



KANAGAWA UNIVERSITY

Report on 2023 Kanagawa University Staff Exchange Program



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Before the report start, I would like to firstly show my gratitude to KU for making this program possible with the countless efforts and sincerity.

The report will be conducted by time sequence and being concluded in summary. The major segments will be as follows:

- I. Before arrival
- II. During the workshops and program
- III. Feedback and future suggestion

I. Before arrival:

Tons of preparation started with two emails and two attachments, stating very important information before and after arrival.



For KU, the staffs are particularly expertized in all sorts of regulations and laws including immigration, visa, hotels, venue, traffic, and contingency plans. The orderly instructions and guidelines are quite crucial for the first timer to visit in Japan as well as to City of Yokohama. The airport limousine Bus is for sure the best route from Narita airport to city harbor at Yokohama.

After arriving at Yokohama Air city station, it only takes 3 mins taxi to arrive at the designated hotel. Checking in the hotel without any obstacle, the housing (Tokyo Rei Hotel) is really comfortable and easy to access. The

arrangement of location and the nearby convenient stores are very friendly for foreign visitors as well. Many thanks to KU for such arrangements and consideration.

II. During the program:

1. Nov. 6: Orientation, discussion and welcome banquet

(1) Orientation: Kanagawa University IC staffs guides all participants of 14 to the KU Yokohama campus, the route to the International Center is a ramp with certain gradient. In Chinese saying, if you climb high, you may overcome many obstacles, I think KU campus might be the similar design.

At the orientation, the remark from Vice President Ohashi (大橋) Satoshi sensei using the metaphor of his family name to lighten the essence of international affairs—to bridge between two and many is what Office of International Affairs really about. We as international coordinators have to be aware of what our obligation and images to understand the beauty of international affairs and the barriers.



Opening remark by Vice President Ohashi Satoshi

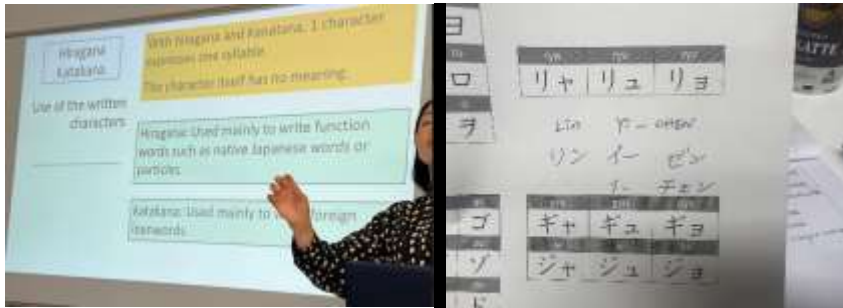
(2) Workshop 1: Utilization of online programs

After three sharing from three representatives, the members started discuss about the mechanisms about utilizing online programs. Part of the Erasmus Mundus program support the COIL project to have blended model of courses that assist European schools to advocate such pattern. The sharing from Asian partners about virtue exchange and how to upgrade overall infrastructure are considered important as well.





(3) Japanese Class: With some basic Japanese level and similar culture, it is not difficult for me to have the class. But those idioms, phrases, and usages under different scenario are really useful and can become the survival language in Japan. The spelling of katana and character process is a new attempt for non-Asian partners.



(4) Welcome dinner: Food is the first step to walk into a different culture, and the welcome dinner was held in Minatory Mirai Campus served with selection of traditional tempura, soba noodle 蕎麥麵, 關東煮, Sashimi 魚生 and so on. We had the chance to discuss each other's knowledge toward Japanese food, and also the warm hospitality from KU.



Welcome dinner banquet at Mina Mirai Campus top floor

2. Nov. 7: Presentation, sharing and campus tour.



Workshop starts at 12:50, the weather in the morning was just like typhoon passing and heavy rain. Members gathered at IC late due to the unfamiliarity of campus and the weather condition.

(1) KU: Management of Inbound Exchange Student

KU shared the past year figures and how the pandemic impacted the inbound program. Also, the strategy to attract inbound students such as stipend might be necessary and culturally attractive.

(2) Workshop 2:

After two presentations from Asia, members tend to share the experiences and approaches they adopt; however, different approaches need holistic design and arrangement such as course mapping, partner connection, logistic planning. A reliable partner who can work with is also a key to successful management prior to the inbound exchange starts. In some cultures, students tend to be passive on outbound program so the exchange quote stay always imbalanced, and this is the worrisome part for staffs.

(3) Campus tour to international dorm:

The dorm is a rather modern and industrial type design, utilizing each inch and space into the extreme and activate every corner for better use. The multi-function room can be used as stadium, sports ground, music concert room and discussion area.



The interior and study area embedded between floors, the outside view

Study areas are embedded everywhere even between floor gaps, balcony, corridors to enrich the study environment for students. The



individual's room are rather small that only fit one single bed but the design is to only for rest not for fun in the room. This also reflects that study and strive on learning is particularly important under the Asian culture.

3. Nov. 8: Presentation, sharing and city tour.

(1) KU: Management of outbound Exchange students

KU introduced the entry regulation, the obligation for selecting candidate abroad, and the support system they use. Most importantly, the risk management awareness and concepts for the campus wide preparation. To some extents the plan for contingency is not commonly seen among all participants regarding the size and national policy of different countries.



Presentation from KU and NTU

(2) Workshop 3:

The sharing of international efforts conducted by different universities really highlight the significance of Office of international affairs that seek to improve the welfare and rights for all groups of people inside higher education institutes, which include the students, the staffs and faculty.

The group discussion highlights the motivations and factors for outbound program. Particularly the parent's will or support highly impact the students' decision on outbound program under the Asian culture where in Europe or United States this factor is not an option to observe at all. Measures and evaluations for the outbound students such as interview, study performance, language proficiency and financial support can do.



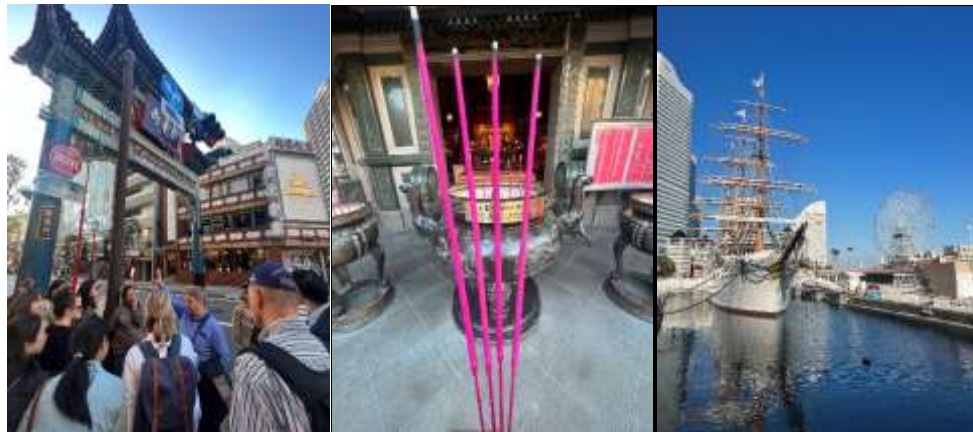
The awareness of mental health is also emphasized since it's already a global issue and should be really taken into consideration. NTU shared the upcoming mental health workshop for international faculties and staffs to further take care of mental health issue and to achieve good communication.



(4) Visit to Yokohama city :

Simon from IC introduced us the harbor and city center of Yokohama starting from Mina Mirai Campus. A 3 hours walking to the harbor side, city center and China town enriched the day with cultural, historical, religious, and architecture perspectives for all participants.

One thing to mention about is Asian partners tend to have the basic concepts of Buddhism, Taoism and Christian, so we might be the religious ambassadors to those partners from Europe and US.



4. Nov. 9: A visit to the old capital —Kamakura.

From the cultural and historical sense, to pay a visit to the old capital of Japan is to trace the roots and origins of one kind. KU especially prepare a tour to the old capital—Kamakura





The Kamakura Buddha The Vendors Street The Hokokuji Temple

KU colleagues have prepared a very detailed walking map that indicates many must-visit sightseeing places and restaurants we may visit. One of the KU colleagues even lives very close to the Hokokuji Temple, so we had the luck to listen to her in-depth introduction of the past and current of Kamakura city.

What amazed the members is that Japanese people tend to walk a lot on a daily basis; during our stay in Yokohama, despite of most activity were in class but our walking steps always reach 16,000 steps per day. We think somehow that's the reason why people in Japan can maintain their fitness by lots of commute steps and hours.

5. Nov. 10 Sharing, Discussion and Wrapping up

(1) Management of Partnership :

KU introduced the management of partnership, using the database and jointly efforts by partners to maintain the website and correctness of information. This adoption is remarkable and for National Taiwan University since we have over 650 partners and it is time and human capital consuming. With the ideas of self-check and maintenance from partner universities, the administration and workloads can be more efficient and released.

During the sharing, there's one episode when a level 4.2 earthquake took place and all participants from Asia were calm and those were not from Asian were sort of panic. It's the first shock for those coming from no-



earthquake countries representative, and the calmness and steadiness of earthquake related countries representatives were somehow the common reaction. Disasters, part of the cultural difference took place this time.



The discussion guidelines and Qs / A 4-2 earthquake during workshop

(2) Final sessions:

After rounds of talks and sharing ideas, participants learned a lot from each other and the efforts made under different national policies and scenarios. We all truly appreciated the preparation and setting up of agenda from KU colleagues. Those echoes from participants all over the world just testified that international affairs coordinators are not alone. Only through sharing, feedback, continuous improving and using technology to bring diversity and possibility for higher education internationalization.



Lovely colleagues from KU IC thank U so much.

III. Feedback and future suggestion:

1. Dietary culture increase the attraction :
 KU invite all participants to bring snacks from their country to share with all. Through the sharing time there will be introduction and dialogues together, which we believe is a very nice cultural promotion.





Snacks from South America / Asia / Europe

- 2. Online meeting application (technical issues) :

Since it's post-COVID era, most meetings have been resumed to physical form; however, due to conflicting schedules and to promote online participation, the familiarities to use online meeting setting such as zoom /webex cisco and IT skills should be more often practiced for the host. During the workshop we all agreed that a hybrid model of teaching/ meetings is more commonly adapted world widely.

- 3. For the KU Kintone system, which I believe is a very good model to adopt for all HEIs who enjoy a great number of partnership. We will for sure to conduct the internal discussion for the likewise system.



We would still look forward to more diversified collaborative program jointly conducted by KU, NTU and other partner worldwide.

- 4. Seeking sustainable resources and funding to support international affairs: NTU has provided numerous resources for outbound exchange program students; however, to guarantee exchange students with monthly stipend like KU promises is something we may consider.
- 5. The importance of mental health and welfare should be taken care of.

6. The global issues such as international affairs may change the momentum of international exchanges. We should all have contingency plans in case of emergency or crisis occurs.
7. Last but not the least, thank you for the opportunity and chances to gather so many talents together, after the program I took some time to visit Mountain Fuji which is the other side from Yokohama. Wish all the best and the continuity of the staff exchange program from KU.

