

GIFU UNIVERSITY SLetter 59

For International Exchange Gifu University

October 2025





GU-GLOCAL Symposium 2025

July 14

n July 14, GU Organization for Promotion of Glocalization (GU-GLOCAL) hosted the GU/GU-GLOCAL Symposium 2025 titled Showcasing the Charm of Japan! The Power of $Storytelling \times Glocal\ Perspectives = ?$, welcoming 312 participants from both within and outside the university.

The symposium¹ began with a keynote lecture by film and drama producer, Mr. YAMADA Kenji, titled What is 'The World' in Film? Drawing from his extensive experience producing internationally acclaimed works, Mr. Yamada described his perspectives behind creating stories that resonate across borders, focusing on the "Four Principles" and "Seven Elements" essential to emotionally impactful content.

Subsequently, a panel discussion was held, featuring Mr. Yamada, Visiting Professor MOGI Kenichiro (neuroscientist and author), and Vice President Lim Lee Wah (Global Outreach, Diversity, Gender Equality, and Library) of GU. Under the theme, What Does the Power of Storytelling × Glocal Perspectives Create? the panel explored ideas on how to "reach the world." They emphasized the importance of exploring one's immediate surroundings - within a five-meter radius - to uncover universal values and empathy that can resonate globally.

Participants shared enthusiastic feedback, such as: "I thought it would be just about movies, but it was applicable to many fields." "To deepen my own story, I want to face even the negative aspects and pursue what I truly love."

GU-GLOCAL will continue to organize events that foster international perspectives.

1) Video available on Glocal Lesson (Japanese only): https://www.gu-glocal.com/ Free membership registration required.









Inter-University Academic Exchange Agreement with Srinakharinwirot University (Thailand)

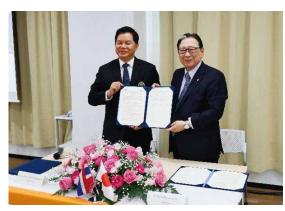
March 27

n March 27, GU and Srinakharinwirot University (SWU: Thailand) signed an inter-university academic exchange agreement. The ceremony was attended by the following GU board members: President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro, Vice President LiM Lee Wah, Prof. KOYAMA Hiroyuki, GU-GLOCAL Executive Director, Prof. YAMADA Masahiro, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof. NOMURA Yukihiro, Faculty of Education, and Prof. OBA Shinya, Gifu Field Science Center, Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences. They welcomed a delegation of 33 members from SWU, including President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cholvit Jearajit.

The exchange between GU and SWU began in March 2015 with the signing of a faculty-level agreement between the faculties of education of both universities. Below are the main events of our collaborative history:

- In Aug. 2017, the Ministry of Education of Thailand and GU jointly held the 1st International Symposium on Education for Persons with Special Needs: Transition from School to Work in Bangkok.
 - In Dec. 2022, Prof. Oba visited SWU to further strengthen our collaboration.
- In Jan. 2023, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kittichai Suthasinobon, Faculty of Education, along with 12 graduate students from SWU, visited GU and toured the Faculty of Education and the Gifu Field Science Center.
- In Jul. 2024, a delegation of 10 faculty members and 16 students from SWU, led by the then SWU president, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somchai Santiwatanakul, visited GU. They toured the Faculty of Education and observed tomato cultivation by people with disabilities at the Gifu Field Science Center.

With this signing, GU and SWU are committed to deepening academic exchange and promoting even more educational and research collaborations.







AY 2025 JDP Master's Course Orientation for GU and IITG Students

n April 4, the AY 2025 Orientation for the International Joint Department of Food Science and Technology between the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Gifu University (master's program) was held, welcoming four students from IITG and three newly enrolled students from GU. Although their commencement years differed, they took the orientation together.

The three GU students studied at GU until mid-July and commenced their study at IITG for five months starting in late July. The four IITG students studied at GU for five months until late August. They attended classes, did research at laboratories under the supervision of GU academic staff, and participated in internship programs offered by Japanese companies. Until mid-July, GU and IITG students studied together face-to-face at GU, working towards the common goal of obtaining a JDP diploma.



Both GU and IITG students are receiving support from the 2025 Student Exchange Support Program (Scholarship for Study in Japan under Agreement) offered by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).



GU Co-Hosts "Joint Degree Symposium 2025" with HTG

March 3-5

rom March 3 to 5, GU and IITG co-hosted the Japan-NER Sustainable Technologies Cooperation Symposium 2025 at IITG. It had a hybrid format on the IITG campus, and over two days, there were 176 attendees, including some online. At the opening ceremony, after opening remarks from GU President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro (via video link) and Acting Director of IITG, Dr. K. V. Krishna, a congratulatory video message from His Excellency Sibi George, Indian Ambassador to Japan was screened. The ceremony was also marked by the opening of the Spring School program (short-term study abroad program), introducing its ten participating GU students. Next came the keynote speeches from two guest speakers: First Secretary of the Embassy of India in Japan, Mr. WATANABE Makoto and Professor Gautam Barua from IITG.



In the subsequent academia collaboration session, seven institutions from the North Eastern Region (NER, India) were introduced, and activities were presented by representatives from two Japanese universities (the University of Tokyo and the University of Tsukuba), two Japanese government agencies (Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)), university professors from India and Japan, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and participating companies.

On the second day, there were two sessions: In Bio/Life Sciences, Prof. FUJITA Morihisa from GU gave a keynote lecture on Decoding the 'Life of Glycans' with genetic and GycoMaple strategies. In Smart/Intelligent, GU Visiting Prof. Dr. MOGI Kenichiro, gave a keynote lecture on "Al Alignment and the Human Brain."

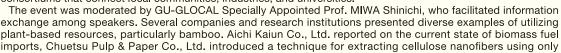
On the third day, participants paid a courtesy call to Guwahati University, toured research facilities, visited bio companies, and inspected the Center of Excellence (COE) for digital design and 3D printers. These were aimed at developing understanding of university collaboration with NER and the region's rich biological resources, as well as research technology development promoted in NER.



"Meet Up Chubu vol.64" Co-Hosted by Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, Central Japan Economic Federation and GU

Jun 12

n June 12, Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, Central Japan Economic Federation, and GU co-hosted Meet Up Chubu vol.64 CN (biomass and bamboo resource utilization) with GU-GLOCAL in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, attracting a total of 257 guests. The event began with an introduction by Executive Director of GU-GLOCAL, Prof. KOYAMA Hiroyuki, who presented GU-GLOCAL's past initiatives. Following this, Associate Director of GU-GLOCAL, Prof. EBIHARA Akio underscored the importance of consortiums that connect local communities, industries, and universities.





water, without chemicals, and Marudai Ironworks Co., Ltd. showcased room-temperature, single-step ultra-fine bamboo powder processing technology. These pioneering technologies are aimed at helping to balance environmental sustainability with economic development.

Note: This event also serves as part of Bamboo Resources Workshop launched FY2022.

Message from Alumnus

fter completing my doctoral program at Gifu University in December 2021, I joined the NIT (KOSEN), Gifu College, as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. My responsibilities include teaching a range of theoretical and experimental subjects, as well as engaging in research.

Currently, my research focuses on the development of advanced materials, specifically silicon-based semiconductor films for photovoltaic applications. In addition to academic and research duties, I am involved in various administrative roles. I firmly believe that broad exposure to academic and research activities during my time at the university has been instrumental in establishing myself in my current academic field.



Rahul KUMAR

National Institute of Technology (KOSEN), Gifu College Graduated from the Graduate School of Engineering in 2021 (Graduated from IITKGP Master's program in 2017)



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Newsletter for International Exchange Gifu University

https://www.glocal.gifu-u.ac.jp/en/planning/data/newsletter/index.html





Studying in Japan

Summer School 2025

June 18 - July 16

rom June 18 to July 16, GU hosted "Summer School 2025" program, welcoming, in all, 13 students from our exchange partner institutions overseas: Northern Kentucky University (USA), University of South Florida (USA), Brawijaya University (Indonesia), and University of Lille (France). In addition to Japanese language study, this program featured hands-on cultural experiences at facilities in Gifu Prefecture, such as traditional *washi* papermaking in Mino, Seki Cutlery Museum tour and Japanese sword smithing in Seki, and a special program in Gujo. A new destination, Inuyama Castle, just in Aichi Prefecture, was added, and students explored its castle and strolled through the castle town.



For the Gujo Program, a new format was introduced this year, allowing a choice between a homestay or a day trip. Twelve students opted for the former, and one the latter.

Back on campus, they joined GU students to watch *Noh* and *Kyogen* performances and celebrate the *Tanabata Star Festival*.

During the Summer School, they stayed in dormitories, guided on all aspects of daily life by resident assistants. Also, each had a 'student supporter' assigned to them for help with exchange activity procedures.



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

Gujo Dance Workshop 2025

May 14

Nohgaku Workshop 2025

July 9

he Center for Japanese Language and Culture (CJLC) hosted the Gujo Dance Workshop 2025 on May 14. Gujo Dance, one of Japan's traditional performing arts, was inscribed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in November 2022 and is also designated as a "Significant Intangible Folk Cultural Asset." About 30 international students from China, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Spain, Thailand, Timor-Leste, USA, and Vietnam participated and enjoyed the traditional dance. To prepare, members of a kimono group from Mino assisted students in putting on summer kimonos of their choice. The group photos are beautiful!

Two instructors from Gujo taught the students the dance. Participants practiced two popular Gujo Dance pieces: Kawasaki and

Harukoma. The students carefully observed the instructors' hand and foot movements and worked diligently to master them. At the end, participants received gift mementos of Gujo. Students said, "At first, it seemed difficult to dance, but now I'm happy that I can do it," and "I want to learn more about Gujo Dance."

The Gujo Dance Workshop 2025 gave international students a memorable experience of the culture of Gifu and Japan.



n July 9, CJLC hosted a *Nohgaku* Workshop 2025, featuring both *Noh* and *Kyogen* performances. Approximately 50 participants, including students attending GU's Summer School program, enjoyed an immersive experience in traditional Japanese performing arts.

Since 2005, CJLC has invited professional *Noh* performers to lead these workshops. This year, we welcomed four distinguished instructors: Mr. MIKATA Madoka and Mr. TAMOI Hiromichi, who perform *Noh* drama as lead actors called "shite" in *Kanze* School, and Mr. SHIGEYAMA Chuzaburo and Mr. YAMAGUCHI Koudo, both of whom are *Kyogen* drama performers in *Okura School*.

The *Noh* dance, *Iwafune*, opened proceedings, followed by an overview of *Noh* history, chanting practice of *Takasago*, explanations of the differences between *Noh* and *Kyogen* masks, demonstrations of *Noh* musical instruments, expressive techniques in *Kyogen*, such as laughter

and crying, and viewing of the *Kyogen* play *Neongyoku* and *Noh* play *Adachigahara*. The unique features of Noh costumes were also explained. It was a fruitful and rewarding experience for all. The presentations were in Japanese with English explanation for those needing it.

This workshop offered a rare opportunity to experience authentic *Noh* and *Kyogen* performances. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive.





Studying at GU



CARBONELL PARODY DANIEL ALONSO

Graduate School of Education

Japanese Arts and Beauty

One day I was reading Kawabata Yasunari, Japanese

Literature Nobel Prize, and I was taken by a sentiment expressed through these questions: what is it about Japan, for people to feel these things? Why did this writer choose these words and not others? Where did Kawabata see this image before he dreamed it? And what kind of heart must he have had? Japan seems to be a nation where all beautiful things matter. Who do we have to be, and how do we have to live for beauty to matter this much? As a student in GU's Art Education Program, learning about Japanese Art History and doing research on the way art is taught in Japan, I hope to better understand how it is that Japanese artists make use of a heart that's perseverant, sensitive and observant of beauty, and how we can find more wholesome and sincere ways of experiencing the arts in school. My goal is to take this knowledge back to my country and become a better art teacher for my students as well as an educator of Japanese Arts & Culture.



Studying Abroad

Spring School Program 2025

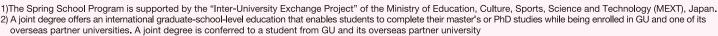
March 3-15

n collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), GU-GLOCAL offers an annual short-term outbound initiative known as the Spring School Program¹, open to all GU students. Since the founding of GU and IITG Joint Degree Program (JDP2) in 2019, this partnership has continued to grow.

From March 3 to 15, ten GU students - selected from among 41 applicants - took part in the 4th Spring School Program 2025 at IITG. The program began with an opening ceremony, as part of the Joint Degree Symposium 2025, co-hosted by GU and IITG. Throughout the program, students explored the rich cultural diversity of India by visiting national parks and folk museums in Assam, as well as institutions promoting natural farming and biopesticide

production. On campus, they attended workshops in the Department of Design on the use of jute (corchorus), and toured the JDP laboratories. Despite the short time, the program gave a comprehensive learning experience, deepening students' understanding of the society and culture of IITG and Northeast India. They also had valuable interaction with IITG students.

On the final day, each student presented a poster summarizing their learnings across one of 14 topics. To conclude, they responded to questions in English. At the close of the program, all ten were awarded Certificates of Completion.







Spring 2025 Study **Abroad Fair**

April 16

he Spring 2025 Study Abroad Fair, hosted by GU-GLOCAL, was held to explain the language skills needed for studying abroad and of GU's study abroad programs, and to promote international exchange. This has been an annual fair since 2012.

The event opened with remarks by GU-GLOCAL Executive Director, Prof. KOYAMA Hiroyuki, and was moderated by Division Head of the Study Abroad Promotion Division, GU-GLOCAL, Prof. SHIMA Mutsuhiro.

Next, the Inbound and Outbound Student Affairs Section staff gave an overview of the GU study abroad programs and support systems. Then came presentations from E.S.T. JAPAN Co.,Ltd. and the Eiken Foundation of Japan, about the English proficiency tests, TOEFL and IELTS. After a break, students who had studied abroad on short-term English training programs, exchange programs, or faculty-led dispatch programs shared their experiences. They spoke about gaining confidence in using

English, discovering diverse perspectives, and developing new interests - showing their growth through their experiences.

Participants listened attentively, and many asked individual questions after the fair, now more inspired to study abroad.



2025 Crisis Management **Orientation for Overseas Travel**

July 2

U-GLOCAL hosted the 2025 Crisis Management Orientation for Overseas Travel. This orientation was designed for students and staff planning to study or travel abroad, to help them avoid negative incidents and accidents, and to broaden their crisis management abilities and health care knowledge. GU-GLOCAL Executive Director, Prof. KOYAMA Hiroyuki gave opening remarks and Division Head of the Study Abroad Promotion Division, GU-GLOCAL, Prof. SHIMA Mutsuhiro moderated.

Next, Dr. YAMAMOTO Mayumi, Director/Professor of the Health Administration Center, GU, gave an online lecture on pre-travel vaccinations and health management while abroad. This was followed by a presentation from Mr. HATTORI Makoto, former board member of the Japanese Council for the Safety of Overseas Students (JCSOS), who spoke about the importance of crisis awareness and safety measures. Mr. MATSUMOTO Takuya from the Tokio Marine International Assistance Co., Ltd. then introduced the JCSOS Total Assistance Service (J-TAS), and finally, Mr. MATSUNO Toshiyuki from the Tokio Marine & Nichido Partners Tokai-Hokuriku Co., Ltd. explained the Gakkensai supplementary overseas

insurance of the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services.

Participants focused on topics rarely considered in daily life, such as travel incidents occurring overseas, security information, and comparisons between Japanese and foreign medical and insurance systems.



Studying Abroad



SUZUMURA Hina **Faculty of Education**

University of Alberta ESL Program



Finding Treasures in a Month Abroad

S tudying in Canada was my way of jumping into an English-speaking environment. At first, I was nervous. But when I thanked my host family after they took me skiing, they replied, "Let's go again." I was truly happy that my feelings

had reached them. I learned that it's not about speaking perfect English, but about expressing yourself sincerely. I also loved Canada's welcoming atmosphere and the multicultural environment. Though it was only a month, I found treasures I'll value forever—friends I studied with, and the host family who warmly accepted me.



