



GIFU UNIVERSITY NEWS Letter

Japan



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For International Exchange
Gifu University

March 2024



President of Gifu University visits UIR, Kingdom of Morocco

December 16-18



From December 16 to 18, a Gifu University delegation visited Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR), Kingdom of Morocco. The delegation members included President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro, Vice President KAMBARA Shinji, Director YOSHINO Jun (Applied Meteorological Research Center), and Manager KOBAYASHI Keiko (International Engagement Division). They met UIR President Dr. Noureddine MOUADDIB and other board members of UIR and also explored the capital city of Morocco, Rabat and others. This visit was realized thanks to the kind proposal of exchange between the two universities by H.E. Mr. Rachad BOUHLAL, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Japan when he visited Gifu University on May 2.

At the meeting with Dr. Noureddine MOUADDIB, 18 people, including the vice president and the deans of UIR, discussed the possibility of academic and student exchange and joint research projects in energy engineering. Both the GU delegation and UIR, board members agreed to proceed with the preparation for concluding a university-level exchange agreement in the future.

Gifu Prefecture and the Kingdom of Morocco have a long history of friendship, and GU delegation's latest visit to UIR is expected to result in a student and researcher exchange agreement and further accelerate the bilateral ties between Gifu Prefecture and the Kingdom of Morocco.



GU President attends '2nd Japan-India Universities Forum' and 'STS Forum 20th Annual Meeting 2023'

September 30 and October 1

President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro and Professor KOYAMA Hiroyuki (Executive Director of GU-GLOCAL) attended the two international conferences held in Kyoto: "The 2nd Japan-India Universities Forum" on September 30, and "STS¹ Forum 20th Annual Meeting 2023" on October 1.

The theme of the forum on September 30 was "Promotion of brain circulation between Japan and India," and the participants shared their thoughts on how to materialize the declaration on human resource development and education adopted in the first Japan-India Universities Forum.

The first session of the forum began with the keynote speeches on the themes of 'promotion of studying abroad,' 'cooperation in human resource development,' and 'industry and academia collaboration.' This was followed by informal talks where the participants exchanged opinions on the two themes; 'development of an infrastructure to increase the number of Indian students and researchers in Japan,' and 'industry-academia collaboration for human global mobility.'

In the second session, the participants were divided into small groups to discuss the specifics of partnership and exchange between Japanese and Indian universities. Gifu University representatives held talks with their counterparts from the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG, India) and the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. They spent time discussing how to reinforce their university partnership in the years to come. At the end of the talks, they agreed to hammer out the details of cooperation when President Yoshida visits India in March 2024. The talks turned out to be very productive and instrumental in forging a closer tie among the three universities.

The major objective of the 'STS Forum 20th Annual Meeting 2023' was to offer a venue for experts at home and abroad to address global agendas such as climate change. President Yoshida attended the 'University President Meeting' session, where presidents of 77 universities around the world engaged in discussions under the title of 'Future Created by Humankind and Artificial intelligence (AI).' They exchanged opinions about the use of AI in science and technology, how to deal with ethical problems arising from AI, and the benefits of AI through its application to education, including adult education.

1) Science and Technology in Society





Dr. François Le Roy from Northern Kentucky University, U.S.A. pays a courtesy call on Gifu University

October 30



On October 30, Dr. François Le Roy, Executive Director of the Center for Global Issues and International Affairs, Northern Kentucky University (NKU, the United States of America) visited Gifu University. GU and NKU signed an exchange agreement in October 1990. Since then, active exchanges have continued among faculty and students between the two universities. Dr. Le Roy held a meeting with President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro and GU board members, including Vice President KAMBARA Shinji, GU-GLOCAL Executive Director KOYAMA Hiroyuki, GU-GLOCAL Associate Director SHIMA Mutsuhiro, Professor TATSUMI Toru (Faculty of Education, GU liaison for NKU), and Ms. NONOMURA Haruko, Director of the Student Affairs Department.

In the meeting, Dr. Le Roy and the GU board members talked about the long history of exchange and the future interaction between GU and NKU, as well as the possibilities of building a partnership between Gifu and Gifu's wider region, Tokai, and the Greater Cincinnati Area¹, including NKU, by exploring similarities between the two regions.

1) Greater Cincinnati is a term that refers to a part of the Cincinnati metropolitan area in the state of Ohio.



The 5th Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2023

November 16-17 and December 7 and 8

The 5th Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2023¹ was held online and in-person from November 16 to December 8. The Symposium consisted of following three sessions: the 'THERS JDP² Symposium,' the 'Academic Session,' and the 'Industry-Government-Academia-Banking Institution Collaboration Session.'



In the 'Academic Session' held on November 16 and 17 with the theme, 'Sustainable Development of Regions; SDGs² and beyond,' ten speakers from IITG, the National Institute of Technology Surathkal, Karnataka (India), Kyoto University, Hokkaido University, and Nagoya University, delivered speeches on their research themes.

The 'THERS JDP Symposium' held on December 7 with the theme, 'Joint Degree Programs for the Development of Human Resources Capable of Addressing Global Agendas: Aiming for Internationalization in Education and Research, and Revitalization of Community,' started with the keynote speech by Mr. KOBAYASHI Yosuke, Counselor from the Higher Education Bureau, MEXT.³ In the subsequent panel discussion, Mr. Kobayashi joined in discussions with the representatives from the three universities and exchanged opinions regarding enrollment of JDP students and the future of JDP students' business and academic careers.

On December 8, the 'Industry-Government-Academia-Banking Institution Collaboration Session' was held in the University Auditorium (and it was also streamed live online). Since the session was conducted as the 'Gifu University Symposium' as well, various activities of GU-GLOCAL were highlighted for the audience. In the panel discussion, guest speakers and GU professors engaged in intensive discussions focusing on the themes, 'Glocal Commitment to a Decarbonized Society,' and 'Application of Indian Bamboo Resources to Businesses.' On the same day, a total of 25 companies from the Tokai Region showcased their products and services to international and Japanese students who visited their exhibition booths set up at the Faculty of Engineering building.

A total of 295 people attended the '5th Gifu Joint Degree Symposium 2023' from Japan and abroad (75 people attended the 'THERS JDP Symposium,' 92 attended the 'Academic Session,' and 128 attended the 'Industry-Government-Academia-Banking Institution Collaboration Session'). Gifu University continues to host JDP related events to further promote internationalization of the university and the community.

1) JDP is an abbreviation for Joint Degree Programs

2) a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all," which was set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and are intended to be achieved by 2030.

3) the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan



Studying Abroad

Fall 2023 Study Abroad Fair

November 29

The purpose of this annual 'Study Abroad Fair,' which has been held since 2012, is to provide information about the language proficiency required for studying abroad and study abroad programs that Gifu University is offering to students who are planning to study abroad in the future.

At the beginning of the 'Fall 2023 Study Abroad Fair,' an explanation about the university's study abroad programs and support systems was presented by the Inbound and Outbound Student Affairs Office staff. This was followed by presentations on study abroad experiences from the students who had participated in summer school programs and exchange programs in the past. Additionally, students who had studied abroad through the 'Valor V Drug Overseas Training Scholarship,' 'Tobitate! Study Abroad JAPAN (by MEXT),' and short-term study abroad programs from various faculties gave presentations.

Participants eagerly listened to explanations from each presenter and engaged in individual questions after the fair, demonstrating their high level of interest in studying abroad.

Studying Abroad



GOTO Shunta
Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology

GU-IITG JD Program



What I have learned through my study in India.

The joint degree program (JDP) I am participating in for my master's degree allows me to receive a single degree jointly awarded by universities in both Japan and India. During the two-year master's program, I spent five months in India, where I engaged in both lectures and research activities. Many of the lectures in India were student-centered, and I had numerous opportunities to give presentations. Although it was quite a different approach to studying from what I have been accustomed to in Japan, I believe I have developed the skills to express my opinions and thoughts well in English.

Being in India, a country with global significance, and experiencing its vibrant atmosphere firsthand, was indeed an incredibly valuable and enriching experience for me.



Winter School Program 2023

December 6-22

GU-GLOCAL hosted a short-term inbound program called the 'Winter School Program 2023' from December 6 through December 22. This year marked the seventh program since its launch. Gifu University accepted six students from IITG and two students from the National University of Malaysia (UKM, Malaysia) this year. IITG and UKM are GU's two overseas partner universities in implementing the Joint Degree Programs (JDP) for students, which started in 2019.



The theme of the 'Winter School Program 2023' was "Studying the science of Japanese traditions." The participating students were given an opportunity to visit Japanese companies, interact with Japanese students, engage in research activities, and experience Japanese culture, during the two-week-long program.

The students also took part in the 'Gifu-JDP Symposium' held on December 8. Additionally, they enjoyed an informal meeting with GU students and Gifu City senior high school students, analyzed ceramics and potteries with a special device, and carried out experiments on some Japanese food and cooking methods.

To appreciate Japanese culture and study Japanese, they attended Japanese classes, participated in a gagaku (Japanese ancient court music) workshop, and experienced tea ceremony and pot-making in Tajimi City in the east of Gifu Prefecture.

On the final day of the program on December 22, the students made a presentation on their experiences and achievements while in Japan at the 'Accomplishment Reports and Closing Ceremony.'

Unforgettable Memories in Japan; Trip to Yakushiji Temple, Nara Prefecture

October 28

On October 28, 31 international students studying at Gifu University embarked on a trip to Yakushiji Temple, Nara Prefecture. The weather was perfect for a trip, and the students seemed to thoroughly enjoy their journey to the ancient Japanese capital, Nara.



At Yakushiji Temple, both Japanese and English guides were present and the students listened with keen interest. Yakushiji Temple is one of the most famous imperial and ancient Buddhist temples in Japan. Their 3-hour stay in Nara passed so quickly, and some students even expressed their desire to visit Yakushiji Temple again in the future. Of those students, some had not been able to make friends due to the many challenges posed by the pandemic, and this trip provided a valuable opportunity for them to immerse themselves in Japanese culture and connect with fellow students from various countries.

Initiatives of the Center for Japanese Language and Culture (CJLC)

Traditional Junihitoe (Twelve-Layered Kimono) Workshop 2023 | November 15

The Center for Japanese Language and Culture held a workshop on "How to Put on Traditional Junihitoe (twelve-layered kimono)" at the center on November 15. The workshop was attended by 36 people including international students studying the Japanese Language & Culture Studies Course and the Japanese Society & Culture Program, as well as other international and Japanese students, and teaching and administrative staff members of GU. We believe that the 'Workshop 2023' offered the participants a valuable opportunity to appreciate the depth of Japanese culture and hope that continuing to host this unique workshop can help international students develop their understanding of distinctive Japanese culture and traditions.



Gagaku Culture Experience Concert 2023 | December 13

The Center for Japanese Language and Culture hosted a 'Gagaku Culture Experience Concert' on December 13. Gagaku is an ancient Japanese court dance and music that has been passed down for over a thousand years.

Approximately 40 people participated in the workshop, including 'Winter School 2023' students from IITG, UKM, and international students studying the Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course.

The following are comments by the participants; "The workshop was a great opportunity for us to know about traditional Japanese music and kimonos," and "The workshop was a lot of fun. The sounds of traditional instruments were all amazing."



Studying at GU



CHOJNACKA Alicja Maria
Center for Japanese Language and Culture



Poland

Treasuring the Unrepeatable Year

At the beginning of my journey into Japanese studies as a student in Poland, I encountered the idiom 'ichi-go-ichi-e', which conveys the idea of cherishing every moment, as it won't occur again. Little did I know that, three years later, I would find the perfect application for this sentiment in describing my experience of studying abroad in Japan. Being here, I've come to appreciate the beauty of the changing Japanese seasons and the richness of periodic events and traditions, and I couldn't imagine a better place for that than the culturally rich and naturally beautiful area of Gifu. Each day, I have the opportunity to enhance my Japanese language skills while immersing myself in the unique aspects of Japan that were inaccessible from Poland.





The 6th Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students: Gifu Region Workshop 2023

October 25

On October 25, the '6th Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students: Gifu Region Workshop 2023' was held at the General Education Building of Gifu University. This workshop was jointly organized by four local institutions participating in the Consortium: Gifu University, Gifu Prefectural Government, Gifu Employer's Association, and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Gifu Trade Information Center.

Throughout the entire workshop, participating international students expressed positive feedback, stating that it was a valuable opportunity to understand each other's perspectives on the employment of highly skilled talent and to identify their own challenges. Company representatives also shared their comments such as "We would like to continue to discuss internally the purposes and challenges of employing foreign workers before participating in the workshop again next year." They also expressed their appreciation for the opportunities to gain insights into students' Japanese language proficiency and the support needed for foreign employees.

Moving forward, we will continue to enhance communication between international students and the business community and provide strong support for international students' endeavors to pursue their employment opportunities in Japan.



International Month 2023: Special Symposium

October 31

On October 31, a renowned neuroscientist, Dr. MOGI Kenichiro, and a successful corporate management executive, Mr. SHIONO Makoto, were invited to hold discussions with President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro of Gifu University at the 'Special Symposium of the International Month 2023.' The theme of the symposium was 'Where does globalization take us? We need to survive the threat from Chat-GPT. Is it English skills that help us to adapt to internationalization?'

The symposium was held at the university auditorium and was attended by approximately 280 people both from on- and off-campus. The symposium was also livestreamed through GU's 'Glocal Lesson' platform. An estimated 100 people viewed the discussions among three speakers in real time for about 90 minutes.

Assistant Professor MATSUI Mayumi (GU-GLOCAL) moderated the discussions, which started with a question from a student, "Is studying abroad an advantage in finding a job?" The discussions continued with many questions from the audience, such as "Why do we still need to study English or study abroad in this day and age when people can use generative AI for English translation?"

Mr. Shiono quoted his own investment experiences and the success of his business in Finland, where English is not an official language. He said, "Closing deals in English is a perquisite in this globalization era." He then explained how English is used as the common language by millions of people around the world.

Dr. Mogi touched on some strong English accents used by many world business leaders, and he reiterated that speaking 'flawless, perfect' English is not always very important.

When President Yoshida introduced the Joint Degree Programs (JDP) conducted with IITG, and UKM, Dr. Mogi said, "Going to foreign countries blessed with rich diversity and studying at one of the best universities in the world gives you an enormous advantage in the future."

"As a corporate manager, if I find JDP diploma in a potential hire's entry sheet for job application, I will become excited to see him or her in person. I know that these applicants are quite different from others," said Mr. Shiono.

The three also spoke of generative AI, which is making exponential progress these days. When Mr. Shiono said, "Thinking about AI is thinking about humans," Dr. Mogi stood up and yelled to the audience, "Let's be more aggressive in absorbing knowledge!" Heated discussions among the speakers continued throughout the symposium.

At the end of the symposium, the three speakers gave their thoughts about the skills that are needed to work for the international community in the future. The symposium wrapped up with strong words of encouragement and wishes for the success of GU students.

GU is currently carrying out JDP at the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology (master's), the Graduate School of Engineering (PhD), and the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science (PhD). We look forward to welcoming your application for JDP!



1) Online study platform offered by GU-GLOCAL (<https://www.gu-glocal.com/>)(Japanese only)



Glocal Lesson

'Glocal Lesson' is a learning platform provided by GU-GLOCAL in Japanese through on-demand, face-to-face, and real-time delivery. It offers a variety of video contents to meet different needs, such as learning about Gifu University's research activities, deepening understanding of Japan and Gifu Prefecture, and exploring foreign cultures.

Why not start by exploring the selected lectures introduced in the list of recommended courses on the platform?

New members only need to provide their email address for registration. You can access the 'Glocal Lesson' website via the QR code or URL. (If you register using your THERS email address, you'll also have access to exclusive content for paid members.

For registration: 
<https://www.gu-glocal.com>



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