

The 9th Winter School Report

December 3-18, 2025





Overview of the 9th Winter School

Objectives:

In April 2019, Gifu university (GU) launched international Joint Degree Programs (JDP) with both the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). The Winter School provides an opportunity to gain a closer relationship with GU and Japan for students from IITG and UKM who are capable of pursuing graduate studies. The theme of this year's Winter School was Studying the Science of Japanese Food. Participants visited Japanese companies, interacted with Japanese students, engaged in research activities, and experienced Japanese culture. GU hopes that the participants will serve as bridges between IITG/ UKM and GU and play an active role in fostering mutual understanding for years to come.

Number of Participants:

7 students from IITG (5 male and 2 female; 4 undergraduate students and 3 master's degree students)

2 students from UKM (1 male and 1 female; 2 master's degree students)

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- Gifu Park Tour (Optional)
- Gathering with Gifu University Students (Lunch meeting)
- Joint Degree Symposium and Booth Exhibition
- Laboratory Experience Programs
- Japanese Classes
- Japanese Culture Experience (*Juni-Hitoe*)
- Collaborative Video Making Program Final Competition
- Off-Campus Lecture in Yaotsu Town
- Aichi and Tokyo Excursion
- Gathering with High School Students from Gifu City
- Accomplishment Reports and Closing Ceremony



Opening Ceremony

December 3 (Wed.)

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



Gathering with Gifu University Students (Lunch meeting)

December 3 (Wed.)

A gathering with GU students was held in the Faculty of Engineering. Winter School participants met GU JDP students, Spring School Program 2026 participants, and student tutors enjoyed talking with each other.

The Spring School Program and CVMP are exchange activities for GU, IITG and UKM students.

This gathering helped all participants get to know each other.



Gifu Park Tour (Optional)

December 3 (Wed.)

The participants visited Gifu Park with tutors. They enjoyed visiting Gifu Castle and seeing the beautiful view of Gifu City.



JDP



Spring School Program



Collaborative Video Making Program



Joint Degree Symposium and Booth Exhibition

December 4 (Thu.)

The Joint Degree Symposium 2025 Academic Session on “International Collaboration in Research and Education for Sustainable Future” was held in TOIC (Tokai Open Innovation Complex) GIFU. The participants joined the meeting in person. They put questions to the speakers and gained a deeper understanding.



December 5 (Fri.)

The Joint Degree (JD) Symposium 2025 themed “University Collaboration and Joint Degree in the Global South” was held at the Institute for Glyco-core Research (iGCORE).

The participants joined the symposium with English subtitles on the screen. After the symposium, they visited the Booth Exhibition of local companies related to the JD Symposium. They explored the booths and asked questions.

After that, they joined a social gathering at TOIC GIFU.



Laboratory Experience Programs

December 8 (Mon.) and December 11 (Thu.)

This program was set up for the participants to learn more about tea leaves.

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 tea leaves and how to use a scanning electron microscope (SEM) to observe its microstructure. Next, they carried out SEM observations. First, they coated a sample of tea leaves with osmium in order to observe them under the SEM, and then each participant experienced operating the SEM to observe tea leaves at the atomic level.



December 9 (Tue.) and December 11 (Thu.)

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

In the first part of the program, the participants visited the Gifu Prefectural Research Institute for Food Sciences on campus, attended a lecture on the overview of tea leaves, and took a laboratory tour. In the second part, the participants made Japanese sweets and konnyaku. Also, the participants made and tasted Japanese sweets and konnyaku under the guidance of specialists from Japanese sweets and konnyaku making companies, respectively.



Japanese Classes

December 8 (Mon.) and December 9 (Tue.)

Japanese language lessons were provided to the participants by the Center for Japanese Language and Culture.

They learned basic Japanese over a total of five hours of lessons.



Japanese Culture Experience (*Juni-Hitoe*)

December 10 (Wed.)

This event, *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, or on the Japanese Society and Culture Program at CJLC, and other international and Japanese students, faculty and staff members of GU.

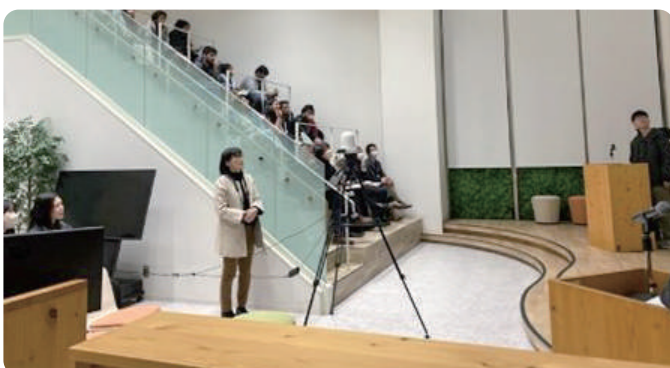
This beautiful traditional Japanese culture was presented for education and enjoyment for all. To start, there was a lecture about the history and basic details of *Juni-Hitoe*. Next, there was a demonstration, in which the instructors dressed a student, selected from among volunteers to be the dressing model, in *Juni-Hitoe* and answered questions from the participants. Finally, those who wished to participate entered the space created inside the *Juni-Hitoe* after the wearer had slipped out of it whilst preserving its shape. They felt its considerable weight and enjoyed having pictures taken with their friends.



Collaborative Video Making Program Final Competition

December 11 (Thu.)

The Collaborative Video Making Program (CVMP) 2025 Final Competition was held in a hybrid format via Zoom Webinar and at the presentation area in the TOIC GIFU, where the Winter School participants attended. In the CVMP, the students from IITG, UKM, and GU were divided into 3 groups to each shoot a video under the theme of Thinking about “Unique points that can be identified by comparing student life” 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 12 (Fri.)

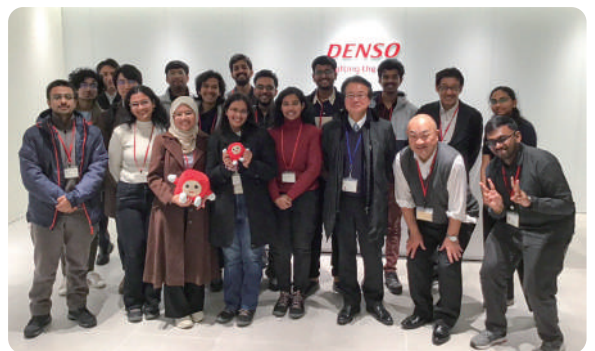
This Off-Campus Lecture was set up for the participants to learn more about traditional Japanese food. They visited Iwadaira Tea Plantation, Yaotsu Town (Gifu). They watched and tried Japanese tea blending and took a tea plantation tour. They also tasted some vinegar samples that the Uchibori Vinegar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



Aichi and Tokyo Excursion

December 15 (Mon.) – December 16 (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 10 (Wed.). During the Tokyo excursion, the participants had the opportunity to visit prominent research institutes, companies in Aichi and Tokyo. The itinerary included tours of the Japan Fine Ceramics Center (Aichi), NGK Insulators, Ltd. (Aichi), Denso Corporation (Tokyo), Nihon Nohyaku Co., Ltd. (Tokyo) and Milbon Co., Ltd. (Tokyo). We extend our sincere gratitude to the staff of these organizations for their warm welcome and support during the visits.



Gathering with High School Students from Gifu City

December 17 (Wed.)

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 GU from Professor. EBIHARA Akio, Associate Director of Gifu University Organization for Promotion of Glocalization (GU-GLOCAL). 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 conversed with each other enthusiastically. This gathering helped all participants get to know each other and learn about cultural differences.

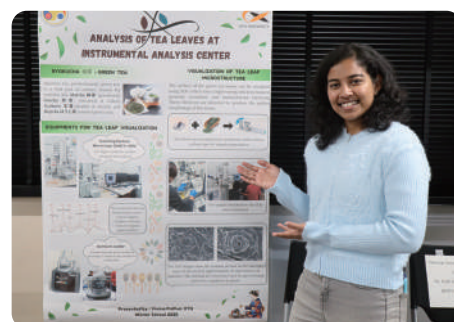


Accomplishment Reports and Closing Ceremony

December 18 (Thu.)

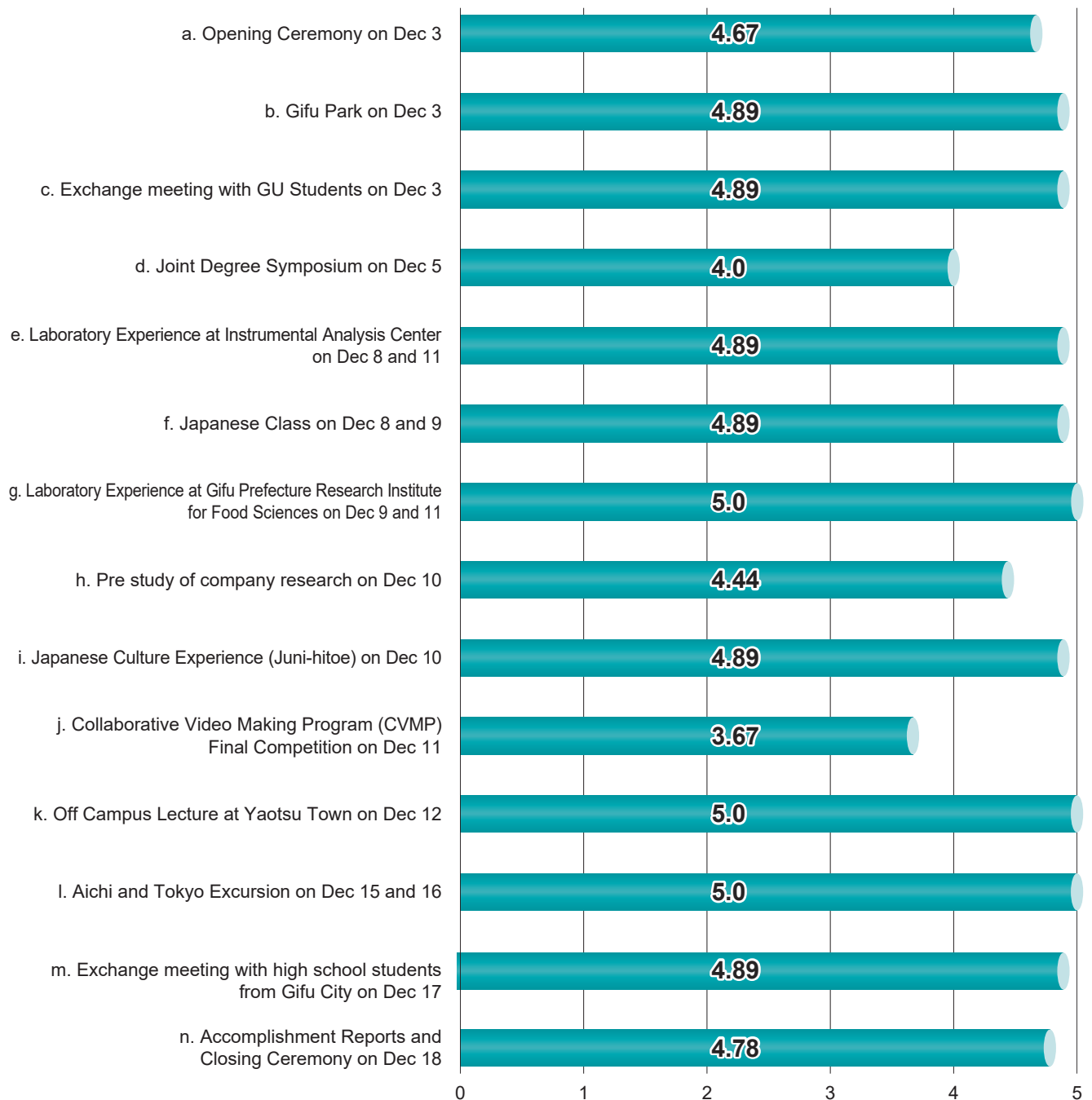
On the final day of the Winter School 2025, the Accomplishment Reports session was held in the Faculty of Engineering. President YOSHIDA Kazuhiro of Gifu University, some professors and some students joined this session. The participants gave poster presentations about the activities in the Winter School. In just two weeks of school activities, the participants had made a lot of progress and displayed confidence in their achievements. Professor KOYAMA Hiroyuki, Executive Director of GU-GLOCAL, gave small gifts to the top two students. At the Closing Ceremony, Prof. Koyama 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 9th Winter School Program marked another successful milestone in the history of our Winter School program.



Questionnaire to Participants of Winter School 2025

1. Satisfaction with the 9th Winter School



2. Comments from Participants

- "The Winter School 2025 was a well-structured and enriching program that balanced academics, cultural exposure, and interaction effectively. It provided valuable learning experiences, meaningful cross-cultural exchanges, and a deeper understanding of Gifu University and Japan. The support system and overall organization made the program both enjoyable and impactful."
- "It was a great opportunity to get to know about Japan. I now have tremendous respect for the Japanese."
- "The Winter School 2025 is an extremely enriching and well-organized program that offered a perfect balance between academic learning, and cultural experiences."



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