



Shimane University

Quarterly News

for International exchanges

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Preface

Yasunori Ando Director of the Center for International Exchanges, Shimane University



I would first like to express my sincere gratitude for your continuing cooperation with Shimane University.

I am very pleased to be able to send Sixth Quarterly News of Shimane University's International Exchanges to people concerned, aiming at further promotion of Information Exchange with the returned international students from Shimane University.

As you may know, Japanese government has placed the high priority on the policy to foster the human resources with global competitiveness. Shimane University has been taking the great efforts to cultivate the students capable of globalization incorporating with partner universities and concerned institutions according to Japanese government policy.

We had held the stirring committees of two new projects, which strove to the Alliance with Japanese Language Department in our partner universities and distinguished Japanese Language School in Southeast Asia, and the Partnership with the established alumni association of returned international students from Shimane University in February, 2014. To my regret, we could not have attendance from two returned alumni associations due to belated disembarkation procedures.

I believe these two meetings will become the important mile stone on the road to establish a whole new dimension of relationship between partner institutes, concerned alumni associations and Shimane University through ongoing strategic projects.

As the concluding remarks, 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.

◆Russian group visiting Shimane prefecture made a Courtesy call on Vice President Jun TAKEUCHI. (2014.4.21)

Russian group visiting Shimane prefecture made a Courtesy call on Vice President Jun TAKEUCHI on 11th April, 2014. They attended Shimane University campus tour. Dr. Zhanna Prokopetc, who is Far Eastern Federal University Associate professor, introduced Far Eastern Federal University. We hope that this visit helps develop a deeper understanding and relationship between Russia and Shimane University.



◆Spring Short Term English Training Program of 2014 at University of Arkansas (2014.3.17)



From February 22nd to March 16th, 2014, Shimane University held the annual Spring English short term training program at Spring International Language Center of University of Arkansas, the United States. This program has been designed to enhance the students' linguistic and cultural knowledge as well as the students' ability to work in a global society, prepare for their future careers, and give them back to their communities.

This year, twelve students, including three students of Tottori University, stepped in this program. They took English classes for three hours a day and in the afternoon, they joined in Leadership and Career

Development workshops including special lectures by company CEOs, and enjoyed cultural and recreational activities while staying at American homes for three weeks.

◆Launching the cooperative committee among Shimane University and Shimane University Graduate's Alumni Associations (2014.3.3)

On Feb. 20th, based on Shimane University's strategic projects to develop students with global views, Shimane University has launched the cooperative committee with Shimane University Graduate's Alumni Associations from Indonesia (Andalas University) and Nepal (Tribhuvan University). It was very regrettable that representatives of Graduate's Alumni Association of Nixing University and Nixing Medical University could not attend this meeting due to circumstances. This committee was started with greeting of President Shotai Kobayashi and two alumni Associations presented their organization, activities and challenges, and then we had the question and answer session.



Shimane University explained the strategic project for fostering students with global competitiveness, system to receive the international students and support their getting jobs in Japan and so on. After following discussion about this explanation, Shimane University had proposed the new cooperative project with three attending Alumni Associations for sending high-grade students to Shimane University. We had the amicable discussion about implementation of this project and reached at making the final draft of Comprehensive Agreement of Cooperation until mid of March.

▶▶▶For full articles and details, please visit our website... <http://kokusai.shimane-u.ac.jp/english/>

2: Information of Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs



Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

▶ Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for Foreign Researchers 2015, 1st Recruitment

Shimane University's DEAD LINE ⇒ August 22th (Fri), 2014

Outline: 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.

Duration and Commencement of Fellowships:

1. Fellowships are awarded for a period of 12 to 24 months.
2. Successful candidates must start the Fellowship in Japan from April 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015.

Terms of Award:

1. A round-trip air ticket (based on JSPS regulations)
2. A monthly maintenance allowance of ¥362,000
3. A settling-in allowance of ¥200,000, Overseas travel accident and sickness insurance coverage, etc.

▶▶▶For more information, <http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/postdoctoral.html#long>

▶ Invitation Fellowship Programs for Research in Japan 2015 (Long, Short-term, Short-term S), 1st Recruitment

Shimane University's DEAD LINE ⇒ August 22th (Fri), 2014

Outline: 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.

Long-term

Purposes:

Invite overseas researchers to collaborate in carrying out research through long-term visits.

ELIGIBILITY :

- Overseas researchers in a position equivalent to a university professor, associate professor or assistant professor in Japan.
- Overseas researchers who received their doctorate degree prior to six years or more as of 1 April 2014 and are continuing to do research in a university or non-profit research institution.

Duration and Commencement of Fellowships:

1. Fellowship tenure must be at least 2 months (61 days); up to 10 months
2. Successful candidates must start the Fellowship in Japan from April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

Terms of Award:

1. Supply international air tickets (based on JSPS's regulations)
2. A monthly maintenance allowance of ¥369,000 per month
3. Domestic Research Trip Allowance (¥ 100,000) and Research expenses (¥40,000)
4. Overseas travel accident and sickness insurance

Short-term

Purposes:

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.

ELIGIBILITY :

Overseas researchers with an excellent record of research achievements.

Duration and Commencement of Fellowships:

1. Fellowship tenure must be at least 14 days; up to 60 days.
2. Successful candidates must start the Fellowship in Japan from April 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015.

Terms of Award:

1. Supply international air tickets (based on JSPS's regulations)
2. A monthly maintenance allowance of ¥18,000 per day
3. Domestic Research Trip Allowance (¥150,000)
4. Overseas travel accident and sickness insurance

**Short-term S****Purposes:**

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.

ELIGIBILITY :

Overseas researchers who are Nobel laureates or recipients of similarly high-level international prizes with exceptionally outstanding records of research achievements and who currently occupy a leading position in their subject field.

Duration and Commencement of Fellowships:

1. Fellowship tenure must be at least 7 days; up to 30 days
2. Successful candidates must start the Fellowship in Japan from April 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015.

Terms of Award:

1. Supply international business-class air tickets (based on JSPS's regulations)
2. A monthly maintenance allowance of ¥42,000 per day
3. Domestic Research Trip Allowance (¥150,000)
4. Overseas travel accident and sickness insurance

▶▶▶For more information, <http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-inv/index.html>

▶ JSPS RONPAKU (DISSERTATION PhD) PROGRAM APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR FY 2015

Shimane University's DEAD LINE ⇒ August 8th (Fri), 2014

Outline: The aim of this program has been to provide tutorial and financial support for promising researchers in countries of Asia and Africa or other specified countries who wish to obtain their PhD degrees from Japanese universities through the submission of a dissertation without matriculating a doctoral course. Grantees under the program (RONPAKU fellows) are required to conduct their dissertation research under the joint supervision of a Japanese advisor and an advisor in their home country, and are expected to obtain their PhD degrees within a maximum period of three years.

Eligibility of RONPAKU Fellow:

The candidate must be a researcher

- (1) Who has not obtained a PhD degree from a university
- (2) Who wishes to obtain a PhD degree from a Japanese university through the submission of a dissertation
- (3) Who has already achieved substantial research results and is likely through dissertation research under the program to successfully obtain a PhD degree
- (4) Who has nationality in an applicable country (listed in section 3)
- (5) Who is employed full time at a university or research institution in his/her home country or will be appointed to such a position by April 1, 2015
- (6) Who is 45 years of age or younger as of April 1, 2015. Fellowships are awarded for a period of 12 to 24 months.

Fellowship Tenure:

Maximum of 3 years from 1 April 2015

JSPS Financial Support:

- (1) Total funding provided to Japanese host university. Maximum of 3.6 million yen (Up to 1.2 million yen per fiscal year)
- (2) The following expenses can be covered by the above funding:
Travel expenses between Japan and RONPAKU fellow's home country, and within Japan by the fellow and his/her Japanese advisors; expenses incurred in conducting research in Japan and fellow's home country; and other expenses related to the fellow's dissertation submission (based on Japanese host university's regulations), etc.

▶▶▶For more information, <http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-ronpaku/applicationforms.html>

3: Message from a Current International Student

Andre Dinata (Indonesia)
Faculty of Law and Literature

“Worthy Life in Shimane University, Matsue”



This is the first time for me to study abroad. It's like a dream come true, because since my childhood, I have had a dream to go around the world. When I was 23 years old, I had a chance from Shimane University to participate in a student exchange program, because my hometown university has a partnership with Shimane University. A lot of seniors and the teachers have studied here, so I think it's a good opportunity to build a new experience and knowledge in this university. In this town, I got a scholarship from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology (Monbukagakusho: MEXT). I felt lucky about that.

When I first arrived in Matsue, it was so cold and so different from my country. The city was so quiet and clean, and I met very kind people. Like

the idiom "love at first sight", I fell in love with this city and I think it's my second country. Everyone that I have met so far is so friendly and full of respect. I met nice teachers (sensei), staff, and other Japanese friends here. In the classroom, I study together with many of the international students, make good friendships, and study hard (ganbatte). Every day we use bicycles to go everywhere. We go to places like Matsue Castle and to the Dougyoretsu Festival to see the most attractive Japanese culture.

In Shimane University, we not only study Japanese, but also learn from cultural experiences. We have tried Japanese sweets (wagashi), tea ceremony, and visited historical shrines, such as Izumo Taisha, Yaegaki Shrine (famous for stories about its pond), and Kumano Shrine. We saw a maple trees (momiji) turn beautiful colors around this university in the fall. In the winter, I saw snow for the first time, thanks God.

During half a year here, I have made many beautiful, awesome, and unforgettable memories. I hope I can spend more time here, because like I said before, "I fell in love with Matsue at my first sight"..

4: Introduction of a Partner University

File No.5.

Andalas University (Indonesia)

Shimane University and Andalas University concluded an academic exchange agreement in 1997. Since then, we have been continuing to exchange many students and researchers, conduct joint researches and make collaborative presentations at conferences. The cooperative researches are very active especially in the department of life and environmental science and new plans are about to be started.

Also the graduate's alumni association was inaugurated in 2008. In the strategic cooperation committee with other graduate's Alumni Associations which was held February 2014, we talked to strengthen the cooperative framework.



L o c a t i o n	Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia
E s t a b l i s h e d	1955
T y p e	National University
s t u d e n t s	23,000
U R L	http://www.unand.ac.id/

5: San'in Snapshots

● Yuushien



Yuushien is a traditional Japanese-style garden located in the centre of Daikonshima Island. It is designed as a walk-through garden with ponds, streams and small waterfalls. Its main attraction, the peony flower, blooms in winter and spring, and the garden is resplendent year round with a variety of seasonal blooms, such as irises and hydrangea in summer, and sasanqua and "momiji" foliage in autumn. Peonies are also kept in a hot house, where their blossoms can be viewed all year round. The volcanic rock of Daikonshima is also incorporated in the garden's



design. There are three restaurants and a tea-room from which you can enjoy the garden scenery.

● Yaegaki - Shrine

Yaegaki-shrine, dedicated to the gods Susanoo and Inata-hime, is thought to be the place where the first wedding in Japan was celebrated. It is hence a popular spot for people looking for Enmusubi, the divine matchmaking force that binds people together. It is particularly popular for people seeking marriage partners, children, and health for their families.

Yaegaki Shrine appears in the famous legend of the Yamata-no-Orochi, the eight-headed giant serpent which was slain by



Susanoo. Susanoo and his new bride, Inata-hime, were married at this shrine and it has therefore come to be known as the shrine of happy marriages.



In the shrine grounds you can find the Mirror Pond, which Inata-hime used as a mirror. There is a custom of placing a coin on a piece of paper and floating it on the surface of the pond. The length of time the paper takes to sink is said to signify how soon you will meet your soul mate..

● Wagashi (Japanese confectionery)

Matsue is famous for its long deep history of tea ceremony. Because of this, the culture and techniques of Wagashi (Japanese confectionery) which is often served with tea is also developed.



Not only the taste, but also the appearance and sense of seasons are also important elements of Wagashi.

There are a lot of famous old shops of Wagashi around Matsue and you can find each unique style and beauty of them. You can even learn how to make Wagashi by skilled Wagashi craftsman at studio.





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