



GIFU UNIVERSITY NEWS *Letter*

Japan



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For International Exchange
Gifu University

October 2024



GU-GLOCAL Symposium ‘Spreading Your Wings to the World’

July 18

On July 18, the Gifu University Organization for Promotion of Glocalization (GU-GLOCAL) held a symposium “Spreading Your Wings to the World” to encourage active participation in international programs by university and high school students. The symposium consisted of two sessions, each featuring prominent speakers who have already assumed significant roles on the global stage. The event was moderated by podcast producer Ms. TAKEMURA Yukiko and conducted in a three-way discussion format with President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro and renowned neuroscientist and visiting professor Dr. MOGI Kenichiro from Gifu University.

Session 1 featured Ms. SHIGETA Naho, CEO of InfoBridge Holdings Group, which supports Japanese companies expanding into India. Under the theme ‘Average Age 28! The Young Nation of India,’ Ms. Shigeta spoke of how she started her business in India, the rapidly developing society there and how this modernization is affecting young adults.

Session 2 featured Mr. Rei Inamoto, a creative director based in New York, who handles digital strategies for leading global brands. With ‘Mindset for Shining Abroad’ as a theme, Mr. Inamoto, who spent his childhood in Kiyomi Village, Ono-gun, Gifu Prefecture (now Takayama City), shared his experiences of moving abroad after graduating from junior high school, attending high school and then university in the United States, and his career journey up to the present.

264 people attended in person, and 188 people participated via the real-time broadcast on Glocal Lesson¹. Many participants listened attentively to the passionate messages from the guest speakers. The discussion is available on-demand on Glocal Lesson.

1) online learning platform provided by GU-GLOCAL (<https://www.gu-glocal.com/>) (Japanese only)



New Partnership Agreement with the Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR)

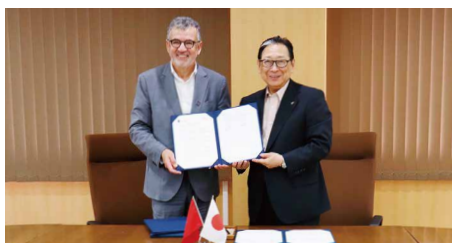
July 6-9

On July 6 to 9, a delegation from the Université Internationale de Rabat (UIR) in the Kingdom of Morocco visited Gifu University and Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture. They were President Nouredine Mouaddib, Professor Abdelaziz Benjouad (Vice-President for Research, Innovation & Partnerships), Professor Abdellatif Bencherifa (Senior Advisor to the President, Director of Public Policy Center), Dr. Mohsine Bouya (General Director of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship), Dr. Jamal Boukouray, (Director of International Relations & Partnerships), Professor Nadia Yousfi Steiner, and Dr. Aomar Boum (Maurice Amado Professor of Sephardic Studies at UCLA, and UIR Fellow).

In May 2023, during a visit to Gifu University, H.E. Mr. Rachad Bouhlal, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to Japan, kindly proposed an academic exchange with UIR. Subsequently, in December of the same year, President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro and a delegation from Gifu University visited the UIR at the invitation of President Mouaddib.

During their visit, they discussed the possibility of student and faculty exchanges, with a special focus on collaborative research in energy engineering.

During the UIR delegation’s visit to Gifu University in July, the two universities signed an inter-university agreement to strengthen an already friendly relationship. This visit and agreement show that we are committed to enhancing collaboration with the UIR and increasing internationalization efforts, including fostering future research exchanges between the two institutions.





On March 3 to 5, Gifu University and the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) co-hosted the 'Japan-NER' Bioeconomic Technology Cooperation Symposium 2024 (JNBTCs 2024) through Industry-Academia under JDP Platform¹ at IITG.

Prior to the symposium, President Yoshida from Gifu University and Professor OKADA Aya, Dean of the Graduate School of International Development from Nagoya University, and ten GU delegates visited the Office of the President and held talks with the Officiating Director Rajeev Ahuja, as well as directors of departments and centers at IITG.

During the opening ceremony, President Yoshida and Dr. Rajeev Ahuja signed three international JDP² agreements for renewal. They also entered into a new 'Glocal Expert Program' agreement, allowing students to obtain 'Glocal Expert' certificates from both universities upon completing the program. The opening ceremony for the '3rd Spring School' program, a short-term study abroad program, was also held with the attendance of ten students from GU.

On Day 2 of the symposium, posters were on display, which were created by 29 students, including JDP students, and they discussed their research themes with the symposium participants by explaining the contents of their posters. GU students of the 3rd Spring School program were also given the opportunity to gain insights into the latest research programs jointly implemented by IITG and GU, and they were updated on the current business trends in Japan and India.

The Joint Degree Symposium will continue to be held alternately between Gifu and IITG, with the JDP Platform serving as an intermediary. We pledge to contribute to fostering highly skilled professionals and promoting the growth of regional and international society through strong alliance between Industry, government, academia and financial institutions in Gifu, its extensive Tokai region, and Northeast India.

1) Northeastern region

2) A joint degree 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 degree is conferred to a student from GU and its overseas partner university.



Studying Abroad

Summer School Pre-Departure Courses (outbound)

June—July

Every summer vacation, Gifu University sends students overseas on English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) training programs at two of our many partner universities worldwide: Griffith University in Australia and the University of Alberta in Canada. We provided two, four-lecture, pre-departure courses for each destination's group, in June - July.

The courses were conducted by Specially Appointed Assistant Professor Richard Gregg at GU-GLOCAL. The main objectives were to provide useful knowledge and develop communication skills required for travelling, studying, and daily life overseas. This year, 29 Gifu University students went to Griffith University, and 22 went to the University of Alberta. Additionally, under the THERS partnership, two Nagoya University students went, one to each place.

Initially, in the English-only lectures, many students appeared reticent, but they settled and opened up as the sessions progressed. Through group work and communication practice in various scenarios, a sense of unity developed among them as they shared the same goals. The lectures were designed to ready the students for a certain amount of confusion when facing unfamiliar ways of life and the active teaching styles overseas and to cope with it. We hope to publish exciting reports detailing their experiences and progress abroad in the next newsletter.



GU Students Create Tourism Plan and Study its Feasibility with Hue University Students in Vietnam | March 5—14

GU-GLOCAL, the Center for Collaborative Study with Community, and the School of Social System Management have combined to offer 'Glocal Leader Practical Training' in the Campus-Wide Core Curriculum (Zenkyo), and 'Tourism Design Practical Training' provided by the School of Social System Management. Within these training modules, ten GU students worked online with students at the School of Hospitality and Tourism, Hue University, Vietnam, for a couple of months to create a tourism plan tailored for people visiting Hue for a couple of days.

The training culminated in ten days in Hue from March 5 to 14, exploring the city, testing and revising their plan. There, the Director of Thua Thien Hue Department of Tourism informed them in detail of Hue Province's tourism resources and the latest tourist trends. On the final day, they made a presentation of their revised tourism plan.

One of the major missions of GU is to cultivate the ability to address the whole range of challenges associated with the international diversity of our region. We hope that student exchange on tourism will further bolster the partnership between GU and Hue University and proliferate interactions between Gifu Prefecture and Thua Thien-Hue Province.



Studying Abroad



TESAKI Kosuke
Department of Civil Engineering
Faculty of Engineering

University of
Alberta ESL
Program



Canada

My observations from Interacting with People of Diverse Ethnic and Cultural Backgrounds.

From the end of July to late August 2023, I participated in a one-month short-term study abroad program at the University of Alberta in Canada. Although the period was limited, I actively engaged in conversations to enhance my English skills. However, I realized that my vocabulary was insufficient and that I needed to increase my efforts. Since then, in Japan, I have continued studying English aiming to make significant improvements.

During the program, I interacted with students from other universities.

Their high level of English proficiency and dedication to their studies were very inspiring. I would like to add that the warm welcome from my host family, along with the casual conversations and shared meals, became some of my most unforgettable memories.



Studying in Japan

GU and IITG Students Commence Studies for Joint Degree Program

April 5

On April 5, orientation for the 'International Joint Department of Food Science and Technology between Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Gifu University (master's program, JDP)' was conducted for three newly enrolled GU students and five IITG students.

Students participating in the JDP are enrolled in both GU and its overseas partner universities. During the programs, students have the opportunity to study abroad at the partner universities for a specific period (typically, two years for master's programs). They attend classes, engage in research activities overseas, and work towards obtaining an international joint degree from both GU and its partner institutions without extending the enrollment period.

The three GU students studied at GU from April until mid-July this year. Subsequently, they are continuing their studies at IITG for a further five months. In parallel, five IITG students studied at GU from April until late August. They attended classes, engaged in research activities in laboratories under the supervision of GU academic staff, and even participated in internship programs provided by Japanese companies. By mid-July, the GU and IITG students were studying together face-to-face, working towards a common goal: obtaining their international joint degrees.

The GU and IITG students are receiving support through the '2024 Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Study in Japan under Agreement)' offered by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).



Summer School

June 19 – July 17

In mid-June, we welcomed a total of nine students to our Summer School from three of our partner universities overseas: Northern Kentucky University (USA), Seoul National University of Science and Technology (South Korea), and Guangxi University (China). In addition to studying Japanese, the students immersed themselves in Japanese culture through activities such as papermaking at the Mino-Washi Museum and observing katana forging at the Seki Hamono Museum. They also interacted with elementary school students, experiencing kendo, tea ceremony, calligraphy, and homestay in Gujo City, Gifu Prefecture. Furthermore, they participated in a *Nohgaku* workshop and Tanabata star festival on campus.

For the visit, we assigned two student tutors as advisors to the U·TOPIA LAND Annex¹ dormitory, to assist and advise these international students staying there. Additionally, we assigned a student assistant to each international student to help with tasks related to exchange activities.

¹) U·TOPIA LAND Annex was designated by Gifu University to provide a safe and high-quality living environment for both international and Japanese students.



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

Gujo Dance Workshop 2024

May 29

The Center for Japanese Language and Culture hosted the 'Gujo Dance Workshop 2024' in its tatami-mat room on May 29. Almost 30 international students from China, France, India, Poland, South Korea, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam enjoyed the experience.

Three instructors from Gujo City, coached the students in practicing two of the most popular of the dances: 'Kawasaki' and 'Harukoma.' The students closely watched the instructors' movements and tried hard to master them.

The instructors nominated six "Most Enthusiastic Students" for their passion and efforts and rewarded them each with a small Gujo gift. This workshop was another invaluable, firsthand experience of quintessential Gifu and Japan for our foreign guests.



Nohgaku Workshop for International and Japanese Students 2024

July 10

The Center for Japanese Language and Culture conducted the 'Nohgaku Workshop for International and Japanese Students 2024' on July 10. It was attended by 35 participants, including the Summer School students who were engaged in studies at GU for a month. Four professional actors were invited to the workshop as instructors, namely: two main *Noh* actors, or "shite," in the Kanze School, Mr. MIKATA Madoka and Mr. TAMOI Hiromichi and two *Kyogen* drama actors in the Okura School, Mr. SHIGEYAMA Chuzaburo and Mr. YAMAGUCHI Koudo. Participants did singing exercises and copied the movements of the instructors. They also got to closely examine the performers' masks, musical instruments, and kimonos. Afterwards, in a questionnaire, participants enthusiastically expressed their enjoyment and their desire "to see real *Nohgaku* Performances."



Studying at GU



**ARSELIN
JEANNE**
Faculty of Applied
Biological Sciences



France

Feel at home far away

I came to Japan alone for my studies and out of love for its culture. And I think Gifu was the perfect place to immerse myself. Apart from the amazing quality of the research environment, GU's warm and supportive administration made me feel at home right from the start. The wide range of activities offered to students enabled me to make friends and left me no time to get bored. I hope to stay as long as possible. My special thanks go to my supervisor, Ninomiya Shigeru, without whom none of this would have been possible.



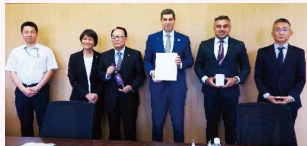
H.E. Mr. Teimuraz Lezhava, Ambassador of Georgia to Japan visits Gifu University

June 3



On June 3, H.E. Mr. Teimuraz Lezhava, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Japan, and Dr. David Goginashvili, Specialist Analyst of the Embassy of Georgia in Japan, visited Gifu University. Gifu University board members, President Yoshida, Vice President LIM Lee Wah, Executive Director KOYAMA Hiroyuki (GU-GLOCAL), and Associate Professor MIKI Taro (Organization for Promotion of Higher Education and Student Support) welcomed them at a luncheon meeting. The board members provided an overview of Gifu University, including its core research centers and international initiatives. The conversation moved on to the relationship between Japan and Georgia, as well as the ambassador's distinguished business career. All parties expressed fervent interest in maintaining ongoing dialogue aimed at forming partnerships between GU and Georgian universities.

After the meeting, the ambassador was invited to deliver a lecture on presentation skills as part of GU's Campus-Wide Core Curriculum (Zenkyo). We hope that this visit will pave the way for university partnerships between the two countries.



President Yoshida visits Samarkand State Medical University, Uzbekistan

July 19-21



From July 19 to 21, President Yoshida, Professor YAMADA Yoichi (Head of the Department of Dentistry, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at Gifu University Hospital), and officials from the Gifu Prefectural Government visited the Republic of Uzbekistan. They met with Prime Minister Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov, the Minister of Higher Education, the Minister of the Environment, and the Governor of the Samarkand Region. The government of Uzbekistan expressed a strong desire to learn from Japan's expertise in higher education.

At Samarkand State Medical University, in the presence of Gifu Prefectural Governor FURUTA Hajime, President Yoshida and Rector Rizayev Jasur Alimjanovich signed a letter of intent to develop cooperative relations between the two universities.

This visit is expected to promote academic exchanges between the two institutions and strengthen the friendship between Japan and Uzbekistan.



Gifu-Lithuania Ties



Professor MOURI Tetsuya presented with a Letter of Appreciation from Ambassador of Republic of Lithuania to Japan

March 6

On March 6, President Yoshida, Professor MOURI Tetsuya (Faculty of Engineering), and Associate Professor OZEKI Tomoe (Institute for Advanced Study) were invited to attend the 'Reception of the 106th Anniversary of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania and the 34th Independence Restoration Day' hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan in Tokyo.

During the reception, H.E. Dr. Aurelijus Zykas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan, presented letters of appreciation to individuals who have long dedicated themselves to fostering friendship between Lithuania and Japan, including Mr. MURASE Yukio, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Gifu, and Professor Mouri. Since 2019, Professor Mouri has been hosting a 'Lithuania Study Meeting,' to promote understanding of Lithuania, and as part of the Campus-Wide Core Curriculum (Zenkyo), he teaches a Lithuania-focused, cross-cultural theory course at GU.

Warmest congratulations to him on receiving the letter.



Sugihara Chiune Memorial Hall Tour

July 3

GU-GLOCAL organized a 'Sugihara Chiune Memorial Hall Tour' on July 3, targeting university students and faculty members. The tour comprised exploring Yaotsu Town and learning about the life and legacy of Chiune Sugihara (1900 - 1986). 13 students and 4 faculty members joined up.

Located in Yaotsu Town, Kamo District, Gifu Prefecture, the Memorial Hall showcases a wealth of documents pertaining to Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat from the town, who served as vice-consul for the Japanese Empire in Kaunas, Lithuania. He is celebrated for courageously issuing 'Visas for Life' to Jewish people fleeing the Nazis during World War II. A highlight of the tour was viewing a precious replica of a 'Visa for Life,' among other evocative exhibits. The tour group later reflected on the experience and shared insights.



IITG Exchange Featured in the Japanese Government's Overseas Promotional Video.

July 18

The GU and IITG exchange program was acclaimed in the government's overseas promotional video "Multi-layered Connectivity to Northeast India." <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbdWzc3E6-E>>

No other institution in Japan offers a joint degree course with an Indian university.

Every year since 2022, GU has been selected for the "Inter-University Exchange Project: Support for Creation of Inter-University Exchanges in the Indo-Pacific Region," funded by MEXT.

Our ongoing efforts to expand and develop exchanges with India led to our involvement in the video.



Message from JDP Alumnus

As part of my JDP master's course, I studied at IITG. I am now utilizing that experience in my work at a food ingredients company, where I am involved in production management for a subsidiary in India. I manage staff and processes by email and web conferences with the subsidiary.

Last year, I went on a one-month business trip to the subsidiary and worked with the staff there to improve operations. I feel that the cross-cultural understanding and adaptability I gained at IITG are extremely beneficial now in my job.

AOYAGI Tatsushi Taiyo Kagaku Co., Ltd.

Graduated from the International Joint Department of Food Science and Technology between Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Gifu University, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, GU, 2021



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