



## Meetings with the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan and Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania in Gifu

May 31 and June 2



On May 31, Vice President KAMBARA Shinji and Professor MOURI Tetsuya held a meeting with the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania in Gifu, Mr. MURASE Yukio. They also met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan, Dr. Aurelijus Zykas in Tokyo on June 2.

Currently, Gifu University<sup>1)</sup> has exchanged agreements with Vytautas Magnus University (VMU, concluded in 2012) and Kaunas University of Technology (KTU, concluded in 2010) in Lithuania. These universities continued to engage in various exchange activities even during the coronavirus pandemic. Moreover, a “Lithuania Study” course is being offered to students in GU to help them become familiar with Lithuania.

In both meetings, GU representatives reported about seven GU members' visits to VMU and KTU in March 2023 to discuss the launch of a new joint degree program<sup>2)</sup> with VMU, and the continued partnership with KTU. In a meeting with Mr. Murase, they talked about future collaboration between universities and business communities. In Tokyo, his Excellency, Dr. Zykas, and the GU staff shared their views on reinforcing friendships between Lithuania and Gifu University.

GU continues to build a strong bond with Lithuania, whose long-standing partnership started with the Japanese diplomat, SUGIHARA Chiune<sup>3)</sup> from Yaotsu Town, Gifu Prefecture.

1) hereinafter called “GU”

2) A joint degree program (JDP) offers an international graduate school-level education that enables students to complete their master's or PhD studies while being enrolled in GU and its overseas partner universities. A joint diploma is conferred to a student from GU and its overseas partner university.

3) SUGIHARA Chiune (January 1, 1900 - July 31, 1986)

A Japanese diplomat who served as Vice-Consul for the Empire of Japan in Lithuania. During World War II, he helped thousands of Jews leave Lithuania by issuing transit visas so that they could travel to Japanese territory, risking his career and his family's lives.



## H.E. Mr. Rachad BOUHLAL, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to Japan paid a courtesy call to Gifu University

May 2

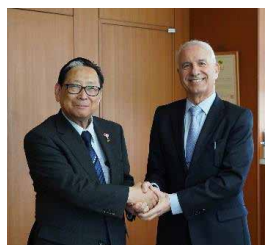


On May 2, H.E. Mr. Rachad BOUHLAL, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to Japan paid a courtesy call to GU.

In a meeting with the board members (President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro, Vice President SUGIYAMA Makoto, Vice President KAMBARA Shinji, and Executive Director KOYAMA Hiroyuki of GU-GLOCAL<sup>1)</sup>), the Ambassador was first introduced to the university. They discussed the natural environment, energy development, major businesses and industries, and higher education in Morocco. At the end of the meeting, they agreed to build a strong new partnership between GU and universities in Morocco.

After the meeting, the Ambassador was invited to inspect two research facilities on campus: the Intelligent Production Technology Research & Development Center for Aerospace and the Institute for Glyco-core Research (IGCORE). We strongly hope that the Ambassador's visit to GU marks a significant step in initiating active interactions among students and faculty in the two countries.

1) Gifu University Organization for Promotion of Glocalization





# Studying Abroad

## Spring School Program 2023

March 3 - 14

In collaboration with IITG<sup>1)</sup>, GU-GLOCAL has offered GU students a Spring School Program. Ten selected students took part in the program at IITG from March 3 to 14, 2023.

While studying at IITG, GU students visited Kaziranga National Park (one of the biggest parks in Assam), a folk museum, and a Bhutanese-style temple to understand the great diversity of Indian culture. They were also invited to meet a seed farmer and inspect a confectionary factory or a tea plantation. On campus, students participated in a workshop to learn how to utilize bamboo resources. They also had the opportunity to visit laboratories in JDP-related departments.

During "Holi" (the festival of colors), GU students observed the distinctive culture of northeastern India and enjoyed mingling and interacting with local students.

On the final day, March 14, GU students gave a poster presentation and answered questions in English. All the students successfully completed the program and received certificates of completion.

1) Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Assam, India



## Study Abroad Fair Spring 2023

April 19

The "Study Abroad Fair Spring 2023: Take the first step forward to the world" began with an overview of study abroad programs given by the inbound and outbound student affairs office. This was followed by explanations of TOEFL and IELTS by the staff of ETS Japan and the Eiken Foundation of Japan. Subsequently, students who participated in summer school programs, studied abroad as exchange students, or went overseas on the Valor and V Drug Overseas Training Scholarship spoke about their experiences of studying overseas. They mentioned their improved language skills, discoveries of different values and friendships. They also said that their invaluable experiences helped them grow and mature into responsible members of society.



After the meeting, some students continued asking questions about the study abroad programs and enquired about the senior students' experiences abroad.

## Orientation for Crisis Management when Traveling Abroad

June 28

The "Orientation for Crisis Management when Traveling Abroad 2023" was held to raise awareness amongst university students and staff members planning to go abroad concerning the risks of accidents or crimes, and how to avoid becoming a victim.

First, Dr. YAMAMOTO Mayumi, Director/Professor of the Health Administration Center spoke about the necessary mental and medical preparations before going abroad. This was followed by a speech by Mr. HATTORI Makoto, former chairperson of the Japanese Council for the Safety of Overseas Students concerning how to stay vigilant during a crisis and protect themselves from harm.

Finally, information on risk management support desks and travel insurance programs was shared with the audience.

Students learned a lot about accidents/crimes that actually occurred overseas, safety information from other countries, and a comparison of medical systems and insurance programs between Japan and the rest of the world.



## Studying Abroad



**TOHARA Yurina**

Faculty of Regional Studies

University of Technology, Sydney



### My unforgettable memories of studying at UTS, Australia

I was fortunate to spend one year studying at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Australia, as an exchange student from GU. I truly enjoyed my stay there through my interactions with people at school and in the community. Besides my studies at UTS, I traveled around a lot, and often ventured out to the world that was totally unknown to me. At UTS, I was blessed with many opportunities to communicate with students from around the world. Through my participation in various types of fieldwork and discussions with my classmates, I have developed a deep understanding of Australia as a multi-ethnic country consisting of people with diverse ethnic backgrounds. At times, I faced problems due to language barriers and encountered different values nurtured by Australian people for years; however, the kindness of the people in Australia including my dear friends, made it one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life.





The "Summer School 2023" resumed after a three-year cancellation because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Summer school programs open to international students from GU's partner universities overseas. Seven students from three universities (Northern Kentucky University [USA], National University of Malaysia [Malaysia], and Guangxi University [China]) attended school in 2023. In addition to their studies on Japanese, they visited two cities in Gifu Prefecture. The first is Seki City, where students observed traditional sword forging. The other is Gujo City, which is famous for traditional midsummer bon dancing. Students listened to local people talk about the dance. They also had the opportunity to attend the Nohgaku workshop and learned to make ice cream at a farm.

All students stayed in a shared-room unit of U・TOPIA LAND<sup>1)</sup>, with the support of Japanese volunteers.

1) GU designated apartment buildings that offer Japanese and international students safe and quiet living environments.



## Hosted by the Center for Japanese Language and Culture (CJLC)

### Gujo Dance Workshop 2023

May 17

The CJLC hosted the "Gujo Dance Workshop 2023" on May 17, which was attended by 20 international students. Gujo Dance is a significant intangible folk cultural asset in Japan and a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. The workshops were held every year from 2012 to 2019 but were suspended because of the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Students demonstrated smooth performances after practicing for approximately 90 minutes. Even those struggling to master unique movements were encouraged by the following words of the instructors, "It is not a matter of being good or bad. Enjoying dancing with big smiles is what this workshop is all about." Inspired by their words, the participants relaxed and began to enjoy moving well into the music.

Ten students were chosen as "Best Performers" for their strong passion and sincere efforts at dancing.



### Nohgaku Workshop for International and Japanese Students 2023

July 5

The CJLC hosted the "Nohgaku Workshop for International and Japanese Students 2023" on July 5. The CJLC has hosted workshops since 2005, inviting professional Nohgaku actors. On July 5, approximately 50 people attended the workshop. International students who were taking part in the summer school program at GU were also given the opportunity to witness Nohgaku performance firsthand.

The following four professional actors were invited to the workshop as instructors: Mr. MIKATA Madoka and Mr. TAMOI Hiromichi who performs in Noh drama as the main actors called "shite" at Kanze School, and Mr. SHIGEYAMA Chuzaburo and Mr. YAMAGUCHI Koudo, who are Kyogen drama performers at Okura School.

After the workshop, many positive comments were made by the participants; "Instructors are kind and their lectures are very informative. I enjoyed the workshop a lot." "I had many questions about Nohgaku. I hope we can have more time to ask questions to the instructors next time."



## Studying at GU



**Kariuki Samuel Kiragu**

Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology



Kenya

### Life changing experience; A rare case of opportunity knocking twice

I remember vividly when I first came to GU back in December 2019 as an exchange student. This was through an opportunity arising from the partnership between GU and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (Kenya), my alma mater, for which am profoundly grateful. I joined the master's course, 2-years later, in April 2022. During my learning experience, I have come to appreciate the patience and guidance of the university faculty and staff. Special thanks to my research Supervisor, Prof. Kazuaki Ito and Associate Prof. Yoshiyuki Hatta.

Additionally, I have learnt interesting Japanese traditions through volunteering at a local Elementary/Junior High School as an English Communication Friend and visiting some famous places and companies through Graduate School organized trips. I enjoyed living at the University's International House and made amazing memories and Japanese/International Friends.

Fun fact: Where can one cross 6 islands on a bicycle in Japan, in a day? Shimanami Kaido.





# GU and IITG students start their studies for Joint Degree Programs

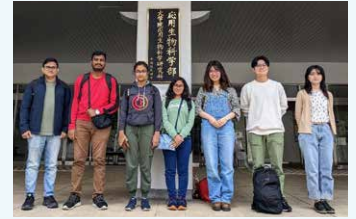
April 5

**O**n April 5, an orientation for the "International Joint Department of Food Science and Technology between Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Gifu University (Master's program)" was conducted for three newly enrolled GU students and four IITG students.

JDP students are enrolled in both GU and its overseas partner universities, and study at partner universities for the months required to complete their studies (program full-term: two years). Students attend classes, engage in research activities overseas, and study to obtain an international joint degree from GU and partner universities without extending their enrollment term.

Three GU students studied at GU from April to mid-July in 2023 and at IITG for five months from late July. Conversely, four IITG students studied at GU for five months from April to late August 2023. They attended classes and conducted research activities in laboratories under the supervision of the GU academic staff. They also had the opportunity to participate in internship programs offered by Japanese companies.

GU and IITG students studied together face-to-face at GU by mid-July to pursue the common goal of obtaining an international joint degree.



# Collaborative Video Making Program 2022

December 2022 to March 2023



**S**tudents from three universities (GU [nine students], IITG [four] and UKM [one]) formed four groups and worked together to create video footage for three months starting in December 2022. Under the instructions of the Australian production agency, members of each group did their utmost to produce attractive videos on the given theme, "Think about SDGs<sup>1)</sup>."

On March 10, the final competition of the Collaborative Video Making Program (CVMP) was held online. A total of 45 people including special judges watched the videos for evaluation. These special judges included President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro, Vice President KAMBARA Shinji,

GU-GLOCAL Executive Director UEMATSU Yoshihiko from the GU, and Dr. IKEDA Junko, CEO of Mageleka Japan Co., Ltd. The highest award went to Group 4 (video title: "Trash Potential").

Please access the GU-GLOCAL Channel for details.

\*The CVMP is completed by students' online interactions alone. Each team consists of three to four students from India, Malaysia, and Japan, who create videos with an original storyline.

1) The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all." The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030.

CVMP  
2023

Twelve students from GU, Nagoya University, IITG, and UKM will participate in the CVMP 2023. Please access <<https://www.glocal.gifu-u.ac.jp/videomaking/>>

2022  
Students' video  
works



# Commitment to SDGs for Glocalization

## Gifu University JDP Consortium Study Meeting: How to use bamboo resources

March 20



**O**n March 20, GU-GLOCAL hosted the "Gifu University JDP Consortium<sup>1)</sup> First Study Meeting: How to use bamboo resources."

The meeting was held to facilitate information-sharing among Japanese companies interested in bamboo resources and expand the bamboo business in India. Members of the Japan International Cooperation Agency and representatives of 19 Japanese companies attended the meeting.

At the meeting, those invited to the IITG seminar held in India in March 2023 spoke about the presentations they made at IITG. GU representatives proposed the formulation of a new framework for business-government-academia collaboration in Japan and India. Special ceramic products that can be used to bio-businesses were also unveiled.

The participants actively exchanged their views on the future of bamboo resource utilization and collaboration with India.

GU-GLOCAL continues to host study meetings and looks forward to welcoming your participation.

1) JDP Consortium

The JDP Consortium member universities in Japan and abroad jointly operate the JDP and engage in various activities for the growth of regional economies.

Please access <<https://www.glocal.gifu-u.ac.jp/jdp-platform/consortium/>>

## Study Session for Glocalization SDGs Study Meeting for Glocalization

**T**he SDGs Study Meeting for Glocalization is held to offer a venue for discussions among GU students, staff members, and local citizens by inviting scholars and researchers on SDGs on and off campus (from universities, research institutes, think tanks, and private enterprises) because SDGs play a key role in collaboration with northeastern India and Malaysia where IITG and UKM are located, respectively.

We look forward to welcoming your participation in the meeting. (Nine meetings are scheduled for 2023)

Please access the link below for application and inquiries:

<<https://www.glocal.gifu-u.ac.jp/region/sdgs/session/>>



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