



GIFU UNIVERSITY NEWS Letter

Japan



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For International Exchange
Gifu University

March 2023



GU President Attended Japan-India University Forum

January 23



On January 23, 2023, President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro of Gifu University (GU) attended the "First Japan-India University Forum" held in Tokyo. The forum was hosted by the Japan Science and Technology Agency under the title, "Active Academic Exchange between Japan and India, Agendas to Address: Development of Young Talent for Innovations." Presidents and representatives from ten universities in India and 22 universities in Japan participated in the forum and discussed how to accelerate partnerships between India and Japan.

In the first session, university presidents from both countries delivered speeches on successful examples and achievements in the interchange between Japan and India, and challenges for further development of bilateral relationships. The second session began with a roundtable meeting, in which participants exchanged opinions on human resource development and partnerships between Japanese and Indian universities. In both sessions, President Yoshida explained the GU's close relationship with the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), the current state of JDP¹ implementation with IITG, the National University of Malaysia (UKM), and so on. He also mentioned that the program, "Education for Highly-Skilled Human Resources in Northeast India and Tokai Area based on Glocal² JDP Platform," was adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) last year. We hope this strong partnership between GU and IITG will play a crucial role in facilitating dynamic cooperation between Japan and India in the years to come.

- 1) JDP is an abbreviation for Joint Degree Programs
- 2) Glocal is a combination of "global" and "local"



IITG Professors Visited to GU

December 21-26

From December 21 to 26, four professors from IITG, Dr. Vaibhav V. Goud, Dr. Sudip Mitra, Dr. S. Kanagaraj, and Dr. Chandan Das, visited President Yoshida. GU is currently implementing the program called, "Education for Highly-Skilled Human Resources in Northeast India and Tokai Area based on Glocal JDP Platform" of MEXT. The program financed the visits of four professors from India. Under the program, two universities are focusing on creation of a new "Joint-International Certificate (master's degree)" for students to be acknowledged as highly skilled glocal talent. To this end, GU and IITG continue to collaborate through the JDP Consortium, a framework of partnerships among industry, government, academia, and banking institutions. In the meeting with the president, the four professors from IITG shared strong expectations for commencing the new certificate, as it may showcase one of the most successful achievements of the two institutions' continued collaboration since the launch of JDP in April 2019.

JDP symposium and discussions for Joint-International Certificate are scheduled at IITG in March, 2023.





Online Chat Meetings

October 19 and 21

As part of "International Month 2022," GU hosted "Online Chat Meetings with Students from Partner Universities Overseas." Online communication technologies have enabled anyone to engage in virtual meetings in real time. Two online meetings were held with the GU academic staff as moderators. One was with the Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania, 19 attended), and the other with the University of Lille (France, 15 attended). Both meetings began with a brief overview of each country. In the following group discussions, participants enjoyed talking about campus life, culture, and so on, in Japanese and English. We hope that these online chat meetings continue to contribute to the development of faculty and student exchange between GU and its partner universities in the days to come.



Study Abroad Fair in Autumn 2022

November 16

On November 16, GU-GLOCAL hosted "Study Abroad Fair in Autumn 2022: Let's expand our human network of studying abroad." In the first session, the Inbound and Outbound Student Affairs Office staff explained study abroad programs and scholarships available to GU students. This was followed by presentations by senior students about their experiences abroad. In the second session, the students were free to visit the booths set up by senior students and directly ask them about the details of the programs and their first-hand experience abroad. After the fair, we received positive feedback from students concerning opportunities for direct communication among the participants. We hope that "Study Abroad Fair in Autumn 2022" and the human connections formed among participants will continue to inspire GU students to pursue international education in the near future.



The 21st Japanese Speech Competition by International Students residing in Gifu Prefecture

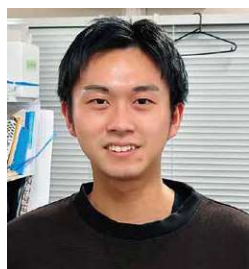
November 26

The Gifu Regional Council for the Promotion of International Exchange (GU serving as an administrative office) hosted the "21st Japanese Speech Competition by International Students residing in Gifu Prefecture" at the Kitagata Campus, Gifu Kyoritsu University (Ogaki City, Gifu Prefecture) on November 26. Since 2001, the competition has aimed to raise international students' interest in Japanese and enhance their proficiency. After opening speeches by President TAKEUCHI Haruhiko from Gifu Kyoritsu University and President Yoshida from GU, nine students from six countries studying at six universities¹ gave seven-minute speeches in Japanese. All their speeches demonstrated their sincere efforts to study Japanese. After every speech, the competition judges asked the speakers about their presentation themes, content, and so on. From GU, Ms. Liu Siran delivered a speech titled, "Organize Life through Decluttering." Although she looked nervous at first, her easy-to-understand Japanese convinced the judges and audiences of the true merits of decluttering.

1) Six universities: Gifu Kyoritsu University, Asahi University, Nakanihon Automotive College, International Takumi Academy, Chubu Gakuin University, and Gifu University



Studying Abroad



UMEHARA Akira
Graduate School of
Natural Science and Technology

GU-IITG
JD Program



What I Have Learned at IITG, India

I was fascinated by the student exchange program, which allows me to pursue research activities at both universities; so I participated in the Joint Degree Program between GU and the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG). During my stay of about five and a half months, I felt very hot and humid at the beginning; but still had a comfortable stay from fall onward. While in India, I was exposed to many different cultures and educational methods from Japan. Many times I was faced with situations where I couldn't express my own opinions and research contents in English well and therefore, I was keenly aware of my lack of communication and expression skills. All of my Indian friends and teachers, however, respected my willingness to take on challenges rather than hesitating because I was afraid of making mistakes. Thus, I've developed a habit of trial and error thinking. As such, I was able to spend a very meaningful time growing while immersed in another culture.



Interuniversity JDP Council of Japan Launched

With GU serving as a chair, the first “General Meeting for Interuniversity JDP Council of Japan” was held online on October 25, with 109 attendees from 29 universities and one institution in Japan. In April 2022, 12 universities and 26 (as of March 1, 2023) observer-status universities established the council as members. Its major objectives include: 1) seeking solutions to challenges that arise from JDP operations and sharing information among universities before and after JDP implementation; 2) discussing how to tap on JDP resources for education and research purposes and envisioning JDP’s future possibilities; 3) collecting opinions from member universities and making proposals for MEXT; and 4) offering advice to universities for their newly introduced JDP. After an opening address by Dr. MATSUO Seiichi, Chancellor of Tokai National Higher Education and Research System (THERS), and Professor UEMATSU Yoshihiko from GU (Council Chairperson), Ms. TAKEDA Kuniko from the Higher Education Bureau, MEXT delivered a speech titled “Joint Degree 101.” First, she briefly introduced JDP, then spoke about the current state of JDP operations in Japan, and the program modifications made so far for better execution of JDP. After her speech, the participants held discussions on the meeting agenda, including effective JDP operations, proposals for MEXT, the number of academic staff necessary for JDP, and career paths chosen by JDP graduate students. Finally, representatives of six universities¹ made presentations on their respective efforts for JDP operations. The audience was given insights into the challenges individual universities face, their strong commitment to enforcing JDP, and proposals for MEXT.

The proposals for MEXT discussed at the General Meeting were subsequently submitted to the Director-General of the Higher Education Bureau, MEXT by Prof. Uematsu together with Dr. Matsuo on December 16, as “A Letter of Request Regarding the Operation of Joint Degree Programs.”

1) Six universities: Nagoya University, University of Tsukuba, Ritsumeikan University, Hiroshima University, Yamaguchi University, and Tokyo Medical and Dental University



Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2022

November 30 and December 1

“Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2022” opened both online and offline on November 30 and December 1. The symposium consisted three sessions: “THERS JDP Symposium,” “Academic Session,” and “Industry-Government-Academia-Banking Institution Collaboration Session.” In the first “THERS JDP Symposium,” two invited guest speakers delivered speeches; Mr. WATANABE Eiji from MEXT (“International exchange among students and universities in the post-COVID society”), and Ms. KAWAI Mai from METI¹, (“How to secure highly skilled global talents: bridge between JD and business communities”). In the “Academic Session,” presentations on “Biomass Utilization Technology for Carbon-free Society” were given by scholars from IITG, UKM, Kyoto University and the University of Tokyo. In the last “Industry-Government-Academia-Banking Institution Collaboration Session,” representatives from local industries, governments, academia, and banking institutions exchanged their views on the SDGs² and how to attain carbon neutrality from the viewpoint of glocalization.

1) METI: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
2) SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals, a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future” set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030



Cold Weather Gear Presented by a Construction Firm in Tokyo

September 30

On September 30, a construction firm in Tokyo presented approximately 90 cold-weather gears of multiple sizes to GU through the Japan Emergency Food Organization and the Japan Association of National Universities. GU continues to accept international students from around 30 countries, despite difficulties arising from the prolonged impact of the pandemic on campus. These warm clothes are distributed to international students during emergencies. Students expressed their appreciation to the firm for its kind support and consideration of the health and safety of students studying at the university.



Studying at GU



Nawurunnage Kalani Nimeja Rangani

Graduate School of Education



Sri Lanka

A Beautiful Home away from Home

My first enrolment with the faculty of education of the prestigious Gifu University as a research student was in 2017 courtesy of the MEXT scholarship. Now I am a proud holder of the Rotary Scholarship. I’m a second-year master’s student at the University majoring in Music. I would say without any hesitation that the academic environment and the love and care I received from Gifu University is unparalleled in my life. Also, I humbly mention that my professor MATSUNAGA Yosuke who is in charge of the music department is my pillar of strength throughout this whole journey. I am also grateful for the guidance of Rotarians which kept me a step ahead and strengthen me to aiming my goals. Armed with all the knowledge and skills, I have gained my determination to spread the Japanese music learning system in Sri Lanka. Thank you Gifu University, for being my mentor.





Inter-University Exchange Project Winter School Program 2022

December 12-26

GU-GLOCAL resumed a short-term inbound program, “Winter School Program¹⁾” that was suspended in 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. In the 6th Winter School Program 2022, six students from IITG and two from UKM joined the program from December 12 through December 26. With “Gifu, Home to Pottery Making” as a main theme, eight students studied pottery manufacturing and businesses in Gifu and Japan, specifically its manufacturing methods, materials used which are widely different by areas of production. They were also given the opportunity to experience traditional pot making in Tajimi City (eastern Gifu) and join a company inspection to learn more about contemporary pottery businesses. In addition to their studies on pottery, the students attended Japanese language classes, participated in cultural activities, and learned about the Japanese corporate environment and regional affairs. On the final day of the program, the students gave a presentation on what they had learned from the Winter School Program in 2022.



1) Winter School Program is supported by MEXT's “Inter-University Exchange Project”



Gifu University Study Abroad Fair 2022 in Shanghai

November 29

The Gifu University Shanghai Office hosted the “Gifu University Study Abroad Fair 2022” on November 29 at the Xianda College of Economics and Humanities Shanghai International Studies University in Shanghai, China. The Fair was conducted online and offline and attended by approximately 150 university students (50 joined offline and 100 joined online) studying Japanese at the university. As GU is a constituent member of THERS with Nagoya University (Aichi Prefecture) as its partner, many participants asked questions about this new, unique academic framework and the relationship between the two universities.



“Glocal Lesson” Website Renewed

Viewers of “Glocal Lesson” (<https://www.gu-glocal.com>)¹⁾ started by GU-GLOCAL in April 2022 can learn a wide range of academic courses in the forms of video streaming and in-person platform. The renewed website offers viewers easy access to lessons based on their choices. They can also share lesson information with others through social media platforms. In addition, the newly launched “Recommended Courses” help viewers find the most popular courses in each academic field.

We heartily welcome people's access to the new “Glocal Lesson” website for their continued exploration of academic interests.

1) This website is available only in Japanese

QR code for free membership registration



IITG Students Completed their Studies at GU

October 18

On October 18, five IITG students completed their studies of “International Joint Department of Food Science and Technology between Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Gifu University (master's degree)” at GU. The department is one of the four JDP jointly launched by GU, IITG, and UKM in 2019. Supported by the “Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Study in Japan under Agreement) 2022” of Japan Student Services Organization, five students arrived on campus on June 14, 2022, and began their four-month studies. They attended lectures and engaged in research activities in their laboratories under the joint supervision of IITG and GU academic staff. They also participated in internship programs offered by Japanese companies. On October 17, a farewell was held for the students. GU student studying at IITG (online participation, please see “What I Have Learned at IITG, India” on page 2), GU students planning to study at IITG for AY 2023, Professor KOYAMA Hiroyuki (Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences, GU, one of original contributors to the launch of JDP), and Designated Professor MIWA Shinichi (GU-GLOCAL) who coordinated internship programs for students attended the farewell. Professor Koyama expressed his wishes for the five students to play future roles as a bridge between Japan and India. Professor Miwa moderated the time allotted for students to share their experiences of internships with others. In India, five students will continue to work on their respective research themes to obtain international joint degree diplomas by June 2023.



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Newsletters for International Exchange Gifu University

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GU-GLOCAL Channel

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