Kyushu University takes on the challenge to promote G30 policy

Mitsuhiko Matsui, Special to the Japan Times

To further promote the globalization of higher education in Japan and to increase the number of students, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) launched the G30 Project (Global 30 Project) in April 2003. The project aims to establish 30 new international universities and colleges that can compete at the highest level in the global education market. To achieve this, the universities are assigned very specific missions. Each university must develop a 10-year plan and set clear goals to achieve them. The Ministry of Education supports them with specific grants.

Kyushu University has selected 8 target countries: China, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Egypt and Australia. Its local offices are located in London, Munich, Beijing, Seoul, Washington; San Jose, California, Cairo, Taipei, Paris and Tokyo. As the Ministry has also supported two branches of Kyushu University in Thailand and the Gadah Maha University in Indonesia, where various collaborative projects are proceeding simultaneously. With 36 percent of its international students, Kyushu University possesses one of the most important countries for its international student recruitment activities. University representatives have visited 10 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, 26 high schools in Thailand, 33 high schools in Indonesia, and 26 high schools in Vietnam. The Cairo Office is unique for serving as a joint office for the publicity of various Japanese universities including Kyushu University. Here, Japanese culture is introduced through cooperation with the Japanese Embassy in Egypt. A Study in Japan tour held in Egypt last November with the participation of Kyushu, Tokai, Keio and Ritsumeikan universities.

To receive the Japanese government's financial support, the 30 universities must achieve certain goals. These goals include the development of a globally oriented curriculum, the attraction of international students, and the improvement of academic and research performance. The G30 Project is expected to contribute to the promotion of the global university system. The universities are required to develop new courses with a global perspective and to offer English-medium programs. They are also expected to increase their international student enrollment and to conduct collaborative research with foreign universities.

Kyushu University is seeking to develop global leaders with a global viewpoint, and cutting-edge knowledge on agriculture-related issues. An ideal of global Japanese students sought by the university is those who are equipped with international perspectives and cutting-edge knowledge on agriculture-related issues (defined as AgriBio). The ideal profile of global Japanese students is one who are equipped with AgriBio technologies, multilingual knowledge and logical and creative thinking ability. They are expected to contribute to the resolution of unsolved agriculture-related issues around the world. To help international students acquire necessary documents, filling out various applications and making air ticket arrangements before arriving, instructors are regularly trained in providing daily guidance and residence support, as well as offering translation or interpretation services on various occasions.

Kyushu University possesses high-tech devices (left) that allow students to learn cutting-edge technology on a campus that facilitates the understanding of global students only have to pay half of the tuition for four years. Those who reside outside Japan are offered a one-time travel subsidy for the university, up to ¥50,000. Priority access to the dormitory is given to these students. In terms of career development, MEXT together with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) encourages the cultivation of highly skilled students in science and technology. These students can enter companies willing to train them. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has decided to support the joint office for the publicity of various Japanese universities in China, Taiwan, and South Korea. The joint office also supports the Taiwan, and South Korea.

Kyushu University is determined to pursue its vision of being a world-class university in the fields of science, technology, and global education. It will continue to develop innovative programs and initiatives to ensure its success in the global education market.

For students

Kyushu University accepts international students in a variety of undergraduate, graduate, and Ph.D. programs. It offers courses in English as well as in several other languages, providing a flexible learning environment. The university is committed to providing excellent education through collaboration with top universities around the world. Students have the opportunity to gain international experience and perspectives, which can enhance their academic and personal development.

Kyushu University is ranked among the top universities in Japan and is known for its strong programs in various fields, including science, engineering, and international studies. The university has a strong emphasis on global cooperation and encourages students to engage in international activities, such as study abroad programs or multinational projects.

Kyushu University's campus is situated in Fukuoka City, offering a vibrant and dynamic environment for students. The city is known for its beautiful landscapes, rich history, and diverse culture. Students have easy access to a wide range of cultural events, museums, and scenic spots.

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 role in taking their expenses partially covered by the university's scholarship. The shared space key, as the Campus Room was also noted as a good place for multipurpose use, while the field trips were popular for offering opportunities to interact with many students that they otherwise would not have met. In the dormitory, the international students found it enjoyable and a good place to meet Japanese friends. They also thought there were convenient locations that were located within the campus grounds. For campus meals, some found the dining facilities very attractive and good opportunities to make Japanese friends. Incomparable opportunities for meeting Japanese students as well as meals in Japanese was also mentioned.

With the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) having the second largest number of foreign students in Japan after Tokyo, Kyushu University has approximately acquired as an opportunity on various levels through exchange on various levels through exchange of information, collaboration, and cooperation agreements with many countries and government agencies as well as national governments. 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 in new fields. Tackling issues that confront Japan and the world, the university is committed to progress to independent reforms that meet future challenges, which also involves the philosophy of the G30 Project.