

Monthly Report of Gifu University

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Gifu University Fair 2015

Gifu University held Gifu University Fair 2015 on October 30 and 31, 2015. Thanks to the good weather, as many as 1,000 people visited the Gifu University Fair.

The Gifu University Fair started in 2009 and is an annual event to widely disseminate the University's educational, research and social contribution activities to companies and the public.

Under this year's theme of "Learning, Exploring, and Contributing at Gifu University – Follow the Path with the Community," the Fair was held at the Academic Core on the first floor of the University Library. In the Academic Core, presentations were given to introduce the University's activities, research work for technology development, and efforts for collaboration with local communities. There were also poster sessions which were displayed to provide information about major research outcomes in the areas of life science, environmental science and manufacturing as Gifu University's representative studies. Other posters were displayed to introduce the University's faculties (Faculty of Education, Faculty of Regional Studies, School of Medicine, Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences), centers and the municipalities with which the University works, as well as the research work of teaching staff of the Tenure Track System. Some visitors intently asked questions for further explanation from the teaching staff on site.

Many programs such as the Special Lecture in Fall sponsored by the Gifu University Association for Community Activities and Collaboration, a symposium sponsored by the Comparative Cancer Center of the Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences, the University students' experiment classes for elementary and junior high school students, and sales of the farm products of Yanagido Farm simultaneously took place during the Fair. The Fair provided a good opportunity for many visitors to learn about a wide variety of activities of Gifu University.



Presentation on activities at Gifu UniversityPoster session



Visitors watching the introduction of faculties

International Student Center: Opening Ceremony for Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course, Japanese Society and Culture Program, Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and Japanese Language Course

On October 9, 2015, the International Student Center held the opening ceremony for the Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course, the Japanese Society and Culture Program, Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments and Japanese Language Course at Meeting Room No. 1 of the Faculty of Regional Studies building.

The Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course is an one-year course for international undergraduate students who major in Japanese language and culture and want to learn about them further. The students are embassy-recommended or university-recommended international students funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and exchange students from Gifu University's partner universities overseas under the Academic Exchange Agreements.

The Japanese Society and Culture Program is open mainly to exchange students of Gifu University's partner universities overseas and provides them with comprehensive opportunities to learn about Japanese society and culture. In the Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments, Korean students who are expected to lead the future generation are invited to faculties of science and engineering in Japan to learn leading-edge technologies and knowledge. This Program also aims to make a contribution to mutual understanding between Japan and Korea. Gifu University is accepting international students under this Program for the first time in 11 years. The Japanese Language Course provides state-funded international students, graduate students, research students and exchange students with one semester of intensive Japanese language education.

The opening ceremony was held with attendance of a total of 44 students, including 10 international students enrolled in the Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course, October 2015, three in the Japanese Society and Culture Program, one in the Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments, and 30 students who will start learning in the Japanese Language Course including state-funded international students, research students and graduate students.

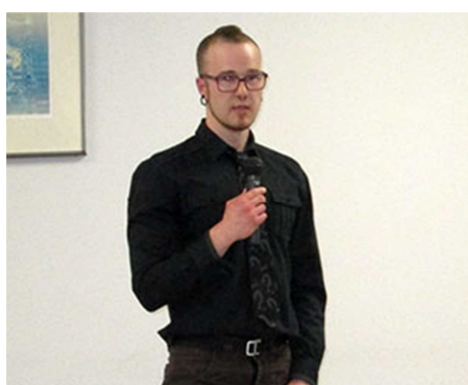
At the beginning of the ceremony, Dr. Fumiaki Suzuki, Executive Director for International Affairs and Public Relations, delivered a welcome speech: "Please keep

in mind why you decided to study here in Japan, and do your best to achieve your goal.” Next, the international students were introduced, and on their behalf, Mr. Birkbeck-Jones Toby, an embassy-recommended, MEXT-funded student from the University of Canterbury (New Zealand), gave a speech in Japanese. This was followed by three students who introduced themselves and expressed their determination to study at the University. They were: Mr. Steinhauer Matthew Thomas, an exchange student from Northern Kentucky University (USA) on behalf of the Japanese Society and Culture Program students, Mr. Lee Hyojae, an international student of the Japan-Korea Joint Government Scholarship Program for the Students in Science and Engineering Departments, and Ms. Orozco Y Orozco Yasmin Elisa of the Gifu University Graduate School of Education, a Guatemalan embassy-recommended, MEXT-funded research student.

The final part of the ceremony was marked by words of encouragement from Dr. Toyohide Takeuchi, Director of the International Student Center to the students: “Please take care of yourself, enjoy your life in Japan and study hard.”



Dr. Suzuki gives a speech



Mr. Birkbeck-Jones Toby



Group Photo

The Second Round of Gifu Nice Rice Project: “Cropping Rice & Drying Sheaves”

Gifu University held the second round of the Gifu Nice Rice Project: “Cropping Rice & Drying Sheaves,” based on the Gifu University and FC Gifu Partner Agreement for Environmental Conservation at the North Farm of the Gifu Field Science Center, Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences on October 14, 2015.

Aiming at raising people’s awareness of rice production and environmental conservation, Gifu University and FC Gifu co-organize the “Gifu Nice Rice Project” and join together in rice planting, harvesting and sales.

Inviting FC Gifu’s Chairman Satoshi Onda, and two players of FC Gifu, Mr. Gakuji Ota (goalkeeper) and Mr. Tsukasa Masuyama (midfielder), “Cropping Rice & Drying Sheaves” took place. From Gifu University, a total of 34 students (19 students from a farming support circle, 13 from the University soccer team and 2 from greening activity group “Three Trees”) attended the event.

They harvested a special cultivar of Gifu Prefecture called “Hatsushimo,” which was planted by elementary students in the first round of the Gifu Nice Rice Project called “Soccer Game & Rice Planting in Muddy Field” in May. The participants reaped rice with a sickle in hand under the instruction of staff of the Gifu Field Science Center. Mr. Ota and Mr. Masuyama rode on a combine rice harvester and operate it. Then, the participants bundled the straw with bands and put the sheaves on a rack to dry in the sun. Both FC Gifu players and students worked in an awkward manner at first, but gradually became comfortable and cooperated to harvest a crop at around 800 square meters.

After the work was done, an autograph-signing session was held to promote an exchange between the FC Gifu players and the students. Every student had a good time communicating with the players through friendly conversation.

The harvested rice will be blended with unmilled rice of “Midori Mai (Green Rice)” which is a cultivar with green rice kernels harvested at Gifu University, and whose green is the same with the team color of FC Gifu. The blended rice is named “Gifu Umai (Gifu Nice Rice)” and sold at a home game of FC Gifu at Nagarakawa Stadium (vs. Fagiano Okayama) on November 8, 2015.



Mr. Ota (left) and Mr. Masuyama (right)



Students of a farming support circle putting the sheaves on a rack.

Mr. Masakazu Tokuda, Deputy Director-General of MEXT visits Gifu University

Mr. Masakazu Tokuda, Deputy Director-General of the Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), visited Gifu University on October 14, 2015.

After a meeting with President Hisataka Moriwaki and Mr. Masaki Yokoyama, Executive Director for General Affairs and Finance, Mr. Tokuda received an explanation about Gifu University's gender equality promotion program from Professor Masako Hayashi, Vice President for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Diversity.

Later, Mr. Tokuda visited two nursery schools of Gifu University, "Hohoemi" and "Sukoyaka." After hearing the details of the nursery schools' current situations and problems from Mr. Kosho Kasuga, Principal of these nursery schools, Mr. Tokuda chatted with the toddlers.

In the afternoon, Mr. Tokuda visited Gifu Pharmaceutical University, and exchanged opinions with female researchers of Gifu University, Gifu Pharmaceutical University, Gifu Women's University and honey product manufacturer, API Co., Ltd., about the "2015 Initiative for the Implementation of the Diversity Research Environment (Collaboration Type)," for which Gifu University had filed an application with MEXT as the representative institution, and the application was successfully selected.



Mr. Tokuda visiting the University nursery school

Agreement Concluded for Center of Community (COC+) Program

In 2015, Gifu University was successfully selected for “Step Up in Gifu & Positive Effect on Gifu – Collaboration for Cultivation of Community-Based Business Leaders,” under “COC+ Program (a Center of Community Program for local revitalization)” sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). For the implementation of this project, Gifu University concluded an agreement with Chubu Gakuin University & College, Chubu University, Nihon Fukushi University and Gifu Prefecture on October 16, 2015. Under this agreement, the institutions will work together for local revitalization by capitalizing on their strength as the “Center of Community,” making efforts to develop human resources for future leaders in Gifu, and serving as the backbone for the invigoration of local businesses.

At the signing ceremony, President Hisataka Moriwaki expressed his determination, stating “Gifu University will play a central role to gather the full force of industry-government-academia-finance alliances to make people settle in the region.” Next, Mr. Masatoshi Yasufuku, Director of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Citizen Support of Gifu Prefecture emphasized, “Developing the full strength of each university, we will work closely with other collaborative institutions for the local revitalization.” This was followed by speeches on the motivation for this project from the presidents of the other universities.

The universities will jointly organize common programs such as the educational programs of each university, local company inspection tours and summer schools. In this manner, universities in Gifu will help students residing in the Prefecture to find employment locally, and the other universities in Aichi will help students from Gifu to secure employment in the Prefecture. With this agreement, the four universities have set a goal to increase the number of students who can build up a career in the Prefecture to 728 in the 2019 academic year (an increase of 124 people compared to 2014).



President Moriwaki (fourth from left) shaking hands with Director Yasufuku (third from left) and other attendees at the signing ceremony

Gifu University signs a Comprehensive Partnership Agreement with AEON Retail Co., Ltd. Tokai & Nagano Regional Company

Gifu University and AEON Retail Co., Ltd. Tokai & Nagano Regional Company signed a Comprehensive Partnership Agreement on October 20, 2015.

The Agreement aims at facilitating personnel exchange between the Company and the University in various business fields including logistics, and contributing to regional growth. Under this Agreement, the two institutions are expected to promote and reinforce a close, systematic cooperation on a mutual basis.

In a signing ceremony, Mr. Haruyoshi Tsuji, General Manager, AEON Retail Co., Ltd. Tokai & Nagano Regional Company said, “We would like to integrate our company’s management skills and know-how, and the University’s specialized knowledge for a joint advancement of regional economy for the future.”

President Hisataka Moriwaki of Gifu University followed him and said, “Gifu University can share not only engineering technology but logistics, food production technology and other fields of study that the University is focusing on with the Company. Our University is also willing to cooperate with AEON in developing human resources capable of performing outstanding business management skills.”

AEON Retail Co., Ltd. established the first overseas outlet in Malaysia called, “AEON Malaysia Retail” about 30 years ago, and the number of its overseas outlets soared up to 100 in ASEAN region alone today. It is truly a globalized enterprise promoting local businesses under its global vision. Two international students (from Indonesia and Myanmar) at the Graduate School of Engineering, Gifu University already took part in an internship program offered by the Company in August and the two institutions are planning to expand such a personnel exchange program to include more international students in the future.



President Moriwaki (left) and Mr. Tsuji, General Manager shaking hands after signing

Signing of Agreement between the Faculty of Education, Gifu University and Karlsruhe University of Education

The Faculty of Education, Gifu University and Karlsruhe University of Education, Germany, signed the Agreement on Faculty Exchanges on October 21, 2015 in order to promote systematic and organized researcher exchange in teachers' training and information exchange for educational research. Karlsruhe University of Education is a national university located in the southwest state of Baden-Württemberg with approximately 3,500 students.

The signing ceremony was held at the Faculty of Education, Gifu University. The participants from Karlsruhe University of Education are Prof. Dr. Christiane Benz, Prof. Dr. Gabriele Weigand and Prof. Dr. Mutfried Hartmann. Professor Naotake Iketani, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Associate Professor Tetsushi Kawasaki of the same faculty from Gifu University joined the ceremony. The Agreement came into effect after Professor Iketani gave his signature to the agreement papers entrusted to the delegation from Prof. Dr. Christine Bockelmann, Rector of Karlsruhe University of Education.

After the ceremony, the participants held a meeting to present an overview of each university and discuss future exchange plans between the two institutions. Lively conversations followed.

The delegation was later invited to inspect Gifu University Education-Faculty Affiliated Elementary School and Junior High School.

The two universities have already established a strong research partnership in the field of mathematics education, but the latest faculty-level agreement will pave the way for more collaborative work in teachers' training programs and student exchange through the form of teleconferencing in an aim to fostering personnel with extensive, global vision in the future.



Dr. Benz (left) and Professor Iketani (right) shaking hands



(front row from left) Dr. Hartmann, Dr. Benz, Professor Iketani, Dr. Weigand
(back row from left) Mr. Kuwabara, Associate Professor Kawasaki, Professor Matsunaga, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Imai, also Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Yamada and Associate Professor Tanaka of the Faculty of Education.

Gifu University Appoints Mr. Ruy Ramos as a Visiting Professor

Gifu University appointed Mr. Ruy Ramos as a visiting professor effective November 1, 2015.

Mr. Ramos has been a leader of Japanese football history from the beginning and still today as a player, manager and instructor. He makes a contribution to not only sports promotion, but also many other regional revitalization and social education projects, establishing the “Ramos Project for Gifu, Land of Clear Waters” as his personal activity in the hope of working for the residents of Gifu Prefecture and energizing Gifu.

Gifu University considers it effective to receive instruction and advice from Mr. Ramos about the University’s human resources development and regional contribution projects, as well as to the students who will assume regional leadership roles in the future. The University also thinks it is meaningful for the further promotion of the University and the students, and asked him to take up a position as a visiting professor (Advisor for the Gifu University Center for Collaborative Study with Community).

Prior to the appointment, a press conference was held on October 28, 2015. In the press conference, Mr. Ramos said, “As a mentor for young people, I will speak about how I overcame many difficult circumstances in my life. I believe sharing my first-hand experience will prove useful for some. Please come to hear my lectures.” President Hisataka Moriwaki expressed his ambitions stating, “I was impressed when I saw Mr. Ramos encouraging his team members on the pitch and energizing the team whenever playing in a tough match. I am very honored to work with him to promote further regional collaborative activities.”



Mr. Ramos speaking at the press conference Mr. Ramos shaking hands with President Moriwaki

Degree Awarding

Degree	Diploma Number	Name	Date of Degree Awarding	Dissertation Title
Ph.D. in Medical Sciences	Ko*-No.998	Noritaka Yoshimura	October 21, 2015	Effect of postoperative administration of pregabalin for post-thoracotomy pain: a randomized study
Ph.D. in Medical Sciences	Ko-No.999	Masako Kanematsu	October 21, 2015	Clinical significance of glycoprotein nonmetastatic B and its association with HER2 in breast cancer

* Ko: type of diploma

Foreign Researchers Accepted by Gifu University in October

Faculty/ Graduateschool	Name (Country)	Title, University	Period	Research Title
Faculty of Engineering	Meghdad Samaei Norouzi (Iran)	Invited lecturer, Islamic Azad University of Malard	October 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016	Source inversion for strong ground motion prediction
Faculty of Engineering	Garud Dinesh Ramesh (India)	Assistant Professor, Shikshana Prasaraka Mandali's Sir Parashurambhau College	October 3 - December 31, 2015	Synthesis of β -lactams and study of their biological activity
United Graduate School of Agricultural Science	Chairat Techavuthiporn (Thailand)	Assistant Professor, Huachiew Chalermprakiet University	October 1 - November 30, 2015	Screening of Natural Colorant as Bio-indicator for Application in Intelligent Packaging