



Tripartite Talk with Dr. Kenichiro Mogi

October 11



A hybrid tripartite session, "Are you enjoying your learning? - Thinking about a PhD and Japanese society from now on with Prof. Mogi" was held at Gifu University Auditorium involving President Hisataka Moriwaki, Professor Tetsuji Kume (Faculty of Engineering) of Gifu University and special guest speaker Dr. Kenichiro Mogi, a senior researcher at Sony Computer Science Laboratories. Different views were exchanged on the current state of PhD both at home and abroad. The presenters also shared some of the challenges and excitements they experienced as PhD students and fielded questions from the audience. "What matters most is "what you want to explore." Your undertaking of a PhD degree at Gifu University will no doubt open up immense possibilities," concluded Dr. Mogi. We are convinced that the exchanges fostered a reaffirmation among the listeners the true benefits of earning a higher graduate degree.



Joint Degree Programs

Gifu Joint Degree (JD) Symposium 2021

December 9 and 10

Tokai National Higher Education and Research System (THERS) and GU-GLOCAL co-hosted the 3rd international JD meeting on December 9 and 10 (both in person and online). The Symposium consisted of three sessions: "THERS JDP* Symposium," "Academic Session," and "Industry-Government-Academic-Banking Institution Collaboration Session." In the "THERS JDP Symposium" session, Ms. Orié Kishimoto, leader of the International Strategy Team, Higher Education Bureau, MEXT, delivered a keynote speech titled, "Joint Degree Programs in New Normal Era." In her speech, she spoke about the impacts of the continuing pandemic on the lives of international students, job-hunting support programs, advantages and future direction of joint degree programs, etc.

*JDP: Joint Degree Program



Interuniversity JDP Council of Japan

In April 2022, the "Interuniversity JDP Council of Japan" will launch its operations to fulfill the following objectives: 1) review and enhance JDP operations in each member university, 2) explore the possibilities of JDP, 3) share information, 4) make proposals/requests to MEXT, and 5) support universities' initiatives to commence JDP. As Council Chair, Gifu University pledges to promote internationalization and further growth of higher education in Japan.

2021 Collaborative Video Making Program (CVMP)

August – November



Initially launched in 2020, "Collaborative Video Making Program (CVMP)" provides students from three partner universities (GU, IITG and UKM) opportunities to engage in virtual joint video making activities. In "2021 CVMP," eight GU students, four IITG students and four UKM students were divided into four teams; and under professional guidance, the team members from their respective universities collaborated for four months to create videos of their campus lives. In the "Final Competition for CVMP on Webinar" on November 30, the best performing team received the Best CVMP Award. After the competition, positive feedback from the participants included such comments as "enhanced English communication skills," "built strong friendship with the teammates," and "developed video making skills," etc.



Beacon of Light for Studying Abroad

November 24

GU-GLOCAL hosted a virtual study abroad orientation, "Beacon of Light for Studying Abroad" to provide crucial safety information for students intending to study or travel abroad in the near future. The presentations included such topics as "enhancing one's self-awareness and emergency preparedness" and "Gifu University's study abroad programs." In the first session, Dr. Mayumi Yamamoto, Director/Professor of the Health Administration Center, Gifu University spoke about pre-departure mental and physical preparation and health management while overseas. In the second session, Assistant Professor Mio Horie (Faculty of Regional Studies) presented both the updates on studying abroad and a heads-up about sexual violence more prevalent on campuses abroad, etc. The orientation was also livestreamed for a wider audience.



Studying Abroad



Nanami Kajimura
Faculty of Engineering

Griffith University
Online
ESL* Program



Australia

Joys and Inspirations brought by my participation in "Online Study Abroad Course"

My strong determination to study abroad motivated me to participate in the "Online Study Abroad Course" offered by GU. While I was gearing up to study abroad during my first year at GU, the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic making border-crossing extremely difficult for anyone for the past two years. I became frustrated day by day thinking that I am simply wasting my precious time. When I joined the virtual ESL* program of Griffith University (Australia), I was very impressed with this innovative digital platform which afforded me an opportunity to meet people in other countries and be exposed to diverse set of values, distinctive approaches/attitudes towards studying foreign languages, etc. I am very fortunate to have such a profound experience networking with classmates and instructors from other countries online.

*ESL: English as a Second Language



GU International Students' Exchange with Local Citizens

With broad support from various international organizations, public schools and institutions within Gifu Prefecture, Gifu University implements a wide-range of cultural exchange programs to help our international students deepen their understanding of Japanese culture through interactions with local citizens.



The "Online Home Visit" program hosted by the Gifu City International Exchange Association was attended by nine GU students this year. They enjoyed viewing videos created by their host families introducing Gifu City's major tourist attractions such as Ukai cormorant fishing on the Nagara River, Gifu Castle, anime, etc. The participants were excited about discovering the city's traditional charms and expressed their deep appreciation for their host families' hospitality.



Four international students in the Center for Japanese Language and Culture, Gifu University attended the Gujo city online staff training program and shared their views on Gujo City's attractions with the city officials. The students also talked about their motivations for studying Japanese and things/events they found most interesting while living in Japan.

November 27 and 28
Online Home Visit hosted by the Gifu City International Exchange Association

December 15
Virtual Exchange with Ichinomiya City International Association members

January 27, 2022
Gujo city online staff training program (Gujo City Tourism Cross-Cultural Communication Program)

February 24, 2022
Virtual Exchange with Nishin Elementary School (Ogaki City, Gifu)

Career Development Program for International Students

Gifu University has been an active member of "Aigi Career Development Consortium* for International Students" from its inception in 2017. The University, Gifu Prefectural Government, Gifu Employers' Association and JETRO Gifu have been co-hosting seminars/workshops to assist international students to find employment in local enterprises. These seminars include opportunities for direct communications with business representatives, programs for job-seeking protocols in Japan, exchange meetings with alumni, experience-oriented training, one-on-one consultation services, etc. We hope that these programs will continue to help foreign students develop a better understanding about Japanese corporate culture and pursue successful professional careers in Japan.

*Consortium consists of 6 universities and 9 organizations.



Gifu Region Workshop 2021 (October 27)

The 20th Japanese Speech Competition by International Students Residing in Gifu Prefecture | December 4

Since 2001, the Gifu Regional Council for the Promotion of International Exchange has annually hosted the "Japanese Speech Competition by international Students Residing in Gifu Prefecture." The 20th competition held in Chubugakuin University (Kakamigahara City, Gifu) was attended by nine international students representing four countries. Two of three international students from GU were presented the highest award and award of excellence respectively and all the participants shared a moment of joy and celebration with the winners. The speeches delivered and responses to the questions from judges truly reflected each individual's sincerity and diligence in their Japanese studies. The 20th competition was livestreamed on GU YouTube for the first time.



Studying in GU



Thiara Celine Estavillo Suarez
Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology



The Philippines

Gifu University – A Venue for Learning and Experiencing the Japanese Culture

My coming to Japan was made possible because of the partnership between Mariano Marcos State University & Gifu University and being part of this strong partnership provided me with great privileges in many aspects. I get to pursue advanced courses in my field of work, and I get to work in a world-class laboratory with hands-on supervision. And through this, I continue to acquire more knowledge and laboratory techniques that I can use when I go back to my home country. I also get to meet and build strong connections with international researchers to collaborate with in the future. Finally, I get to enjoy the Japanese culture and the company of my newfound friends-turned-family from the Horticulture Laboratory.



SDGs Online Study Sessions for Glocalization

Since its inception in 2020, "SDGs Online Study Sessions for Glocalization" have been providing GU students, staff and local residents opportunities to exchange views on glocal* issues and creation of a sustainable society. In 2021, topics focused on reaching ultimate goals for carbon neutrality. The 11 sessions covered diverse topics in machinery, energy, food science technology, biomass, agriculture, etc.

*glocal: global + local



International Month 2021

October

GU-GLOCAL implements a wide-range of international exchange events and activities during the annual campus "International Month." This year, "International Month 2021" kicked off in October. One of the events that marked International Month is "English Circle of Friends" held on the 13th and the 27th where Japanese students, staff and international students gathered during the lunch break for informal English conversation. This month's topic focused on "How was your summer holiday?" and "The Fall Season." The Circle is designed not only to bring together students interested in English communication but also a venue for participants to build friendships.



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Gifu Region Workshop

GU Professors Joined Online "English-Medium Instruction" Provided by UofA

September 8 - 30

Nine GU professors (Engineering and Applied Biological Sciences) took part in an online training program, "English-Medium Instruction (EMI)" provided by the English Language School, University of Alberta (UofA), Canada. Participants took two courses, each of which included seven sessions involving 120-minute synchronous instructions per session through Zoom video conferencing platform. The topics covered included "introduction to student-centered learning and active learning," "attitude for EMI by non-native speakers of English," "cutting-edge techniques for developing intelligible pronunciation in English," "the components of effective lesson planning for the higher education classroom," "writing appropriate learning outcomes," etc. The participants were also acquainted with up-to-date online tools useful for student-centered learning and efficient assessment. Some participants said that they became more acquainted with useful tools for virtual classes, reaffirmed the significance of student-centered learning, and expressed their appreciation for valuable feedback from their course instructor.



Chargés d'Affaires ad interim of the Republic of Lithuania visits GU

November 5

Mr. Algimantas Misevičius, Chargés d'Affaires ad interim of the Republic of Lithuania paid a courtesy call at Gifu University's Office of the President. President Hisataka Moriwaki and Mr. Misevičius talked about the long-standing relationship between Gifu University and Lithuania including our university-level partnership with Kaunas University of Technology and Vytautas Magnus University. After the meeting, the Chargés d'Affaires was invited to meet with GU students on campus. Many questions were raised from the students asking about cultural differences/similarities between the two countries, etc. Students who are contemplating studying abroad in Lithuania in the near future listened with great interest and gained some insights into life in Lithuania.



The 7th ICCC 2021

November 18

The United Graduate School of Agricultural Science (UGSAS), Gifu University and Universitas Sebelas Maret (Indonesia) co-hosted the "7th International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC) 2021: Can Vaccine Protect Us Against Climate Change?" held on virtual platform. Since its establishment, ICCC members have been closely monitoring the impacts of climate change on the environment and human lives and tackling various challenges on environmental conservation. The 7th conference was attended by 270 people who shared their views on climate change from multiple perspectives such as the emergence of new infectious diseases, vaccines, changing environment, agriculture, law, socioeconomics, culture, etc.



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