Student Committee for Internationalization of Kyushu University (SCIkyu), bringing together international and local students and several university staff, so as to have the students' feedback on the university's internationalization effort. SCIkyu's achievements thus far include compilation of sets of recommendations for how to strengthen support apparatuses for overseas students, and more recently, designing and implementing the Forum on University Internationalization held in Tokyo. Over 40 students (basically from other G30 sites) took part in the event and jointly came up with a design for the ideal campus through highly ardent but friendly debate.

As for the evaluation of G30 programs at Kyushu University by foreign students, some remarked highly on the help provided by the support team and coordinators, while others noted their relief of having their expenses partially covered by the university's scholarship. The shared space known as the Common Room was also noted as a good place for multipurpose use, while the field trips were popular for providing exchange opportunities with many other students that they otherwise would not have met. As for life in the dormitory, the international students found it enjoyable and a good place to make Japanese friends. They also thought it was convenient to live there since it was located within the campus grounds. As for campus life, some found the club activities very attractive and good opportunities to make Japanese friends. Increased opportunities to meet Japanese students as well as more notices in English were also welcome.

With Fukuoka Prefecture having the second largest number of foreign students in Japan after Tokyo, Kyushu University has aggressively expanded its agreements on academic cooperation and student exchange on various levels through consortia, collaborative laboratory research, cooperation agreements with many countries and government agencies as well as multilateral agreements. Furthermore, it is taking numerous cooperative actions on the university faculty levels throughout the world.

Offering unrivaled academic opportunities that respond to the ever-changing needs of society, Kyushu University has been a pioneer into new fields. Tackling issues that confront individuals and society, the university progresses to execute independent reforms that lead to educational quality of highest international standards. At the same time, Kyushu University is determined to pursue its basic philosophy of becoming a research and education center of the highest caliber, filled with the energy that is required to meet future challenges, which also resonates with the philosophy of the G30.



The modern Kyushu University possesses high-tech devices (left) that allow students to learn cutting-edge technology on a campus that facilitates interactions between Japanese and foreign students. KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

Kyushu University, one of the nation's leading, comprehensive universities situated in Fukuoka, the city known as the gateway to Asia, celebrated in 2011 its first centennial anniversary and has produced numerous outstanding graduates leading the world.

We shall continue to move ahead to be a highly regarded, world-class education and research institution as well as an incubator for new generations of world leaders whom we can entrust our future, through our sustained efforts including a plan to establish further enrichment of degree-granting programs that are taught entirely in English, and launch of quality-assured joint programs in collaboration with world-class universities.

Undergraduate Schools

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| School of Letters | School of Dentistry |
| School of Education | School of Pharmaceutical Sciences |
| School of Law | School of Engineering |
| School of Economics | School of Design |
| School of Sciences | School of Agriculture |
| School of Medicine | |

Graduate Schools

| |
|---|
| Graduate School of Humanities |
| Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies |
| Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies |
| Graduate School of Law |
| Graduate School of Economics |
| Graduate School of Sciences |
| Graduate School of Mathematics |
| Graduate School of Systems Life Sciences |
| Graduate School of Medical Sciences |
| Graduate School of Dental Sciences |
| Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences |
| Graduate School of Engineering |
| Graduate School of Design |
| Graduate School of Information Science and Electrical Engineering |
| Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Engineering Sciences |
| Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences |
| Graduate School of Integrated Frontier Sciences |



**For innovators
who will take humanity to the next level**



KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

6-10-1 Hakozaki, Higashi-ku, Fukuoka, Japan
<http://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp/>
<http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/g30/>

