



THE 7TH WINTER SCHOOL REPORT DECEMBER 6-22, 2023





Overview of the 7th Winter School

Objectives:

In April 2019, Gifu University launched international Joint Degree Programs (JDP) with both Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The Winter School is designed to provide opportunities to students from those institutions who are considering graduate studies a better understanding of Gifu University and Japan. The theme of this year's Winter School is "Studying science of Japanese tradition." The participants visited Japanese companies, interacted with Japanese students, engaged in research activities, and experienced Japanese culture. Gifu University hopes that the participants will serve as bridges between IITG/UKM and Gifu University, and play a role in fostering mutual understanding for years to come.

Number of Participants:

6 students from IITG (2 males and 4 females; 3 undergraduate and 3 master's)
2 students from UKM (2 females; 2 master's)

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Opening Ceremony

December 6 (Wed.)

Opening ceremony was held in Learning Commons 1A and 1B, General Education Building. After an opening speech by Dr. KAMBARA Shinji, Vice President (International Affairs, Information and (Deputy in Charge for) Evaluation), the participants introduced themselves and enjoyed communicating with other participants, relevant professors, and tutor students.



Gathering with Gifu University Students

December 6 (Wed.)

Gathering with Gifu University students was held in Teaching Staff Office of GU-GLOCAL. Winter School participants met Gifu University JDP students, Spring School Program 2024 participants, and Collaborative Video Making Program (CVMP) 2023 participants and enjoyed talking with each other.

Spring School Program and CVMP are exchange activities with Gifu University, IITG and UKM students. This gathering helped all participants get to know each other.



JDP



Spring Program



Collaborative Video
Making Program

A Courtesy Visit to President

December 8 (Fri.)

The participants visited the Office of the President and held talks with President of Gifu University. They talked about their motivations and determination to make their studies at Gifu University to be most productive and fulfilling.



Joint Degree Symposium and Booth Exhibition

December 8 (Fri.)

Joint Degree (JD) Symposium 2023 on "Regional revitalization through collaboration between industry, government, and academia centered on joint degrees" was held in the Auditorium of Gifu University with a Zoom Webinar. The participants joined the symposium with translation system that translated Japanese in to English on the laptop from the Auditorium. After the symposium, they visited the Booth Exhibition that related with JD Symposium. They checked around some booths and asked questions.



Japanese Classes

December 11 (Mon.) and December 12 (Tue.)

Japanese language lessons were offered to the participants by the Center for Japanese Language and Culture. They learned basic Japanese language over a total of five-hour class sessions.



Laboratory Experiences

December 11 (Mon.) and December 12 (Tue.)

This experience was set up for the participants to learn more about the soil and ceramics of Japan.

In the first part of the Laboratory Experience, participants took the lecture on the overview of earthen and ceramic wares. In the second part, participants learned about the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) and the Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (EDX) at the Instrumental Analysis Center on campus and experienced the analysis with SEM and EDX. They also had a short lecture and experienced the operation of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR).



December 18 (Mon.) and December 19 (Tue.)

This experience was set up for the participants to learn more about the Japanese food and science.

In the first part of the Laboratory Experiences, participants took the lecture on the overview of koji (malted rice) and joined the laboratory tour. In the second part, participants made koji (malted rice) and tasted Amazake (sweet sake, non-alcoholic).



Japanese Culture Experience (Gagaku)

December 13 (Wed.)

Japanese Culture Experience (Gagaku, Japanese old court music) was held in Washitsu (Japanese style room) in the Center for Japanese Language and Culture.

The participants took part in the event with Gifu University Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course students. They enjoyed the beautiful Japanese traditional culture. In the first part of the event were a concert and a lecture about the history of Gagaku. In the second part, students had chances to try the instruments and costumes.



Tokyo Excursion

December 14 (Thu.) – December 15 (Fri.)

This excursion was set up for the participants to learn more about Japanese industry and companies. Prior to the excursion, the participants took a special lecture about Japanese industry and companies on December 13 (Wed.).

During the Tokyo Excursion, the participants had the chance to visit a major research institute, company and government organization in Aichi, Kanagawa, and Tokyo. They took a tour of the Japan Fine Ceramics Center (Aichi), Morinaga & Co., Ltd. (Kanagawa), Sinfonia Technology Co., Ltd. (Tokyo), and JETRO Headquarters (Tokyo). We would like to express our appreciation to all the staff of the companies and JETRO for offering a warm welcome to the participants.



Off-Campus Lecture in Tajimi City

December 20 (Wed.)

This Off-Campus Lecture was set up for the participants to learn more about Mino ceramic ware, which is one of the famous local industries in Gifu. The participants visited the Mino Ceramic Art Museum, Tajimi (Gifu) and learned about the Mino ware. They also had a chance to experience a tea ceremony with using Mino ware. Participants later visited the Kokeigama (potter of Mino ware). After the facility tour, participants tried the pottery making.



Gathering with High School Students of Gifu City

December 21 (Thu.)

Gathering with Kano High School students was held in General Education Building. Winter School participants and 37 high school students made 7 groups for a group discussion. In the first part of the event, they had a lecture about glocal initiatives of Gifu University from Dr. EBIHARA Akio, Associate Director of the Organization for Promotion of Glocalization, Gifu University. In the second part of the event, they had a brief lecture on UKM and studying abroad to Japan from JDP students from UKM. Finally, the high school students gave their presentation to the participants, and after that, all students enjoyed talking with each other. This gathering helped all participants get to know each other and learn about cultural differences.



Accomplishment Reports and Closing Ceremony

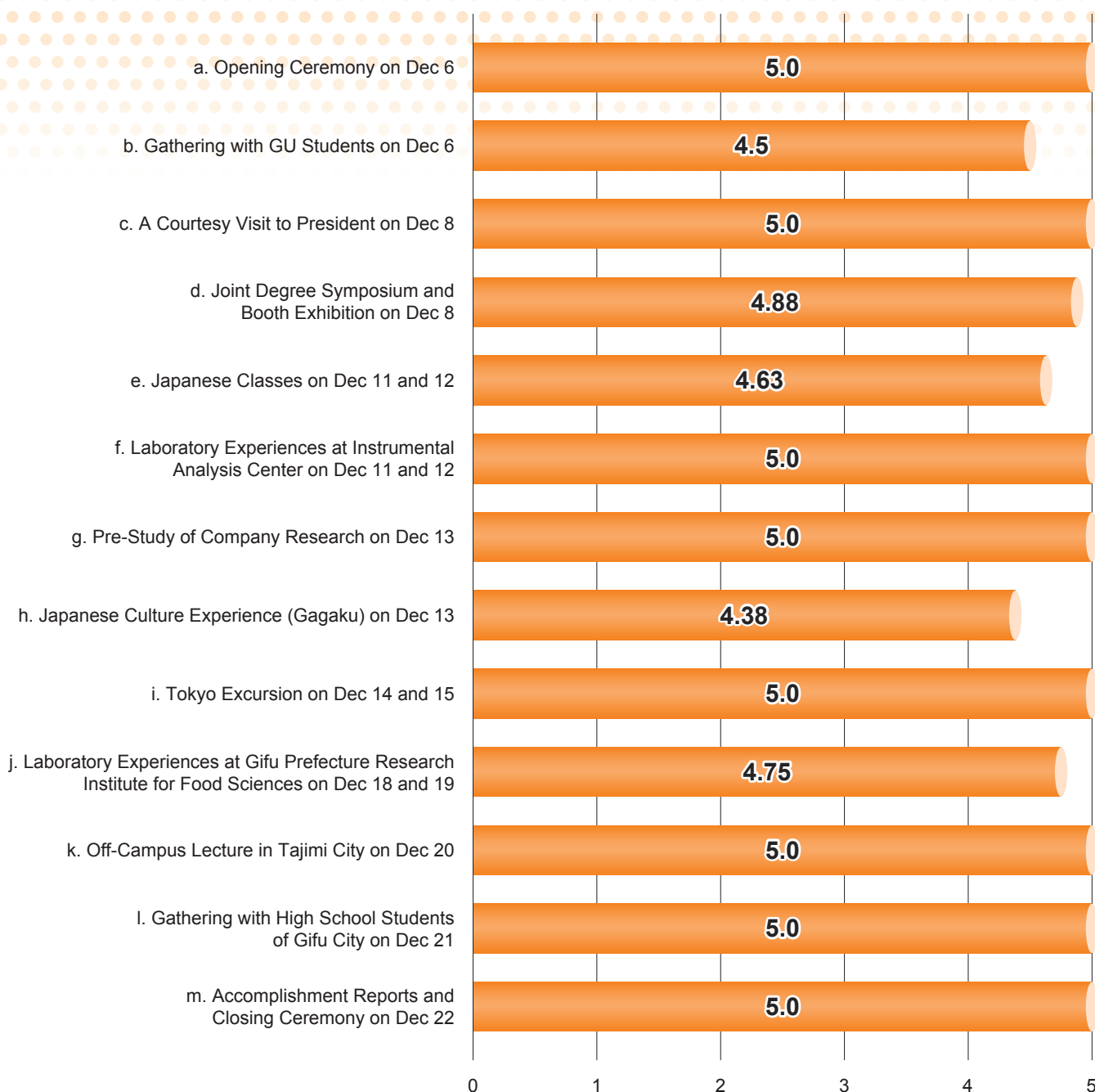
December 22 (Fri.)

On the final day of Winter School 2023, Accomplishment Reports session was held in Learning Commons 1A and 1B, General Education Building. Dr. YOSHIDA Kazuhiro, President of Gifu University, relevant professors, and students joined this session. The participants gave their poster presentation about the activities in Winter School. In just two-week school activities, the participants had made a lot of progress and looked confident of their achievements. President Yoshida gave small gifts to the top three students. At the Closing Ceremony, Dr. KAMBARA awarded the Certificate of Completion to each participant. The participants, professors and students had a hard time to say goodbye to one another and are hoping to be reunited again. The 7th Winter School Program marked another successful milestone in the history of Winter School Programs.



Questionnaire to Participants of Winter School 2023

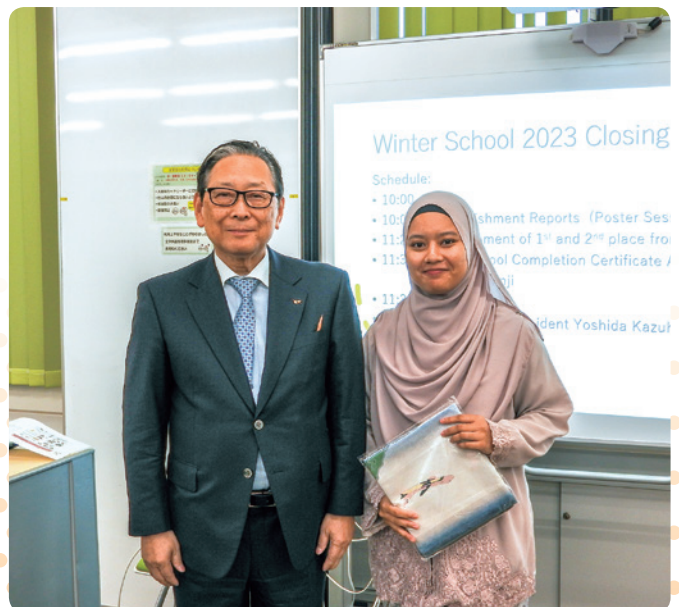
1. Satisfaction with the 7th Winter School



2. Comments from Participants

- Very good, please give more opportunities to participate.
- It was organized, all information was given and was very resourceful.
- We are really thankful to the students and all the professors who were involved in the Winter School. We enjoyed the complete stay, and loved the hospitality offered by you. Thank you, once again!
- I enjoyed the Winter School very much. It indeed is a very good initiative for cross cultural exchange and exploration of future possibilities be it job or further studies.
- Winter School was one of the best experiences of my life. I brought a lot of memories. The knowledge that we received was phenomenal and the people of Japan are very very nice and helpful people.

Memories







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