



Shimane University

# Quarterly News

for International Exchange

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Shimane University Center for International Exchange  
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## Preface

**Akira Deguchi**  
Shimane University

Vice President,  
Director of the Center for International Exchange



In April I was appointed Vice President of International Exchange and Director of the Center. As a social anthropologist I have stayed in several countries for research, but international exchange between institutions is quite new for me.

Under the new university administration, Shimane University will continue to deepen the relationships between Shimane University and our partner universities abroad, but at the same time, we will work to connect “Global with Local.” We will try to increase the number of exchange students coming to Matsue and cultivate a global mindset in our students. If foreign students who study at Shimane University continue to stay and work in Shimane after earning their degrees, they will be indispensable for the survival and progress of communities in Shimane. Even if they work in their home countries, they will become ambassadors between the two countries, sharing the traditions and cultures of their “adopted home of Shimane” with those around them. The same is also true of our Japanese students who study abroad. I greatly appreciate your continued support and cooperation with Shimane University.

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## 1: Shimane University International Exchange Topics

Shimane University's recent international events are as follows



### ◆Shimane University Summer School 2015

Shimane University Summer School 2015 has started on July 6th with welcoming 3 students from 2 partner universities: Kent State University (U.S.A.), Nanjing Forestry University (China).

During the Summer School period from July 6th to July 23rd, the students take intensive lectures about Japanese language, culture and history, and also experience homestay, students exchange with Shimane Univ. Students and

enjoy sightseeing around historical landmarks and world heritage site in Shimane Prefecture.

Three participants are all very eager to study, watch one by one, take a lot of pictures and enough time to listen to a guide. They say they are already deeply moved by the beauty of Matsue and its long history.



### ◆Gyeongsang National University students visited Shimane University for 2015 Summer Program at Shimane University

For the purpose of participating in 2015 Summer Program in Shimane University, Twenty students from Gyeongsang National University (GNU) of Korea visited Shimane University from June 25th to July 2nd .

During their stay, starting with a courtesy call on Vice President Akira Deguchi, they took classes of Japanese language and culture and experienced homestay, sightseeing tour around Matsue and Izumo area, making Japanese confectionary and cultural exchange with Shimane University students to improve their understanding about Japan.

GNU and Shimane University concluded an university agreement in 1991 and we have been exchanging students each other since then for Summer Programs. Shimane University has accepted 326students and GNU has accepted 238students so far.

Ms. Bin Seonok, who led students from GNU this year, made a one year reunion with a Shimane University student whom she had hosted last August during the Summer Program in Korea.

This year, the President of Shimane University Yasunao Hattori had hosted two students from GNU. Although they were very nervous to go to the president's house at first, they had very good time and memories at heart-warming Hattori's family.

In this August, in turn, eleven Shimane University students will visit Korea to participate in Summer Program at GNU and Seoul city.



## ◆The Delegation of Shimane University visited Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University in China

For the purpose of holding a meeting over the future exchanges, a delegation from Shimane University representing vice president Akira Deguchi, visited to Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University (NWFU) in China on June 22nd.

Vice president Luo Jun at (NWFU) and professors concerned attended the meeting to talk over the history, academic fields of expertise and future possibility on student exchange for both universities.

Since we have concluded Academic agreement on May 22nd, two universities have already started research collaborations in fields of Environmental Education and Animal Husbandry. Based on this cooperation which takes a role to enhance “Chinese Western Region Academic Network” Shimane University promotes, we expect further development on academic exchanges between two universities.



## ◆Guest speaker; Mr.Andy Utschig, Consul of U.S. Consulate General, talked over "Going to the USA!" (June 15, 2015)



In the lecture titled as “Trends in Studying Abroad in the U.S. & Europe” of a visiting associate Professor Minoru Miyasaka, on June 5th, we invited a guest speaker, Mr.Andy Utschig, a consul of U.S. Consulate General in Osaka-Kobe. He talked over the study at universities in the U.S. and its cultures extensively in English. There were more than 50 participants including students, professors and staff members in the room because the lecture was opened for everyone on campus. They were interested in Higher Education Systems in the U.S. and especially students were highly motivated to go to study in the U.S. under the stimulus of vibrant and pleasant lecture of Mr.Andy Utschig.

▶▶▶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 2016, 1st Recruitment

**Shimane University's DEAD LINE ⇒ August 21st (Fri), 2015**

**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.

#### **Fellow Eligibility:**

1. Be a citizen of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan.  
(JSPS treats Taiwanese and Palestinian researchers in this manner.)
2. Hold a doctorate degree when the Fellowship goes into effect, which must have been received on or after April 2, 2010, or be scheduled to receive a doctorate degree before the Fellowship goes into effect.

#### **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, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

#### **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.jsp.go.jp/english/e-fellow/application.html>

### ► Invitation Fellowship Programs for Research in Japan 2016 (Long-term, Short-term, Short-term S), 1st Recruitment

**Shimane University's DEAD LINE ⇒ August 21st (Fri), 2015**

**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 with excellent records of research achievements to collaborate with Japanese colleagues in carrying out research through long-term visits.

##### **Eligibility :**

1. Be a citizen or a permanent resident of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan (JSPS treats Taiwanese and Palestinian researchers in this manner). To be eligible, researchers of Japanese nationality residing overseas must have lived in the other country for at least 10 years and been actively engaged in research in that country throughout the period.
2. Overseas researchers in a position equivalent to a university professor, associate professor or assistant professor in Japan as of 1 April 2016.
3. Overseas researchers who do not have above-mentioned careers but received their doctorate degree prior to six years or more as of 1 April 2016 and are continuing to do research in a university or non-profit research institution.

**Duration and Commencement of Fellowships:**

1. Fellowship tenure must be 2 to 10 months
2. Successful candidates must start the Fellowship in Japan from April 1, 2016–March 31, 2017.

**Terms of Award:**

1. A round-trip air ticket (based on JSPS's regulations)
2. A monthly maintenance allowance of ¥387,600.
3. 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 :**

1. Be a citizen or a permanent resident of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan (JSPS treats Taiwanese and Palestinian researchers in this manner). To be eligible, researchers of Japanese nationality residing overseas must have lived in the other country for at least 10 years and been actively engaged in research in that country throughout the period.
2. Overseas researchers in a position equivalent to a university professor or associate professor as of 1 April 2016.
3. 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 October 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

**Terms of Award:**

1. A round-trip air ticket (based on JSPS's regulations)
2. A monthly maintenance allowance of ¥18,000 per day
3. 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 :**

1. Be a citizen or a permanent resident of a country that has diplomatic relations with Japan (JSPS treats Taiwanese and Palestinian researchers in this manner). To be eligible, researchers of Japanese nationality residing overseas must have lived in the other country for at least 10 years and been actively engaged in research in that country throughout the period.
2. 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 October 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

**Terms of Award:**

1. A round-trip business-class air ticket (based on JSPS's regulations)
2. A monthly maintenance allowance of ¥42,000 per day
3. Overseas travel accident and sickness insurance

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

► **JSPS Bilateral Joint Research Projects/Seminars FY2016 CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**Shimane University's DEAD LINE ⇒ August 28st (Fri), 2015**

**Outline:** JSPS carries out bilateral cooperative programs between Japan and counterpart countries based on agreements concluded with academies, research councils and other science-promotion organizations in those countries.

**Counterpart countries in this application round :**

**A. Bilateral Joint Projects/Seminars with JSPS's Counterpart Institutions**

Africa	Egypt (MOSR), Kenya (NACOSTI), South Africa (NRF), Tunisia (MHESR)
Asia/Middle East	Bangladesh (UGC), China (CAS, CASS, MOE, NSFC), India (DST, ICHR, ICSSR), Indonesia (DGHE, LIPI), Korea (NRF), Singapore (NUS), Thailand (NRCT), Vietnam (VAST), Turkey (TUBITAK)
Oceania	New Zealand (MBIE-RSNZ)
Europe	Austria (FWF), Belgium (F.R.S. - FNRS, FWO), Czech (CAS), Finland (AF), France (CNRS, Inria, Inserm, MAEDI), Germany (DAAD, DFG), Hungary (HAS), Italy (CNR), Netherland (NWO), Poland (PAN), Russia (RFBR), Slovenia (MESS), Sweden (STINT), Ukraine(SFFR)
Remark	<p>1. Japanese and counterpart team leaders should be sure that their counterpart submits a matching application. Applications submitted by one side only will not be accepted.</p> <p>2. Please note that some counterpart organizations limit the fields of application. Please refer to Section 15, "Instructions for individual countries" for more details including the fields of projects/seminars and number to be funded.</p>

**B. Open Partnership Joint Projects/Seminars**

Countries/Regions	All countries that have diplomatic relations with Japan (JSPS also treats researchers who reside in Taiwan and Palestine in this manner.)
Remark	<p>1. If the counterpart researchers have applied to a counterpart institution listed in the above A framework for bilateral activities, the Japanese researchers may not apply under this B framework.</p> <p>2. Each applicant is allowed to submit only one application under "B. Open Partnership Joint Projects/Seminars". In this category, only one country may be selected as the counterpart country.</p>

1. Each applicant is allowed to submit only one application per counterpart country.

2. While all counterpart countries eligible for "A. Bilateral Joint Projects/Seminars with JSPS's Counterpart Institutions" are also eligible for "B. Open Partnership Joint Projects/Seminars", we encourage that applications to be submitted towards "A. Bilateral Joint Projects/Seminars with JSPS's Counterpart Institutions".

3. Applicants who will already be conducting a Bilateral Joint Research Project/Seminar on the starting date of the projects/seminars in this application round may not apply for a Joint Research Project/Seminar with the same counterpart country.

►►►For more information, <http://www.jsp.go.jp/english/e-bilat/call.html>

### 3: Message from a Current International Student



**Madura Prabhani Pitigala Liyanage (Sri Lanka)**  
**Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering**

Japan was a country I had dreamt of visiting since my childhood. When I decided to pursue higher studies, my first choice was Shimane University due to the unparalleled advice and excellent procedural guidance enumerated by Professor Masahito Hirakawa, my present supervisor. Ever since I commenced my studies at Shimane University, Sensei's advice and timely assistance throughout my studies have played a vital role in my research discipline and life at large in the university environment. I express my appreciation as an international student for this continued assistance. On the enrolment for my Doctoral Degree program, I had to depend solely on my personal finances. I was made aware, by the International Student

Section of the university, that a number of scholarship programs are offered at the university. I was privileged to be selected for the Kunibiki Scholarship six months into my doctoral degree, and the JASSO Honors Scholarship one year later. I am thankful for generosity displayed by these two esteemed organizations in assisting international students. At Shimane University (Shimadai) I had exposure to and the opportunity to befriend other international and Japanese students through well-designed programs: field trips, parties, culinary events and fellowships organized by the International Student Section of the university. I'm also proud to function as a student volunteer and participate in the safety patrols conducted by the Matsue Police in the university neighborhood. Before arriving in Japan, my exposure to Japanese language was zero and I had never conversed in Japanese language before. Fortunately, methodical language programs conducted at the university and other prominent support organizations in Matsue such as Matsueria and Irohanokai assisted in developing necessary language skills. In conclusion, I would like to offer a statement of gratitude to Shimane University in granting me a precious opportunity to achieve a dream of my life in pursuing my higher studies in Japan. This was made possible by the admirable and well-planned study environment offered at Shimadai. Thank you, Shimadai!

### 4: Introduction of a Partner University

**File No.8.**

**Thammasat University**  
**(Thailand)**

Research collaboration has been started from 2013 between Thammasat University and Shimane University. Based on this, we have concluded faculty level agreements between both medical faculties (in February 2014), between faculty of Life and environmental science of Shimane Univ. and faculty of Science and Technology of Thammasat Univ. (in July 2014).

Soon afterwards, in Sep. 2014, we finally concluded the university agreement of cooperation and student exchanges.

Based on this, we would deepen a stable relationship and also accelerate active cooperation in research projects and exchange students in future.



L o c a t i o n	Prachan Road Phra Borom Maha Ratchawang, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok
E s t a b l i s h e d	1934
T y p e	National University
S t u d e n t s	36,000
U R L	<a href="http://www4.tu.ac.th/index.php/th/">http://www4.tu.ac.th/index.php/th/</a>

## 5: San'in Snapshots

### Matsue Castle is newly announced to be a National Treasure.

The long-awaited designation of Matsue Castle as National Treasure was officially announced. The designation of the Japanese castle was made for first time in 63 years, making it the fifth Japanese castle to be designated.

Matsue Castle was built in 1611 by the founder of the Matsue domain. The wooden castle tower was constructed in four sections with five floors. If you are interested in Japanese history or castles, you may already know that there are many castles around the country,

however, among them only 12 are remaining original castles and only 5 are designated as National Treasure. Matsue castle, which is highly regarded as one of the 12 remaining original castles and also 5 castles designated as National Treasure.

People in the town rejoiced as their long desired hope, to make the castle National Treasure, has come true, and are looking forward to attracting more international visitors.



#### .....About Matsue Castle

Matsue castle, which was built in 1611 by the founder of the Matsue Domain, stands as the symbol of Matsue. The castle tower, which is constructed in four sections with five floors, is the 2nd largest, 3rd tallest, and 6th oldest of the 12 remaining original castle towers in Japan.

The wooden castle has survived times of war without being burned down as well as the 'Ordinance for Disposal of Castles'

promulgated in 1873, and still stands as a symbol of the castle town.

You can experience the same extensive view of the city as samurais saw 400 years ago.

What is more, historical materials, such as armors, swords, and helmets which used to belong to samurais in the time of war are displayed inside the castle tower.



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## For Inquiries or Information



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