



Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2020 December 8 - 9

To nurture global-minded young individuals, GU launched four international graduate Joint Degree (JD) programs with Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in April, 2019. "Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2020" webinar was held to review what has been achieved so far. As a keynote speaker, Mr. Yoshinori Hakui, Director-General, Higher Education Bureau, MEXT delivered a speech on international education, etc. in the post-pandemic world. The symposium shed new light on the new aspects of JD programs and marked yet another milestone in its history.



Main Symposium



Academic Session



Industry-Government-Academia-Banking Institution Collaboration Session

Poster for Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2020, including dates (12/8, 12/9), times, and program details.

Collaborative Video Making Program

November 2020 - March 2021

The online "Collaborative Video Making Program" kicked off in November with eight students from GU, four from IITG, and four from UKM. The members formed four teams (with representatives from each institutions) to collaborate in creating international exchange videos under the professional guidance from a video creator in Australia. In the "Final Competition for Collaborative Video Making Program (CVMP) on Webinar" held on March 9, the best performing team received the Best CVMP Award. Four teams' video footages are accessible in GU-GLOCAL Channel.



"Recent Advances in Translational Research in Food Science and Technology" Webinar | October 16

In line with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations global missions, the International Joint Webinar was jointly organized by IITG and GU with the aim of generating a synergistic effect for JD programs and accelerating industry-academia partnership. Five speakers delivered keynote speeches regarding the latest trends in translational food science and technology (390 registered participants).





Chiune Sugihara (1900 – 1986), a Gifu native, served as a vice-consul for the Japanese Empire in Kaunas during WWII. His heroic act of issuing transit visas to Jews fleeing Nazi persecution resulted in many lives saved. By virtue of this historic tie between Gifu and Lithuania forged by Chiune, GU concluded academic partnerships with two Lithuanian universities: Kaunas University of Technology (KTU, 2010) and Vytautas Magnus University (VMU, 2012).

Gifu University & Lithuania Panel Exhibition

December 3 - 25

GU-GLOCAL hosted a "PANEL EXHIBITION - Significant Milestones of Exchanges between Gifu University & Lithuania -" in the University Library. The panel exhibition presented an overview of the history of our partnership with KTU/VMU, and highlighted the "2019 Special Commemorative Lecture" by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, H.E. Gitanas Nausėda and his Honorary Doctorate Awarding Ceremony.



"Beneficial Cooperation: Lithuania-Refugees -Sugihara"

December 11

A commemorative lecture titled "Beneficial Cooperation: Lithuania-Refugees-Sugihara" was delivered virtually by Dr. Simonas Strelcovas (Siauliai University). In the lecture, he expounded on the socio-political situation in Lithuania leading up to the ordeals of Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution, and the act of humanity demonstrated by Chiune Sugihara during WWII.



Lithuania Study Meeting in Yaotsu Town

December 12

GU-GLOCAL organized "Lithuania Study Meeting in Yaotsu Town" in Gifu where one of our graduate students made a presentation about her short-term study in VMU in 2019. She spoke about her motivations, goals for studying abroad, achievements and life in Lithuania. Listening to her firsthand narrative stimulated the audience's interest in Lithuania.



Career Development Program for International Students commissioned by MEXT

Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students

Gifu Region Workshop

October 28

Our consortium members (Gifu University, Gifu Prefecture, Gifu Employers' Association, and JETRO Gifu) co-hosted the "Gifu Region Workshop" to assist international students in seeking employment in local industries in the Gifu area. Information sharing and opinion exchanges between international students and business representatives have always played a critical role in paving the way for the students' successful employment in Japan.



Online Meeting with Gifu University Graduates

January 23, 2021

The Consortium also hosted the "Online Meeting with Gifu University Graduates." Five graduates who had successfully found employment in Japan were invited to offer advice to the 17 international students wishing to work in Japan. Words of encouragement from the old grads helped the new graduates develop a better understanding about job seeking and work in Japan.



Studying in GU

The Best Gift from the God to Study Abroad



Wingki Mey Hendra
Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology



I said it is a best gift from the god that I am a student in Gifu University. I had twice failed when applying to the school, but I did not give up until finally I was declared as a student for autumn admission 2019. Being a student in this brilliant University I got many experiences that never had before, like operating the expensive equipment by myself and touching four seasons. Furthermore, I join many activities outside of campus, like being a teacher assistant in an elementary school, joining meeting with Gifu NGO, and doing some part time jobs. From these experiences, I can learn the Japanese culture, how to use good manners, discipline, and hardworking Japanese people are. Thank gods for this present and thanks to my beloved mom 'RAMAITI' who always supports my dream.





GU carries out a wide range of events during the annual international month with the view to facilitating intercultural understanding among students and staff. In "International Month 2020" in October, despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic, a number of international programs were undertaken thanks to the availability of latest digital technologies.

See the World Through Google Earth VR

October 7

Through the amazing Google Earth VR technology, participants were able to take a virtual reality tour of overseas partner universities. They also experienced "mixed reality" using a device called HoloLens 2, and operating Double 3 for remote communications. These state-of-the-art technologies are expected to spearhead Japan's endeavors for digital transformation.



International PR Exhibition | October 9 - 29

GU-GLOCAL hosted a photographic exhibition by one of our Engineering professors, Takashi Sugiura. The exhibition titled "International PR Exhibition - PR Activities of GU-GLOCAL & Nature of Gifu University" was held in the University Library. Guests on and off campus were welcome to view breathtaking photographs featuring seasonal changes on campus as well as highlights of the Lithuanian President's commemorative speech (2019), etc.



English Circle of Friends (EC)

October 14 and 28

We entered AY2020 at the beginning of the Covid pandemic without knowing what to expect with English Circle (EC). In spite of the initial cancellation of all club activities on campus, we were able to resume EC at the end of June. Although the option to move it online was offered, an overwhelming majority surveyed stated their preference for face-to-face meetings (of course with strict protective measures and social distancing). With so many events going virtual this year, perhaps students are once again realizing the value of in-person communication. EC events went on as planned for the rest of the year with greater participation from old and new members.



Online Chat Meetings with Students of Partner Universities | October 14 - 29

Student exchanges offer many great benefits for students interested in exploring other cultures. And when people can't meet in person, modern technology allows us to meet each other virtually. For this reason, the "Online Chat Meetings with Students of Partner Universities" was organized, with seven sessions held separately between GU and four partner universities overseas. A total of 103 students enjoyed communicating in both English & Japanese about topics ranging from campus life to different food cultures, enriching their views of other cultures.



Online Study Abroad AY 2020 Briefing Sessions

December 18 and 23

COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted our short-term study-abroad programs this summer. Our students, who would normally be traveling and studying on the campuses of our partner universities, were unable to do so. All the host institutions' decision to move their ESL courses online in light of COVID-19 meant that many prospective students had to give up or defer their plans to study abroad. Information sessions for online ESL courses were conducted at the end of the year. The final results based on the number of students who registered indicate that around 39% of prospective students were willing to study online. The briefing session was posted in GU-GLOCAL Channel.



Studying Abroad

Be Yourself in Online-Study Abroad

University of Alberta



Aimi Matsui
Faculty of Regional Studies



I learned the lifestyles, culture, and the World Heritages of Canada from pictures and videos through a two-week-lecture. The online classes made me feel like I could go there. Though many Japanese students participated in this online study abroad program, I tried hard to speak only English even though we chatted with only Japanese. I sometimes had chances to talk with exchange students from many other countries enrolling at the University of Alberta. I also tried to speak to them using my English as much as possible to enjoy the conversations. I think you can improve your English skills and enjoy global communication enough through the online study abroad program.



General Agreement for Collaboration with The University of South Florida concluded

December 15



Gifu University and The University of South Florida (USF) signed the General Agreement for Collaboration on December 15, 2020. As a public university, USF has one of the largest student enrollment (approximately 50,000) and is highly recognized for its world-class education and research activities. The partnership between the two institutions started in 1989, and in October 2016, Gifu University School of Medicine and the Health Administration Center signed the General Agreement for Collaboration with USF. The new university-level agreement is expected to promote both institutions' productive, fruitful partnership long into the future.



Courtesy Call by Consul Général from Consulat Général de France à Kyoto

December 22



Consul Général Jules Irrmann and his delegation (including the members of Japan-France Association in Gifu) paid a courtesy visit to Gifu University to further strengthen Gifu University's academic ties with our French partner institutions: Paris-Sud University (2014) and University of Lille (2020). The French delegation and President Hisataka Moriawaki exchanged views on academic exchanges, study abroad programs, and research on space engineering. Consul Général Irrmann also had the opportunity to observe a French II class and spoke directly to the students about the cultural differences between the two countries and the French government's COVID-19 responses.

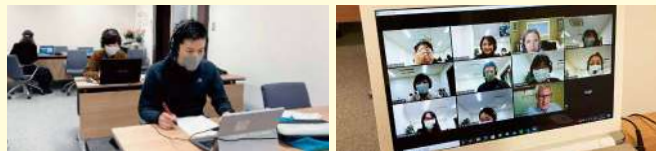


Gifu University Administrative Training Online 2020

October 26 – 30



In a "normal" year, GU would be dispatching two staff to the Alberta Administrative Training Program, a professional development program for workplace English designed in close collaboration with our partner institution in Canada. The ongoing global uncertainty resulted in offering the training through virtual instruction. Ten administrative staff were able to take advantage of the online training with minimal disruptions to their regular office work. On the final day, participants gave their PPT presentations showcasing the significant progress they had made during the training. This is the first-ever for GU staff. Crisis does bring about new changes!

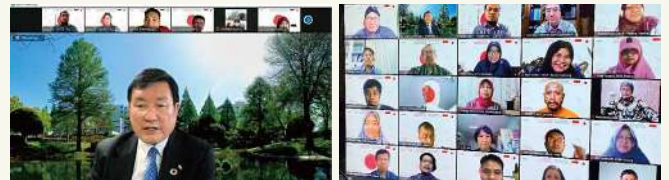


Graduation and Welcome Party

October 29



The Committee of Gifu University Alumni Association Indonesia Chapter hosted the virtual "Graduation and Welcome Party" to congratulate the batch of 2020 GU autumn graduates and welcome their new membership to the alumni committee. GU has concluded 12 university- and faculty-level agreements with Indonesian universities. Many excellent Indonesian students have already received their formal education in diverse disciplines at GU. After research presentations by 13 graduates, the participants enjoyed casual conversations and reminisced on the good old days at GU.



SDGs Study Sessions for Glocalization

GU's "glocalization" policy extends to Gifu Prefecture and the broader Tokai Region with the aim of making the most of vital assets such as global human resources, information systems and networks. To this end, we launched SDGs online study sessions in AY 2020. A total of five sessions were hosted with the participation of prominent researchers on and off campus in an effort to promote glocalization in regions and create a sustainable society.

	Theme
1st Session	Glocalization in the Era of Bioeconomy
2nd Session	Introductory for Biomass Use
3rd Session	Industry Community's Expectations for Bio-strategy
4th Session	Biopesticide and Overseas Trends
5th Session	Comprehensive Analysis of Food Components (tools for high-added value)



The 3rd Session

January 22, 2021

The 3rd SDGs Study Session on the theme of "Industry Community's Expectations for Bio-strategy" was conducted. With the participation of Mr. Yuji Sakamoto (Japan Bioindustry Association) as a guest presenter, the webinar offered GU staffers and members in the private sector an opportunity to gain new insights into bioindustry's contribution to society and the industry community's expectations for the future of bioindustry.



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