

University of Alberta  
ELCS, EST, and Staff Training Program

August – September



Students from Gifu University participated in two short-term study abroad programs held in the University of Alberta (UofA) this summer. One group of 29 students took part in the three-week English Language & Culture Seminar (ELCS) Program focusing on improving their English communication skills and understanding of Canadian culture. Another group of 7 participants joined the six-week English for Science & Technology (EST) Program which was initiated for the first time. The aim of the EST Program is to equip Japanese students with the English language & academic learning skills necessary to perform science-related tasks. Students who took part in this program also experienced a one-on-one laboratory partnership with research groups in the Department of Chemistry.

The ELCS group was accompanied by two administrative staff members. During their short stay in Alberta, they were involved in the Administrative Training & Job Shadowing Program organized by the English Language School. Overall, the students and staff were able to spend a fun and productive summer.

## ELCS

**Moment of Change: from “English to study” to “English to communicate”**  
August 15 – September 6

**Mitsuki Kato**  
Faculty of Engineering



Prior to my departure to the University of Alberta (UofA), I had some experiences studying abroad before. But I was so nervous that I had some difficulties speaking English for some time after arriving in Canada. After noticing people enjoying conversations with smiles regardless of grammatical mistakes, I soon realized that I was too self-conscious about my English skills. “What matters most in communicating with people is not speaking perfect, flawless English.” This was my “moment of change.” Since then, I tried to fully enjoy conversations with people, and started to appreciate the magnificent natural beauty in Canada. I was fortunate enough to talk with local people and felt excited whenever I found myself able to communicate with them in English. “Action speaks louder than words,” has become my motto ever since.

Canada is a multiethnic country and is open to people from around the world. It is also rich in pristine nature and friendly people.

On the last day of my homestay, my host family said to me, “Please come back soon,” and the kids gave me a big hug saying, “Miss you!” I was overflowed with a sense of gratitude for them and everyone who gave me this great opportunity to study at the UofA for three weeks.



## New EST Program

**After my Study at the UofA**  
August 15 – September 23

**Sanako Kato**  
Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology



Studying at the University of Alberta (UofA; six weeks) was quite a fascinating, exciting experience for me. Under the new EST (English for Science and Technology, started in 2018) program, the participants are assigned to individual laboratories for research work. Because the UofA accepts a large number of students from abroad every year, I found many students of different nationalities working in the laboratories. “Learn for the sake of learning. You are here studying English to learn, aren’t you? If so, you do not have to worry too much about causing trouble to others. Learn, learn and learn,” said one of my friends from India in the same lab. I was surprised and touched by his words, because I was less confident about my English skills and believe that I was not on par with my peers in terms of discussing research themes and topics. I found that every international student coming from all over the world is quite assertive and highly motivated. They are at the same time, very tolerant and show respect to anyone aspiring to improve themselves. Knowing their approach for conducting research overseas and learning the systems in place in Canada will no doubt help me determine the future path to take, and will shed some light on the goals to pursue as a master student in the days to come.



## New Staff Training Program

**Administrative Staff's Study-Abroad Experience**  
August 15 – September 5

**Hirokazu Otake**  
Hospital Administration Office



I participated in the Staff Training Program 2018 at the University of Alberta (UofA) for the same period as the Gifu University (GU) students attending the ELCS program. The program was conducted at the UofA for the first time this year, which was designed to facilitate active opinion-exchange among GU and the UofA staff and improve GU staff's English proficiency.

My assignments included student escort and daily support. While brushing up on my English by taking lessons at the UofA, I spoke English every day, regardless of whether I was on duty or off duty. Canadians show respect for others and listen very carefully when they are spoken to. I felt a strong sense of fulfillment when I found myself able to communicate with local people.

Both GU students and staff were blessed with many opportunities by being exposed to a multicultural environment, and we enjoyed every moment full of excitement and joy. My experience at the UofA will no doubt be instrumental in promoting the internationalization of GU administrative staff in the future.





## Study Abroad Fair

April 18

**G**ifu University Study Abroad Fair was held for students interested in studying abroad. The fair provided a venue for information-sharing about the language skills necessary to study overseas and various study abroad programs offered to students.

The invited guests from the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) and the EIKEN Foundation of Japan explained that TOEFL iBT and IELTS have already become global standards to gauge the English proficiency required for study abroad. Their presentations were followed by testimonials from students who studied abroad. They spoke about new perspectives on life, encountering different cultures, and the creation of global human networks, all of which are the results of their studying abroad. Explanations about the faculty-level study abroad programs and travel medicine / self-health management conducted by Health Management Center were also given to approximately 70 people attending the fair.



## Emergency & Risk Management Orientation

July 11

**O**n July 11, the Emergency & Risk Management Orientation held on campus was attended by approximately 80 students and staff. This orientation is designed to provide crucial safety information for those intending to study or travel abroad in the near future. The topics provided at the orientation included such issues as (1) dealing with and avoiding risks, (2) enhancing one's self-awareness and emergency preparedness, and (3) risk management for health while overseas.

Mr. Makoto Hattori from the Japanese Council for the Safety of Overseas Students (JCSOS) was invited as a guest speaker, and he presented actual cases of incidents overseas and current public safety issues in different countries. Dr. Mayumi Yamamoto, Director/Professor of the Health Administration Center gave a lecture relating to travel medicine including preparation of vaccination, and a comparison of health care / insurance system between Japan and abroad.

Most of the audience who have little access to information pertaining to crime and risk overseas listened attentively to their presentations.



## Summer School (Inbound)

June 27-July 25

**T**he 31st Summer School (inbound) was held from June 27-July 25. Thirteen students from Gifu University's overseas partner institutions attended the program. They were from Kasetsart University (Thailand), Northern Kentucky University (USA), the National University of Malaysia (UKM, Malaysia), University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (China), Guangxi University (China), and Mokpo National University (South Korea). While in Japan, besides attending Japanese language classes, the students visited other locales in Gifu Prefecture such as Seki City to observe the local cutlery industry, Toki City for a pottery-making experience, and Gujo City for homestay. They also experienced firsthand *Nogaku* performances and sumo bouts.



The international students and Japanese student tutors from GU stayed in the off-campus Extracurricular Seminar House for a month. This provided them the opportunity to forge strong bonds with one another by dining, studying, and sharing moments of joy together.



## Three University Joint Academic Symposium

April 14



**U**niversity of Salamanca (Spain), Gifu Pharmaceutical University, and Gifu University Joint Academic Symposium was held in Gifu as part of the University of Salamanca's 800th anniversary celebration. A delegation from Salamanca, represented by Rector Ricardo Rivero Ortega, was invited to make presentations at the symposium. The three universities later signed the Framework Agreement for Academic Cooperation in the presence of Mr. Hajime Furuta, Governor of Gifu Prefecture.

The theme of the symposium was "Cancer Research at the Forefront: Cancer Control," and two or three speakers from each university made their research presentations in front of approximately 110 people. By signing the new agreement, the three universities renewed their commitment to the expansion of interdisciplinary studies and research collaboration with a special emphasis on medicine and pharmaceutical sciences.



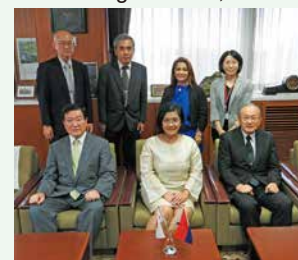
## Signing of Academic Cooperation with Mariano Marcos State University

September 10



**T**he signing ceremony with Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU, the Philippines), was held on September 10 in the Office of the President at Gifu University. The ceremony was attended by President Shirley C. Agrupis and Associate Professor Rhoda Beth M. Santos from MMSU. The relationship between the two universities started with the active engagement by Dr. Agrupis who earned her doctoral degree from the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science in 2000.

With the official beginning of this cooperation, lively academic exchanges are expected to take place in a wide range of fields, such as inbound and outbound student exchange in biological production and new energy development, researcher exchange in organic agriculture focusing on decreased use of agrichemicals, water resource management, technological innovation, bioenergy system development, and the automation of agricultural work (robotics and mechatronics).





## Delegation from the University of South Florida visits Gifu University



May 23 – 25

The University of South Florida (USF) is one of the largest universities in the United States with a current student population of 48,000. The General Agreement for Collaboration between the Gifu University School of Medicine, Health Administration Center, and the University of South Florida was signed in October 2016.

Ten people from USF Health, 20 from USF Honors College, and three professors/instructors visited Gifu University. They attended a lecture on the national health insurance system and disaster prevention, took part in a welcome lunch party with 78 nursing course students, joined the medical English class, observed the University Hospital, performed koto harp with the koto club members, inspected medical and welfare facilities, and visited Hachiman Elementary School in Gujo City (Gifu), where they had lunch and cleaned up after lunch with the children. They also enjoyed watching cormorant fishing on the Nagara River in Gifu City.



In a meeting with President Hisataka Moriwaki, he shook hands with every student and presented each of them with a small gift. A strong, enduring relationship between USF and Gifu University is expected with the delegation's latest visit to Gifu University.



## Delegation from Kaunas University of Technology visits Gifu University



July 28

This Excellency Mr. Gediminas Varvuolis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania; Dr. Aurelijus Zykas, Head of the Center for Asian Studies at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU, Lithuania); and 52 members of the folk dance ensemble "Nemunas" from Kaunas University of Technology visited the Faculty of Engineering on July 28. They came to Japan to attend "Lithuania Now" hosted by Gifu Prefecture, which opened with a fascinating performance by the Nemunas members.

During their visit to the Faculty of Engineering, the delegation was given an overview of the faculty from Vice Dean, Professor Tomonao Kobayashi. After an explanation of the Advanced Global Program (AGP) by Professor Tetsuji Kume, Director of the Global Promotion Office, the delegation was invited to observe the laboratories of Professor Kobayashi, Professor Kume, and Associate Professor Tetsuya Mouri.

In a lunch meeting, the delegation and faculty staff discussed ideas for further exchanges and strong partnership in the future.



## Messages from International Students Studying at Gifu University



### Japan, a Great School to Achieve Your Dream



India  
**Sonawane Amol Dasharath**  
Graduate School of Engineering

My name is Amol. I came to Japan in October 2016 to complete my doctoral study at Gifu University and working under the supervision of Professor Mamoru Koketsu, well known for his work about organic synthesis focusing selenium chemistry. Our lab have regular discussions as well as research paper presentations which help us all to be actively involved with our research work and get to share our ideas and learn from others.

I chose Japan for my higher studies because of the fact that many eminent Noble laureates have been from this country and I also, see myself contributing to the scientific fraternity by being part of such an excellent system. Moreover, statistics reveal that 10 or more universities from Japan hold position in the top 200 universities around the world. Studying in another country will always greatly improve your employability, but studying in Japan is particularly valuable. There is something uniquely attractive about Japanese culture that interests people from around the world. Life is very comfortable. It is the safe and developed country. The public transportation is reliable, the food is very healthy.

I hope I will contribute to the Development of Japan and India not only in research but also in culture. I am grateful to Japanese government for the scholarship (MEXT). It is still long run-way to reach, but I am enjoying my journey in Japan.



### Take Courage and Action to Realize Your Dream



China  
**Fu Huizhen**  
United Graduate School of Agricultural Science

My name is FU HUIZHEN. I am from China. I have finished my master course from Guangxi university. And I came to Japan October 2017. It was my first time to go abroad. Everything was new for me. At the beginning, I felt nervous. Fortunately, my laboratory members, supervisor and some of Chinese friends who study in Gifu University are very friendly and helped me a lot.

I am very grateful to be able to get support from the Ministry of Education Scholarship of Japanese government. Thanks a lot. And I would like to express my gratitude to my master supervisor, Pro. Yu Wenjin, who graduated from Gifu University and helped me a lot for coming to study here. Now I am adapting to the environment here. I think the environment of Gifu University is very suitable for study and the life here is convenient. I would like to learn more about Japanese and Japanese culture. It is helpful for life to understand a country culture when you live in it.

Everything is challenging. Summon up courage to face it and miracles often happen. I will spare no effort to study hard to gain more about how to be a researcher and leading a positive life. I hope that one day what I learn will have contribution to agriculture, both in Japan and China.



The Japan Bioindustry Association (JBA) and Gifu University co-hosted the "Biotechnology for the Future Seminar; Bioresources in Northeast India, Research on Food Biopolymer -Industry-Government-Academia Collaboration by Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) and Gifu University" in Tokyo on May 25.

First, Dr. Daisuke Shibata from Kazusa DNA Research Institute gave his presentation concerning the status and potentials of bioresources in the state of Assam, India. The following are the speeches given by the other guest speakers:

- "Industrial Use of Sustainable Polymer" by Dr. Vimal Katiyar from IITG
- "Industrial Use of Biological Pesticide and Genetically Engineered Plants" by Dr. Lingaraj Sahoo from IITG
- "What International Collaborative Education (Joint Degree Programs) is Aiming For" by Mr. Tatsuya Kitaoka from the Gifu Prefectural Board of Education

Mr. Kitaoka worked for the University Promotion Division, Higher Education Bureau, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and was responsible for drafting the guidelines for international collaborative education courses. From his own experiences,

he spoke about the significance of four joint degree programs (JD) to be implemented with Gifu University's overseas partner institutions in 2019.

The seminar ended with a speech by Professor Hiroyuki Koyama of the Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences titled; "JD Platform with IITG; Development of Bioresources and Green Economy in India."



## Toward Establishing Four International Collaboration JD Programs in 2019

### The First Seminar by the International Collaborative Education Promotion Division: "JD Advantages"

April 26

The first seminar by the International Collaborative Education Promotion Division on the theme of "JD Advantages" was held at Gifu University on April 26.

Dr. Daisuke Shibata from Kazusa DNA Research Institute was invited as a guest speaker, and gave an address titled, "International Collaborative Food Science and Technology Course with IITG: Course Advantages and Expectations from the Business Community." He spoke about the potential merits and strong expectations from the business circle in producing many talented personnel cultivated under the business-academia collaborative platform by working with IITG. He also introduced his views on world affairs, the future of Japan and India, and food science today. He wrapped up his speech by saying to the students, "Take the plunge and meet the challenge."



### Press Conference by the President

July 30

The press conference by the President was held on July 30. At the outset, President Hisataka Moriwaki explained the role of the new Joint Degree (JD) Program in Food Science and Technology (master's and doctoral levels) with Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) in the Gifu University Future Vision Toward 2025. It was followed by a presentation by Dr. Fumiaki Suzuki, Executive Director for International Affairs and Public Relations, Vice President. He spoke about the background and overview of the JD program. Later, Professor Akio Ebihara and Associate Professor Emiko Yanase (both working for the Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences, and to be assigned as specially-appointed JD coordinators) detailed the program content, and difficulties they have undergone so far in establishing the program.

Gifu University continues to promote joint research activities and internationalization of students and the university, while supporting industries in Gifu and its surrounding Tokai Region toward their advancement into the markets of JD partner countries, as well as a solid growth in food and other related industries.



### What is Joint Degree Program?

In a joint degree (JD) program, a single degree certificate is awarded by two or more partner universities to a student who has completed the program implemented by the partner universities. Gifu University has been carrying out a number of exchange programs with Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and the National University of Malaysia since 2015 toward the establishment of four international collaboration JD programs in 2019.

