



THE 8TH WINTER SCHOOL REPORT



DECEMBER
5-20, 2024





Overview of the 8th Winter School

Objectives:

In April 2019, Gifu University launched international Joint Degree Programs (JDP) with both the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The Winter School is designed to provide an opportunity for students from these institutions who are considering graduate studies that would provide them with a closer relationship with Gifu University and Japan. The theme of this year's Winter School is Studying Science of Japanese Food. Students from the two universities ('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 an active role in fostering mutual understanding for years to come.

Number of Participants:

6 students from IITG (3 male and 3 female; 2 undergraduate students and 4 master's degree students)

2 students from UKM (2 male; 2 master's degree students)

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Opening Ceremony

December 5 (Thu.)

The opening ceremony was held in the University Library Meeting Room. After an opening speech by Dr. Lim Lee Wah, Vice President (Global Outreach, Diversity, Gender and Library) of Gifu University, the participants introduced themselves and enjoyed communicating with other participants, professors, and student tutors.



Gifu Park Tour

December 5 (Thu.)

The participants visited Gifu Park and Gifu City Museum of History. First, the participants visited Gifu Park before strolling through the old streets of Kawaramachi, the Japan-China Friendship Garden, and the grounds of Gifu Gokoku Shrine. Lastly, they visited the museum to learn about the history of Gifu City.



Gathering with Gifu University Students

December 5 (Thu.)

A gathering with Gifu University students was held in the University Library Meeting Room. The participants met some JDP students, Spring School Program 2025 participants, Collaborative Video Making Program (CVMP) 2024 participants, and student tutors and enjoyed talking with everybody.

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



JDP



Spring School
Program



Collaborative Video
Making Program



Joint Degree Symposium and Booth Exhibition

December 6 (Fri.)

The Joint Degree Symposium 2024 themed Challenging to Promote Multicultural Coexistence Through Glocalization was held at the Institute for Glyco-core Research (iGCORE) on campus with a Zoom Webinar. The participants joined the symposium with English subtitle on the screen. After the symposium, they visited the Booth Exhibition related to the JD Symposium. They explored the booths and asked questions.



December 18 (Wed.)

The Joint Degree Symposium 2024 academic session discussing a Global Lecture Series on Science, Technology and Engineering hosted by GILP was held in the form of a ZOOM Meeting. The participants joined the meeting in the University Library Meeting Room. They put questions to the speakers and gained a deeper understanding of leading-edge science and technology across the world.



GILP



Laboratory Experience

December 9 (Mon.) and December 12 (Thu.)

This experience program was set up for the participants to learn more about *koji* (malted rice).

In the first half of the Laboratory Experience, the participants visited the Instrumental Analysis Center on campus, where they received an explanation of the equipment and toured the center.

In the second half, they were given an overview of *koji* and how to use a scanning electron microscopy (SEM) to observe its microstructure. Next, they carried out SEM observations. First, they coated the *koji* samples with osmium in order to observe them under the SEM, and then each participant experienced operating the SEM to observe *koji* at the atomic level.



December 10 (Tue.) and December 12 (Thu.)

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

In the first part of the Laboratory Experience, the participants visited the Gifu Prefecture Research Institute for Food Sciences on campus, attended a lecture on the overview of *koji*, and took a laboratory tour. In the second part, the participants made *koji* and tasted *Amazake* (sweet sake, non-alcoholic). Also, the participants made and tasted *konyaku* under the guidance of a *konyaku* company specialist.



Japanese Classes

December 9 (Mon.) and December 10 (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 hours of lessons.



Japanese Culture Experience (*Juni-Hitoe*)

December 11 (Wed.)

Japanese Culture Experience (*Juni-Hitoe*, twelve-layered kimono) was held in a *washitsu* (Japanese style room) in the Center for Japanese Language and Culture (CJLC).

The participants took part in the event with international students studying on the Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course, and on the Japanese Society and Culture Program at CJLC, and other international and Japanese students, faculty and staff members of Gifu University.

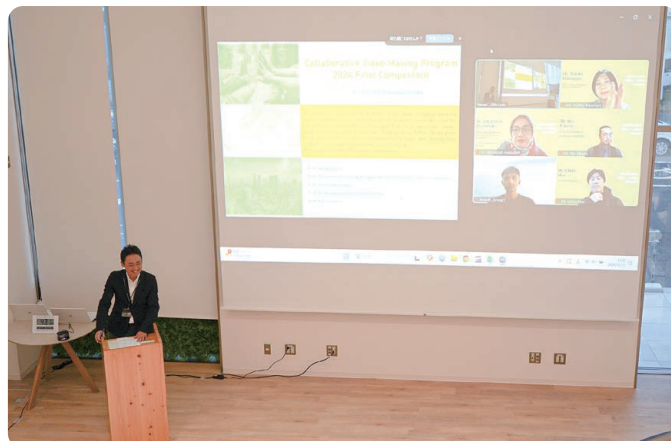
They enjoyed this beautiful traditional Japanese culture. The first part of the event was a lecture about the history and basic knowledge of *Juni-Hitoe*. In the second part, the instructors dressed a student selected from among the volunteers to be the dressing model for *Juni-Hitoe* and answered questions from the participants. Finally, those who wished to participate entered the space created inside a *Juni-Hitoe* after the wearer had slipped out of it whilst preserving its shape. They felt its weight and enjoyed taking pictures with their friends.



Collaborative Video Making Program Final Competition

December 12 (Thu.)

The Collaborative Video Making Program (CVMP) 2024 Final Competition was held in a hybrid format via Zoom Webinar and at the presentation area on the first floor of the OKB Gifu University Plaza on campus. The participants attended at the Plaza. In the CVMP, the students from IITG, UKM, and Gifu University were divided into 4 groups to each shoot a video under the theme of Thinking About SDGs under the instruction of a creative agency producer in Australia. In the Final Competition, the videos of all the groups were broadcast, each group presenting their own. After that, the viewers and special judges voted to determine the best video. The participants enjoyed watching all the videos; a powerful representation of the collaboration of the students of the three universities.



Off-Campus Lecture in Yaotsu Town

December 13 (Fri.)

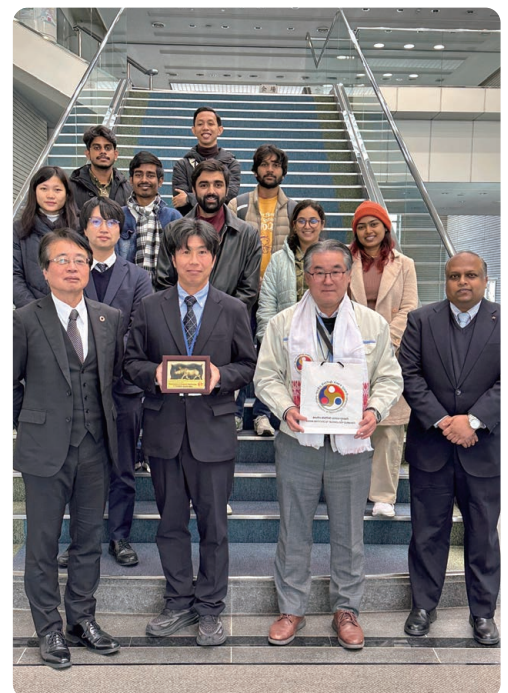
This Off-Campus Lecture was set up for the participants to learn more about traditional Japanese food. The participants visited Iwadaira Tea Plantation, Yaotsu Town (Gifu). They experienced Japanese tea blending and took a tea plantation tour. They also tasted some vinegar samples that the Uchibori vinegar brewery in Yaotsu Town kindly provided.



Tokyo Excursion

December 16 (Mon.) – December 17 (Tue.)

This excursion was organized to provide the participants with a deeper understanding of Japanese industries and companies. Prior to the excursion, the participants attended a special lecture on Japanese industry and corporate culture on December 11 (Wed.). During the Tokyo excursion, the participants had the opportunity to visit prominent research institutes, companies, and a government organization. The itinerary included tours of the Japan Fine Ceramics Center (Aichi), JICA Headquarters (Tokyo), Yamazaki Baking Co., Ltd. (Chiba), and Nihon Nohyaku Co., Ltd. (Tokyo).



Gathering with High School Students from Gifu City

December 19 (Thu.)

A gathering with Kano High School students was held in the General Education Building on campus. The participants and 40 high school students made 5 groups for group discussions. 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 of Gifu University. In the second part, they had a brief lecture about UKM and the study abroad experiences of JDP students from UKM. Finally, the high school students gave presentations, after which, 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

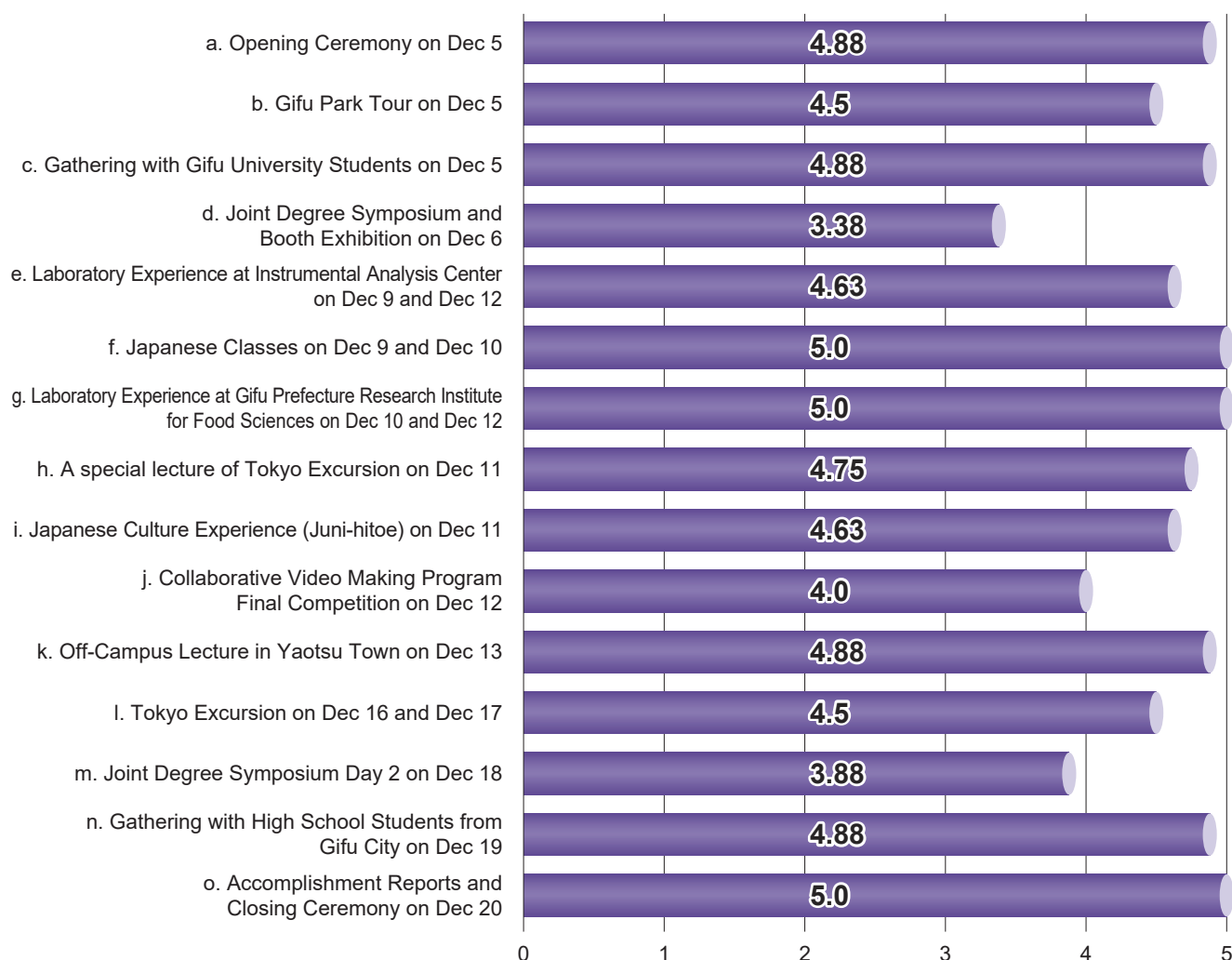
December 20 (Fri.)

On the final day of the Winter School 2024, the Accomplishment Reports session was held in the Learning Commons, General Education Building on campus. Dr. YOSHIDA Kazuhiro, President of Gifu University, some professors and some students joined this session. The participants gave poster presentations about the activities in the Winter School. In just two weeks of school activities, the participants had made a lot of progress and displayed confidence in their achievements. President Yoshida gave small gifts to the top four students. At the Closing Ceremony, Dr. Lim awarded the Certificate of Completion to each participant. The participants, professors and students had a hard time saying goodbye to one another, and they all hope to meet again. The 8th Winter School Program marked another successful milestone in the history of Winter School Programs.



Questionnaire to participants of Winter School 2024

1. Satisfaction with the 8th Winter School



2. Comments from Participants

- "Winter School 2024 at Gifu University is an extraordinary opportunity that offers so much more than academic enrichment. From my perspective, this program is a perfect blend of learning, cultural exploration, and personal growth. The interactive workshops, insightful lectures, and hands-on sessions provide a deep dive into cutting-edge topics, all while being guided by some of the best experts in their fields. What makes this experience truly special is the chance to connect with participants from diverse backgrounds, creating a dynamic environment for exchanging ideas and building global networks. Gifu University, with its state-of-the-art facilities and welcoming atmosphere, serves as the perfect setting for such an impactful program. In addition to the academic offerings, exploring the beautiful city of Gifu and its surrounding areas adds an unforgettable cultural dimension to the program. From traditional Japanese experiences to breathtaking natural landscapes, it's a journey that enriches both the mind and the soul. Winter School 2024 is not just a program, it's an opportunity to challenge myself, learn from others, and create lasting memories in one of the most inspiring settings imaginable. From my perspective, it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I'd highly recommend to anyone looking to grow academically, culturally, and personally."
- "Great experience, I will definitely come to Japan again, possibly for a job or higher studies."
- "It was a great opportunity for me to learn about different culture and was amazed to see the waste management system of Japan."



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