



# GIFU UNIVERSITY NEWS Letter

 JAPAN

For International Exchange  
Gifu University

2019 March

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## Start of Joint Master's/PhD Degree Programs



**G**ifu University will launch four international joint degree (JD) programs with the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG, India) and the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM, the National University of Malaysia) in April 2019 to further propel its internationalization and attain greater academic achievements. The three organizations have already been engaged in a wide range of collaborative activities to lay the groundwork for a successful start of JD programs since 2015.

### Joint PhD Degree Program with UKM

October 22 - 23

**A** signing ceremony for the JD Program Agreement between UKM and Gifu University was held in Malaysia on October 22. With the conclusion of this agreement, a Joint PhD Program will begin in April 2019 between UKM and Gifu University International Joint Department of Materials Science and Engineering Program, under Gifu University's Graduate School of Engineering. The signing ceremony was attended by UKM members: Vice-Chancellor Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali; Prof. Mohammad Kassim, Science and Technology Faculty Dean; and GU members: President Hisataka Moriawaki; Dr. Fumiaki Suzuki, Executive Director for International Affairs and Public Relations. On October 23, the Gifu University delegation visited the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and reported the signing and details of JD programs to Deputy Chief of the Mission Hiroyuki Orikasa and First Secretary of Education and Science Attache Sentaro Ishikawa.



### President's Press Conference

December 19

**O**n the theme of *Gifu University's Future Vision Toward 2025*, President Moriawaki spoke about the establishment of the Graduate School of Engineering, Gifu University International Joint Department of Integrated Mechanical Engineering between Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and Gifu University (Joint PhD Degree Program) as well as the establishment of the Graduate School of Engineering, Gifu University International Joint Department of Materials Science and Engineering between the National University of Malaysia and Gifu University (Joint PhD Degree Program). The presentation was followed by an explanation from Dr. Suzuki concerning the background and overview of the programs. Professor Tetsuji Kume (IITG coordinator) and Professor Lim Lee Wah (UKM coordinator), both from the Faculty of Engineering, introduced the missions of the programs. Gifu University continues to strive for social responsibility through joint research activities with overseas partner universities.



### Winter School

December 4 - 21

**T**he Gifu University Head Office for Glocalization (GHOGL) held the 4th Winter School from December 4 to 21. In light of introducing JD programs, Gifu University accepted eight students from IITG and UKM in 2018. Under the guidance of their supervisors and student monitors, the participants conducted experiments/research work in their respective laboratories in the faculties of Engineering and Applied Biological Sciences. The students also took part in Japanese language classes and a number of cultural events. Their visits to major Japanese firms gave them a strong impression about how these companies manage and operate their cutting-edge technologies.



### New

### Spring Program

March 9 - 23, 2019

**G**HOGL launched a new short-term outbound program to IITG in AY 2018. The program was exclusively designed to offer Gifu University students an opportunity to interact with outstanding Indian counterparts from IITG and to expose them to the innovative research and academic environment. Five first-year undergraduates from the Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences arrived in IITG on March 9 for a two-week study program, which included design thinking workshop, laboratory work, visits to local companies and research institutes. While at IITG, everyone enjoyed the beautiful nature on campus as well as benefited from a vibrant, enriched learning environment.



## Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students

The Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students was established in September 2017 by the organizations assented to the missions of the Career Development Program for International Students of MEXT. Under the framework of this consortium, Nagoya University, Gifu University, Nagoya Institute of Technology, Meijo University and Nanzan University, as well as local governments, economic bodies and enterprise-supporting associations within Aichi and Gifu prefectures collaborate in their support for international students' job-seeking efforts in Japan.

### Gifu Region Workshop

October 31

The Aigi Career Development Consortium for International Students: Gifu Region Workshop 2018 was held at the Gifu University Satellite Campus (Gifu City) with the attendance of 103 participants. Four relevant organizations within Gifu Prefecture including Gifu University co-hosted the workshop for mutual understanding between international students and local enterprises. First, presentations were made by the staff on job-seeking support programs implemented in Gifu region. Next, the participants broke into small groups consisting of students and company employees, with the university professors facilitating the group discussions.



### Exchange Meeting with Local Companies

November 14

GHOGL, Asahi University and Gifu Shinkin Bank jointly hosted an exchange meeting with local companies on campus with the main objective to promote business matchmaking between international students looking for employment in Japan, and local industries seeking global talent. Sixteen companies set up booths to introduce their corporate products. Students freely circulated among different booths to chat and share information with company employees. In the premarketing sweets tasting event, participants enjoyed Japanese sweets and provided personal impressions and constructive feedback on the confectioneries.



### Japanese Speech Competition

November 23

The "17th Japanese Speech Competition by International Students Residing in Gifu Prefecture" was held at Gifu University Auditorium. Thirteen students including five international students from Gifu University demonstrated their oral Japanese proficiency in 7-minute speeches. The competition has been organized by the Gifu Regional Council for the Promotion of International Exchange since 2001 in order to raise interests in Japanese and enhance the Japanese skills of international students. Ms. Supawadee Saokumkate (speech title: "Break a Barrier") and Ms. Huang Yuean ("Connections - Friendship With One Chinese Learner") from Gifu University won the award.



### Joint Workshop with Abe Nikko Kogyo

November 28

GHOGL and the Central Japan Economic Federation co-hosted the International Students & Abe Nikko Kogyo Co., Ltd. Joint Workshop on November 28 for the purpose of promoting interchange between students and employees. After self-introductions, an overview of the company and its overseas strategies were presented to 23 international students and staff which was followed by a company tour. Students commented that they have gained a broader perspective on Japanese firms and their approaches to work. "We hope we could strengthen our partnership with Gifu University and work hard for better performances by incorporating the students' opinions," said Abe Nikko Kogyo representative.



## International Month

November 1 - 30

### International Events

**November 6:**  
International Exchange Party Hosted by the President

**November 14:**  
Exchange Meeting with Local Companies

**November 21:**  
English Circle of Friends

**November 23:**  
The 17th Japanese Speech Competition by International Students Residing in Gifu Prefecture

**November 1 - 30:**  
World Cuisine Fair  
(Gifu University Co-op)

### International Exchange Party Hosted by the President

November 6

GHOGL held the International Exchange Party Hosted by the President on campus on November 6. The social event was held to provide a venue for international students, researchers, teaching and administrative staff, as well as Japanese students who are interested in international exchange and studying abroad to socialize with each other. Speeches were given by various university staff who took part in overseas training programs as well as students and researchers who studied or conducted research in foreign countries. An introduction of the new JD programs was also given. During the party, President Moriawaki mingled with participants. Traditional dance performance was offered by a group of foreign students from Myanmar.







## Study Abroad Report Session

December 19

**G**HOGL hosted a Study Abroad Report Session under the theme "Why not study abroad?" with ten presentations by students who took part in various study abroad programs ranging from two weeks to one year such as short-term summer programs, student exchange programs and the government/private scholarship programs (TOBITATE! Young Ambassador Program; Valor and V-Drug Scholarship). They shared interesting anecdotes about their host countries, language learning and cross-cultural experiences, and personal thrills of studying abroad.



## Courtesy Call on Gifu City Mayor

January 29, 2019



**M**r. Mark Tetsumi Suzukawa from the University of Campinas (Brazil), Gifu University's oldest overseas partner institution), Mr. Goki Shibata (from the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology) and Mr. Mirai Yoshida (from the Faculty of Engineering) paid a courtesy call on Gifu City Mayor Masanao Shibahashi. Under a bilateral inbound program, Mr. Suzukawa studied at Gifu University's Faculty of Engineering in January, 2019. Correspondingly, Mr. Shibata and Mr. Yoshida studied at the University of Campinas from August to October, 2018 also under the bilateral outbound program. Gifu City and Campinas have had a sister city relationship since 1982 and to reinforce the friendship, Mayor Shibahashi visited Campinas in July 2018. In the meeting, three students reported their experiences and exchanged their views on the importance of international exchange.



## Traditional Kimono Workshop

December 12

**T**he Center for Japanese Language and Culture held a Juni-Hitoe (twelve layered kimono) workshop at the center's facility. Approximately 40 people including international students, teaching and administrative staff attended. People closely watched with great excitement as an international student was dressed up in colorful kimonos with the help of instructors. Explanations by the center's Professor Momoko Tsuchiya on the basics of Juni-Hitoe in Japanese and English helped attendees gain an understanding of the profundity of Japanese culture. Students later took turns in putting on kimonos and felt its actual weight. This workshop offered the students a unique opportunity to get an up-close firsthand experience of a traditional Japanese culture.



## Ski Excursion

February 19 - 20, 2019

**E**very winter, a ski excursion program is offered to international students for the promotion of friendship. Thirty-four students enjoyed skiing in Gujo City, Gifu Prefecture on February 19 and 20. With the help of ski instructors and multiple runs on the slope, everyone even those with no previous skiing experiences, got a knack of skiing on the second day. After trying their hardest, they developed self-confidence with their skiing technique. Memories of this two-day excursion will stay with the students for many years to come.



### Study Abroad Experiences



**Studying at West Virginia University Now!**



**Looking Back On My First Six Months**

**Yui Osawa** Faculty of Education



**H**alf a year has passed since I came to West Virginia University to learn about American culture and elementary education. I would like to share with you about my daily life and classes. Through actively participating in different activities, I had many good experiences! I made a lot of friends by joining badminton, film, and volunteer clubs to communicate with students here! I had a wonderful time at basketball games, baseball games, and having lunch together with my friends.

One course on high school education offered at WVU made me very curious about how to teach English, which is exactly what I wanted to learn. This course was open to juniors and seniors and, as you can imagine, those courses were literally killing me. I had to spend much time preparing for class discussions and homework. Also, I went to the WVU Nursery School every week and taught Japanese to children which was an absolutely precious time for me.

Thanks to my friends in America and other countries, every second, minute, and day was filled with excitement.

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**Do Your Best and No Regrets!**

**Supawadee Saokumkate**

Center for Japanese Language and Culture

Thailand



**M**y name is Supawadee Saokumkate or Jane, for short. I came to Gifu in October 2018 as an International Student in Japanese Language and Culture Studies Course. This is not the first time I had been abroad as an exchange student, but this time, I must live on my own and face everything by myself. Therefore, this experience makes me grow mentally.

The reason why I chose Gifu University is that Gifu University is surrounded by nature and this kind of environment is suitable for learning Japanese language and culture. The teachers here are very kind, as well as the classmates are helpful. If I have any problems, I can feel free to talk to them. Moreover, I have got a lot of opportunities to socialize with Japanese students. This makes my Japanese skill better and I can also learn about Japanese culture and custom by communicating with Japanese people. This is the valuable experience that you can find during your stay abroad.

I have been in Gifu for four months now. I have made a lot of good friends, and I enjoy my life here. Going abroad is not all about only studying but also doing things we want, making friends, and solving the problems with your own strength. Get out of your comfort zone, do things you want in order not to have any regrets later!





## Conclusion of Agreement with Overseas Partner Universities

### Hue University November 12



President Moriwaki visited Thừa Thiên-Huế Province, Vietnam on November 11-14 to attend the signing ceremony of the agreement with Hue University in the presence of Gifu Prefectural Governor. "Hue University is focusing on the development of agriculture and tourism, and the partnership with Gifu University will pave the way for our successful collaboration in the fields," said Hue University President Nguyen Quang Linh. President Moriwaki remarked that he has high hopes for vigorous exchanges among students and researchers, which could potentially develop into friendly relations between Gifu and Thừa Thiên-Huế Province, and also a solid partnership between Japan and Vietnam in the foreseeable future.



### Assam University November 20



Since the signing of faculty-level agreement between the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science (UGSAS) and the School of Life Science of Assam University in 2012, the two universities have been maintaining a solid partnership, which culminated in the signing of university-level agreement on November 20. Since 2012, the School of Life Science of Assam University is also a member of Gifu University's International Consortium of Universities in South and Southeast Asia for the Doctoral Education in Agricultural Science and Biotechnology (IC-GU12, comprising of 18 universities from eight South and Southeast Asian countries). The new university-level agreement is expected to promote both institutions' productive, fruitful partnership especially in the fields of life sciences and utilization of biological resources in the years to come.



### The University of Salamanca November 26



President Moriwaki and Dr. Suzuki visited Spain to attend the signing ceremony of the agreement between Gifu University and the University of Salamanca. "We already have a strong bond with Gifu Prefecture and I am honored to sign the agreements with Gifu University at this juncture of the 800th anniversary of the University of Salamanca," said Rector Ricardo Rivero Ortega. President Moriwaki stated that he expects diverse, multifaceted exchanges among students and faculty in medicine and pharmaceutical sciences.



### Staff Development Program at Guangxi University

October 17 - November 6

Two Gifu University administrative staff members attended a three-week staff development program at Guangxi University (Gifu University's partner university since 1986), China. During their stay, they organized a Gifu University Study-Aboard Fair and offered advice to Chinese students intending to study abroad in the future. The students were pleased to welcome the GU staff at the opening of Japanese culture classes. Despite some language barriers and lifestyle and cultural differences, the staff resolved to communicate with the Chinese students and staff hoping their presence could strengthen ties between Gifu University and Guangxi University. They later expressed their appreciation for the opportunity of professional development through this program.



### UGSAS-GU Roundtable & Symposium 2018

October 16 - 18

UGSAS held the 6th UGSAS-GU Roundtable & Symposium on October 16-18, attended by IC-GU12 overseas members. The following events and activities were conducted during the three-day symposium: signing ceremonies for two universities accepted into IC-GU12; opinion exchanges regarding the current state of international collaboration; research presentations on animal production and conservation for sustainable development; and a poster session co-hosted by UGSAS and the participants of Rearing Program for Basin Water Environmental Leaders.



### Dr. Aurelijus Zykas Special Seminar

November 9

The Faculty of Engineering hosted a special seminar, "Lithuania, Kaunas, and VMU: Connected by the ties of Sugihara Chiune." Dr. Aurelijus Zykas, the Head of the Center for Asian Studies of Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), was invited as guest speaker. Gifu University and VMU have enjoyed active exchanges since the signing of an agreement in January 2012. In his speech, Dr. Zykas introduced the attractions of VMU and mentioned Sugihara Chiune (1900-1986), the famous ex-vice consul for the Empire of Japan in Lithuania, who saved over 6,000 Jews during WWII. Dr. Zykas said Sugihara is well known to the people of Kaunas and his ultimate act of self-sacrifice keeps on inspiring people to visit Japan.

