



Shimane University

Quarterly News

for International exchanges

July, 2013

Vol.3

Shimane University the Center for International Exchanges
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Preface

Yasunori Ando

Director of the Center for International Exchanges, Shimane University



Based on Shimane University's Charter, we have been continuing to implement the diversity of academic exchanges with our partner's universities, 40 universities, of many countries, especially Asian countries, for the purpose of fostering the brilliant students of global perspective and making the research network of world class.

We have kept in close contact with willing volunteers for supporting to build the alumni association of returned international students from Shimane University in each their country since 2007. In fact, Indonesian returned International students had set their alumni association at Andalas University in 2008, and Nepalese returned international students also established their one at Tribhuvan University in 2011. At the moment, Korean, Sri Lanka's

and Chinese alumni association have been arranged to set up in cooperation with concerned people and firms.

Aiming at further promotion of Information Exchange with the returned international students from Shimane University and interested persons, we would like to send the Third Quarterly News of Shimane University's International Exchanges to people concerned. The contents are related to the efforts for enhancement of Academic International Exchanges with partner universities of Shimane University, the information capable of getting external funds and so on.

In addition to our activities, we are planning to invite the representatives of established alumni returned international students from Shimane University to Matsue and talk about the achievements of respective communities and develop the action plan of next year incorporating with us within this fiscal year.

We are very happy to share each other's thoughts on contents of this Quarterly News from relevant people. It is our great pleasure that this Quarterly News would contribute to further deepening the cooperation of researches, student exchanges and creation of new projects than before.

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1: Shimane University International Exchange Topics

Shimane University's recent international events are as follows.

◆ The Minister Counselor of Royal Thai Embassy in Japan made a Courtesy call on Vice President Jun TAKEUCHI. (2013.6.21)

The Minister Counselor (Education) of Royal Thai Embassy, Ms. Alinee Thanawatsuggasari and 2 staff members of the office of educational affairs of the Embassy visited Shimane University, and made a courtesy call on Vice President Jun Takeuchi on June 19th 2013. The office of educational affairs of the Embassy has conducted sending Thai students to abroad, and currently, 121 Thai government scholarship students have studied Japanese at language schools in Tokyo for the preparation of entrance examinations to Universities in Japan. The minister counselor has visited universities in Japan to collect information about universities' policy, characteristics and systems of accepting international students. The information has been provided Thai students who want to study in Japan.



◆ Students from the University of Texas at Tyler visited Shimane University (2013.6.12)



Ten students, two professors and Vice Director of the Center for Global Education, the University of Texas at Tyler, made a courtesy call on President Shotai Kobayashi on June 6.

President Kobayashi delivered a welcome address and Vice Director gave a salute, starting the meeting in a friendly mood. President Kobayashi asked if the students liked Japanese cuisines. They said the volume of the food on a plate was small, but the number of dishes was filling and visually appealing. Additionally, one student answered with good humor, "I like healthy Japanese food but I miss butter chicken!"

The group arrived in Japan on May 24 and studied in Tokyo, then came to Shimane Prefecture on May 30. They have been spending quality time attending lectures in Shimane University, and enjoying cross cultural experiences with Japanese students and host families. They will leave Shimane on June 18 and study in the Keihanshin area, then leave Japan on June 25.

◆ Guest speaker, Mr. Nicholas Fietzer, Consul, U.S. Consulate General, talked over "Study in the US" (2013.6.7)

In lecture titled as "Trends in Studying Abroad in the U.S. & Europe" of Professor Yasunori Ando on June 7th, we had a guest speaker, Mr. Nicholas Fietzer, Consul, U.S. Consulate General in Osaka-Kobe, who talked over study at universities in the U.S. and its cultures extensively in English. Our students were highly motivated to go to study in the U.S. under the stimulus of vibrant and pleasant lecture of Mr. Fietzer.



2: Information of Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs

●Japan Society for the Promotions of Science

- ▶ Postdoctoral Fellowships for Foreign Researchers, the 1st Recruitment (April 1, 2014- September 30, 2014)

Shimane University's DEAD LINE ⇒ August 23rd (Fri), 2013

The fellowship's purpose is to provide opportunities for young postdoctoral researchers from other countries to conduct, under the guidance of their hosts, cooperative research with leading research groups in universities and other Japanese institutions. The program allows such researchers to advance their own research while contributing to the progress of research in Japan and the counterpart countries.

Applications for this program must be submitted to JSPS by a host researcher in Japan through the head of his/her university or institution. They should make this contact well in advance of the host institution's application deadline.

▶▶▶For more information, http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/fy2014/appli_long_2014.html

- ▶ Postdoctoral Fellowships(Short-term) for North American and European Researchers, the 1st recruitment (Apr 2014 thru Mar 2015)

Shimane University's DEAD LINE ⇒ September 27th (Fri), 2013

The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities to young pre- and post-doctoral researchers from the US, Canada and Europe to conduct, under the guidance of their hosts, cooperative research with leading research groups in universities and other Japanese institutions. In so doing, the program is designed to help advance the research of the visiting fellows, while augmenting opportunities for young researchers to come to Japan from the US, Canada and Europe.

Applications for this program must be submitted to JSPS by a host researcher in Japan through the head of his/her university or institution. They should make this contact well in advance of the host institution's application deadline.

▶▶▶For more information, http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/fy2014/appli_short_2014.html

- ▶ Invitation Fellowship Program for Research in Japan (Short-term, Short-term S) the 1st Recruitment (2014-2015)

Shimane University's DEAD LINE ⇒ August 23rd (Fri), 2013

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) carries out fellowship programs that allow researchers in Japan to invite overseas researchers to Japan. Based on a submitted visit plan, fellowships are awarded in the categories and for the purposes listed in the table below.

Applications for this program must be submitted to JSPS by a host researcher in Japan through the head of his/her university or institution.

Categories	Purposes
Long-term	Invite overseas researchers to collaborate in carrying out research through long-term visits.
Short-term	Invite overseas researchers with excellent records of research achievements for short-term visits for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of research in related fields through discussions, opinion exchanges, lectures and other means.
Short-term S	Invite overseas researchers with eminent records of research achievements to Japan for purposes corresponding to those records. They offer advice and cooperate in research activities throughout the host institution and give lectures or conduct other activities at other research institutions, thereby elevating the international appraisal of the standard of research conducted in Japanese universities and other institutions and contributing to the advancement of scientific research in Japan.

▶▶▶For more information, http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/long_term14.html (Long Term)
http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/short_term14.html (Short Term)
http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/short_term_s14.html (Short Term S)

3: Message from a Current International Student

Ashok Sigdel (Nepal)
Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering



It has been a privilege for me to be selected as a Japanese Government (MEXT) scholar in 2008.

When it was confirmed that I get selected to come to Japan for further study, I was quite excited and a bit worried about the new environment, lifestyle and of course about the language, which I heard is very necessary in Japan. But after coming here, I found myself very fortunate that I have had helpful friends, colleagues and a cooperative supervisor.

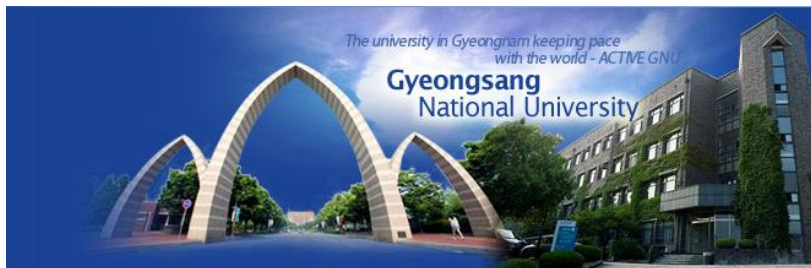
Moreover, the new techniques and the ideas during my research helped me a lot to enhance my research career. The suggestions and advices of my supervisor have been always a guideline for me. After living here for almost four and a half years and being close to the completion of my doctoral degree course at the Department of Geoscience at Shimane University, I must say, it provides a good studying environment and opportunities for foreign students. Besides, the different kinds of programs, excursions and educational tours held by the University are also quite helpful for the interaction with the Japanese people and cultural exchange. In addition, the clean and peaceful environment of Matsue city and different types of monuments, museums and the natural beauties are also very fascinating for me.

In my own experiences, studying in Japan is an opportunity to learn about yourself, discover new strengths and abilities, conquer new challenges and solve new problems. You will encounter situations that are wholly unfamiliar to you and will learn to adapt and respond in effective ways.

Indeed, I am grateful to all the staff of the Department of Geoscience and International Exchange Center as well as my Japanese and foreigner colleagues for their cooperation.

4: Introduction of a Partner University

File No.2.
Gyeongsang
National
University



Shimane University and Gyeongsang National University(GNU) concluded an academic exchange agreement in 1991. Matsue and Jinju are also concluded friendship city agreement.

Students exchange is very active between us as we welcome many students every year from GNU for joining in our language & cultural exchange programs. Our students also enjoy experiencing Korean culture in study program at GNU.

L o c a t i o n	Jinju,Gyeongsangnam-do Republic of Korea
E s t a b l i s h e d	1948
T y p e	Flagship Korean National University
A c a d e m i c s t a f f	369
S t u d e n t s	24,410
U n d e r g r a d u a t e s	21,444
P o s t g r a d u a t e s	2,966
U R L	http://eng.gnu.ac.kr/main/

5: San'in Snapshots

■ IZUMO TAISHA GRAND SHRINE – The Sengu –



Sengu literally means to move the Goshintai (a sacred representation of the god enshrined in a shrine) or Goshinza (the god's seat) temporarily, while construction of a new shrine building or repair work on a shrine building is conducted. There are various views regarding the purpose of conducting Sengu. Below are some theories:

- To maintain structures made of wood materials.
- To pass on traditional artisans' techniques.
- To keep a shrine building immaculate and clean. (As a result, the power and vitality of the deity of the shrine is thought to be renewed.)

In April of 2008, the Kari-den senza-sai (a Shinto ritual) was held to transfer the main deity, Okuninushi-no-okami, to the Okari-den (a temporary main hall building). Then renovation work, not only for the main structure but also for the auxiliary and subordinate shrines of Izumo Taisha, began, and it has been underway since 2009.

First, the roof of Izumo Taisha, which is extremely large in size and made of cypress bark, was completely removed. Then, after the sheathing boards were repaired, the work to lay down a new roof began. It was completed in March of 2012.

In the summer of 2012, the protective building which covered the main structure during the construction work was removed, and the newly revitalized main hall was finally revealed to the public.



The Hon-den senza-sai (a Shinto ritual to transfer Okuninushi-no-okami back to the main structure) was held on May 10, 2013. After the Hon-den senza-sai, a series of Shinto rituals is held.

● Gessho-ji Temple



Gessho-ji Temple is the family temple of the Matsudaira Clan, who were the feudal lords of Matsue. The graveyard and the tomb gates remain as they were in feudal times. In the grounds of the temple, there is a monstrous stone tortoise, which has a large stone pole driven through its back. According to legend, this pole was driven through the tortoise's back in order to prevent it from walking about at night.

Gessho-ji Temple is also famous as "The San-in Hydrangea Temple".

● Shiomi-nawate



This is the historical beautiful 500m street along the moat at Matsue Castle. There are some Samurai house styled architectures including Lafcadio-Hearn's memorial house, museums, shops or restaurants. The street is selected as one of the 100 distinctive streets in Japan.



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