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Foreword

Kyushu University has long enjoyed a special relationship with Asian countries, and it therefore comes as little surprise when I hear that so many colleagues have taken an active interest in this important region of the world. Moreover, it seems clear to me that such feelings are reciprocated and that this state of affairs has produced a number of important projects, most notably, the Conference of Asian University Presidents which we inaugurated in 2001.

The intra-university system of the Asian Research Organization remains the central organization to coordinate the activities that have been achieved so far in this area. The Network Points (NP) scheme we proposed at the 2002 Conference of Asian University Presidents was welcomed by most participating institutions and the agreements that we have developed on this scheme will introduce a degree of flexibility that has not always been possible in the past, and will enable us to foster more effective cooperation. As such, Kyushu University will retain its position as a national and international leader in this important area of activity.

Japan has deep links with other Asian countries. Although Japan belongs to Asia, Japanese people sometimes speak as if we were not an Asian country, suggesting, I think, that Asia is elsewhere. This is, perhaps, one reason why we have had some difficulties, in the past, in developing mutually beneficial relationships with other Asian countries. The legacy of this way of thinking is something we need to overcome in order to move forward towards a more successful future. This is a point that President Kajiyama mentioned in the last newsletter when he said that we must recognize that Asia has multiple meanings for Japan.

In terms of the relationship between our university and Asia, it sometimes can appear that in the past there might have been some skepticism towards strengthening ties with Asian academics and institutions. Perhaps this is over-simplifying the situation, but some researchers might have doubted the value to the Japanese side of such joint activities. However, the world has changed, and many Asian countries have been able to develop advanced knowledge and innovative techniques from which we in Japan can learn a great deal. Of course, it is also necessary for the humanities and social sciences to further cooperate with Asian countries and to share insights and discoveries. One of the virtues of Kyushu University as an institution is that we have structures in place that cover the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities. Consequently, we have facilitated the development of integrated research of Asia in ways that were not previously possible.

Kyushu University Asian Research Organization is a central element in Kyushu University's drive towards Asia and I sincerely believe that it will continue to play a key role in this vital area of our activities.
The 2002 Conference of Presidents of Asian Universities
(Oct. 23~25. Hosted by Pusan University)

"The 2002 Conference of Presidents of Asian Universities" was held in Pusan, Korea from October 23 through 25, inviting 24 universities from 15 Pacific-Rim nations. The last two conferences were hosted by Kyushu University and were held in Fukuoka in 2000 and in 2001. This year, the conference was held outside Japan for the first time and was hosted by Pusan National University.

The main theme of the conference this year was "The Role of Universities in the Knowledge-Based Society: International Cooperation in Continuing Education." Each university faces different challenges and circumstances, and each university conceptualizes the meaning of continuing education differently. However, it became clear that continuing education was an important issue for all of the universities participating in the conference.

Information Technology (IT) was another theme of the conference, as it is felt that IT will play an increasingly important role in continuing education in the 21st century. Dr. Okamura of the Computing and Communications Center of Kyushu University presented a report about an on-going project (Genkai/Hyume Project), which connects Korea and Japan directly by optical fibers (see page 7). The completion of the project will have a great impact on Kyushu University E-learning capabilities. All of the universities participating in the conference are very interested in developing E-learning programs in partnership with our university.

One example of a NP collaboration proposed by Kyushu University is the Asian Student Exchange Program (ASEP), which promotes student exchange that enables participants to transfer credits. Credit transfer is a major issue in promoting student mobility. The ASEP, based on the close cooperation of NPs, will provide greater possibilities for students to transfer credits between universities.

The next conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand hosted by Chulalongkorn University.
Events

Lecture Sep. 25, 2002
Mr. Aftab Seth, Indian Ambassador
How Much Weight Can an Elephant Lose?
— A Message From the Indian Ambassador —
Organizer : Kyushu University

Seminar Nov. 25-Dec. 5, 2002
Law and Open Society in Asia
Organizer : Faculty of Law, Kyushu University and Japan Society for
the Promotion of Science

Lecture Dec. 16, 2002
Mr. Cho Seong-yong, Korean Consul General
Korea and Japan — A desirable relationship
between Korea and Kyushu —
Place : Fukuoka Asian
Art Museum
Organizer : Kyushu University
and Fukuoka Asian
Art Museum

Lecture Feb. 3, 2003
Meet the Philippine Society and Culture
— The World by Kidiat Tahimik (Film director, Philippines) —
Organizer : Kyushu University

Lecture Mar. 17, 2003
Chayan Picheasoonthon Ph.D.,
Khon Kaen University Associate Professor
Family of Zingiberacea
in Thailand
Organizer : The Pharmaceutical
Society of Japan

Lecture Mar. 17, 2003
Sorasak Lhiechaiphant Ph.D.,
Chiang Mai University Associate Professor
A screening test of blood glucose
lowering activity from
Thai Medicinal Plants
Organizer : The Pharmaceutical
Society of Japan

Network Points (NP)
—Strengthening links with Asian universities—

In order to establish close relationship between universities, communication between contact
points/persons as focal points is crucially important. When Kyushu University proposed the plan of “Network Points” at the 2001
conference of Presidents of Asian Universities, we received positive feedback from participant
universities. Presently Kyushu University has
been launching NPs in cooperation with other universities in Asia.

<NP — a case of Hanoi Agricultural University —>

Kyushu University (KU) and Hanoi Agricultural University (HAU) had already developed a close relationship. For
further cooperation and active joint research, we have
established a NP with each other.

In November 2002, a research party from KU Faculty of Agriculture visited Hanoi and carried out a field survey in
rural community in the suburbs of Hanoi. The survey was carried out very efficiently with the assistance of Dr. Dung, a
HAU lecturer who had finished his doctoral degree at KU in 2002. He was not only a great coordinator but also a great
interpreter during the survey.

It is not easy to carry out research in the developing
countries efficiently within the limited time and budget. We
believe that such a support system at the research field will
make the research activity very efficient and will bring
productive research results. Also, Professor Dung organized
a promotion session for the
HAU students, when KU staff
visited HAU to promote KU
summer program (ATW) in
2003. Dr. Dung is a very
effective “NP” of KU at HAU.
Interview

Chen Xiao Xian, at Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies won an Incentive Award presented by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) at the 43rd Japanese speech contest for foreigners held in Osaka in July 2002. We interviewed Ms. Xian and asked her impressions of the speech contest and her life in Japan.

- Birthplace: Suzhou, China
- Major: Social and Cultural Studies
- Academic history:
  - 2002—Doctoral course in Kyushu University
  - 2000—M.A. in Kyushu University
  - 1999—Research student in Kurume University

How was the speech contest?
At first, I was not interested in the contest at all. One of my friends persuaded me to send the application form, essay and demo tape. One month later, when I was almost forgetting about it, I received a letter saying that I had passed a preliminary contest! I had been really nervous until the contest started. But once I stepped on the stage, I don't know, I wasn't so nervous. Maybe, I was being too nervous to feel it.

How did you study Japanese?
When I was an undergraduate student in China, I tried to talk with Japanese students and tried to use grammars, words or phrases and I learned a lot. Also, I often borrowed videos from Japanese friends and watched many Japanese movies and TV programs. And I spent a year at University in Japan as an exchange student, which greatly improved my Japanese skill.

How is your hometown, Suzhou?
Suzhou is located about one-hour-drive to west from Shanghai by express bus. There are many beautiful Chinese gardens there, and numbers of Japanese travelers visit the famous Kanzan Temple. I go back to my hometown usually twice a year, during Chinese New Year and summer vacation.

Any difference between New Year in China and Japan?
Chinese New Year is not the first of January, but sometime between the end of January and the middle of February, based on the lunar calendar. We, Chinese people cannot feel like the "new year" until the Chinese New Year comes. Generally, Chinese people take longer off during Chinese New Year than during any other vacations. All of the family members gather and cook postickers and some special foods for the New Year just like OSECHI in Japan. We also have a TV program like The Red and White Song Contest (KOHAKU) by NHK.

Any difference between educational system in China and Japan?
Basically, quite similar in both countries, for example, 9 years of compulsory education. The major difference is the Master's program—three years in China, instead of two in Japan. As a part of the policy, many children take after school lessons, such as music instruments.

How is your life in Japan on and off campus?
First of all, I have got broader views. What I had thought right or normal back in China were not always so in Japan. My point of views is, I think, diversified.
There are many silent places in Japan. For example in Kyoto. Japan is the country where people put great value to "silence."
In the class, Japanese students often find out their research themes and carry out their researches by themselves. Students speak out freely at seminars; on the contrary, students are very quiet in China. Besides, in the graduate school, many students have professional experiences. I have learned a lot from them, which I would never learn from books. Furthermore, at Kyushu University, it is really great for us that we can get advices from professors in a different field and we can join seminars in different area as well. Also, researchers here at KU seem to be approaching the subjects, for example Asian studies, from an interdisciplinary point of view. I think it is really great.

What are you interested in now?
Now I am supporting a group for a wartime orphans left behind China as a volunteer staff. Many of orphans are old, and they need supports in their unaccustomed home country. Many of them came back here in Japan temporarily not permanent. I help them with explaining or interpreting miscellaneous matters such as nursing care insurance service.

What is your future plan?
First of all, I would like to finish up my doctoral dissertation!! Then, I will go back to China and find a job. I would like to continue my research work about an aging society or welfare, if possible. Today, Chinese society is facing the problem of aging, which is not as serious as in Japan though. I hope we could form a new policy for China, as a model of an aging society, cooperating with Japanese researchers. I wish to become a bridge to exchange information and human resources between Japan and China.

You can access to the manuscript of this speech contest of prizewinner.
http://www.jpf.go.jp/j/others_j/whats_j/0207/07-09.html
Asian Research
The Interdisciplinary Programs in Education and Projects in Research Development (P&P)

Asian research is a center of all interdisciplinary studies at Kyushu University. Topics pursued in Asian research range over various fields such as Habitancy and Cultural studies, Politics and Economics, Energy and Environment, Medical and Health Sciences, and Bioresource Sciences.

Comparative Study of Local Politics: Korea and Japan
Assoc. Prof. IZUMI, Kaoru (Faculty of Law)

Coming into the 21st century, decentralization became a critical issue for every state. Globalization is accelerating this trend. We need to reconsider local politics. When we study local politics under new trend, it is effective to use the comparative method which enables us to find many similarities and differences. And those will show the features of decentralization.

We will compare the local politics of Korea with that of Japan. Both countries have many similarities. Especially their systems of local government are very similar. But histories of these systems are very different. So comparing Korea with Japan is very interesting.

Establishment of Database and Systems for Development of Earth Resources considering Environmental Issues in Indonesia
Prof. MATSUI, Kiiko (Faculty of Engineering)

The environment of mining engineering department has been influenced by domestic and international economic conditions. Our department has been playing an important role in education and research work, accommodating itself with new surroundings. We will be able to cope with problems better and enhance the levels of education and research work by promoting international cooperation with foreign universities and institutes. Japan is the largest earth resources importer in the world. Unreasonable development of many mines in tropical areas like Indonesia will reduce precious rainforests and lead to the instability of the global climate. This joint research project with Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB) will enable us to solve the environmental issues resulting from mining activities in Indonesia and preserve the global environment.

Application of Advanced Pediatric Medicine in Asian Countries
Prof. HARA, Toshio (Faculty of Medical Sciences)

To apply advanced pediatric medicine in Asian countries, child health status and childhood diseases are being investigated in these countries. Then, the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of childhood diseases are to be analyzed using molecular and biological techniques to establish reliable diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive methods of childhood diseases in this project. The target diseases include measles, malaria, tuberculosis and dental disorders, and therefore, the project consists of 5 researches including 1) hygiene and environmental survey in Asian countries, 2) survey on dental diseases in China, 3) analysis of host susceptibility factors in Philippine SSPE (subacute sclerosing panencephalitis) patients, 4) development of malaria DNA vaccine as a collaboreative study with Thai and Korean institutions, and 5) clinical and bacteriological studies on childhood tuberculosis in India, all of which should contribute to improve the child health status in these countries.

Japan-Korea Academic Exchange on Advanced High-Speed Internet Affiliation
Prof. ARAKI, Keiji (Faculty of Information Science and Electrical Engineering)

This is a joint research project approved as an official project of Kyushu University, and has been supported under the Interdisciplinary Programs in Education and Projects in Research Development (P&P).

This joint research project includes researchers in Linguistics, Korean Culture and History, Economics as well as Computer Science and Internet. We intend to establish an advanced IT infrastructure which supports academic exchanges between Korean and Japanese universities such as joint research projects, distance learning, student exchanges and so on. We do not limit our international collaboration only between Korea and Japan, but extend our network to other Asian countries and all over the world.

B.C. Roy Memorial Children's Hospital in Calcutta, India
Photo by Toshio Hara
FOCUS

Introduction of Research
Genkai/Hyunoe Project

OKAMURA, Koji
Associate Professor
Computing and Communications Center
Kyushu University

What is Genkai/Hyunoe Project?

Recently, local regional network, so called community network has been built in Kyushu district such as "FUKUOKA Giga-Bit High Way" by Fukuoka prefecture. Also "Korea-Japan Corridor Network (KJCN)," has directly connected between Japan and Korea with a 250 km-long submarine optical cable. KJCN connects Pusan-Fukuoka and Pusan-Kitakyushu. Its service has been started since March in 2003. The Genkai/Hyunoe Project is another international comprehensive project for high speed optical Internet of next generation, which includes local networks and projects. The Genkai/Hyunoe is the Japanese and Korean names of the sea between Japan and Korea where the Japan-Korea optical cable is constructed.

Japan-Korea IT Week

A major objective of Genkai/Hyunoe Project of this year is to open Japan-Korea high speed Internet. As mentioned above, the optical cable itself has already been in service, so the "open" here means that the cable will become available for our research activities through Japan-Korea Internet. Although, we have to clear various political/administrative matters before opening the Japan-Korea high speed optical Internet, one thing clear is that the cable will be in service before long. This project was planned and started by local governments and researchers, however the projects faced various difficulties. Later, with the support of the central governments of Japan and Korea, the project has made progress via negotiations between MPHPT (Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications) and MIC (Ministry of Information and Communication of Korea). Now the project is going with the cooperation of MPHPT, and the project became a part of MPHPTS's e! Project involved in E-Japan Project. E-Japan Project is the plan to upgrade IT level of Japan by 2005, and e! Project is the showcase to demonstrate advanced future IT society in 2005 and give Japanese people a sense of IT society that would be common in 2005. One of the missions given to Genkai/Hyunoe Project is to promote "international exchange using future advanced IT", that is our research activity itself. Japan-Korea IT Week was held in February 2003 as a joint event of e! and Genkai/Hyunoe Projects. During the week, various intensive experiments were held, such as an international remote lecture between universities, an international exchange programs between junior high and high schools, remote seminars for public and vocational school, and experiments with multinational companies by using Japan-Korea high speed Internet. I organized the entire IT Week and gave remote lectures from Japan to the students both in Korea and Japan. I will have developed the system that enables to send and receive images of DV (digital video) and high quality audio simultaneously between universities in Japan and Korea. The system will be used in the course next semester. Hanyang University, Chongnam National University, Chonnam National University and KOREN from Korea are going to participate in the course, and now I am very busy preparing for the course.
KUARO publishes monograph series to publicize Asian research at Kyushu University.

Volcanoes, Geothermal Fields and Hot springs in Continental China

A facet of nature from field study

Author: EHARA, Sachio (Prof. of Faculty of Engineering, Kyushu University)

Abstract: This book is not only about the research results on volcanoes, geothermal fields and hot springs in Tibet and northeastern district in China (Manchuria), but also the interesting stories of the field survey. The survey was carried out from 1992 to 1997 by the author and Chinese researchers. Unique and interesting features of the volcanoes, geothermal fields and hot springs in China are introduced in familiar words for non-specialists, but at the same time, those facts are also latest and significant for researchers. In this book, some experiences during the severe field survey are introduced, which are very interesting to us.

Kyushu University Asian Research Organization (KUARO)
6-10-1 Hakozaki, Higashi-ku, Fukuoka 812-8581, JAPAN
Tel. +81-92-642-4433
Fax. +81-92-642-4435 E-mail: kuarouok@mbox.nc.kyushu-u.ac.jp

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