

# International Relations

As a modern higher education institution dedicated to the pursuit of a harmonious and stable global society, international cooperation and exchange are vital components of Kyoto University's operations.

## The Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR)

[www.opir.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/](http://www.opir.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/)

The OPIR is responsible for coordinating and managing Kyoto University's international cooperation and exchange activities at the university-wide level. A considerable part of the OPIR's activities are focused on assisting international students, researchers and faculty during their time at Kyoto University (for example through the activities of the International Service Office and its various publications). Other activities include the provision of financial support for researchers, the organization of symposia for the professional development of administrative staff, and participation in international university alliances. The following is a brief overview of some of the OPIR's main activities:

## General Memoranda for Academic Exchange and Cooperation

Kyoto University has concluded cooperation agreements with many research-oriented universities and institutions worldwide (details can be found in the facts and figures booklet at the back of this book). Through those agreements, the university is engaged in numerous academic exchange and cooperative research programs in various fields.

## The Global 30 Project for Establishing Core Universities for Internationalization (G30)

[www.mext.go.jp/english/](http://www.mext.go.jp/english/)

The G30 Project was launched by the Japanese Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in 2009. The project aims to radically enhance the opportunities and academic environment for international students in Japan. Kyoto University is one of thirteen "core universities" selected by MEXT to spearhead the project.

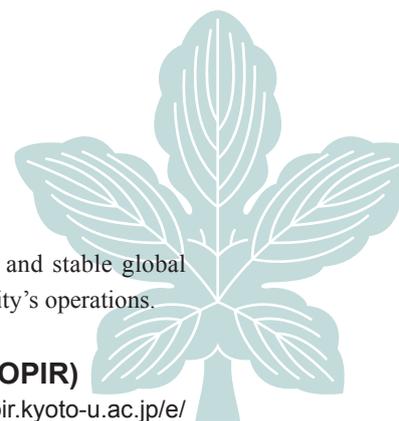
## Kyoto University Programs for Future International Leaders (K.U.PROFILE)

[www.opir.kyoto-u.ac.jp/kuprofile/e/](http://www.opir.kyoto-u.ac.jp/kuprofile/e/)

K.U.PROFILE is Kyoto University's initiative under the G30 Project. The initiative comprises a diverse range of English-taught degree programs for international students, with all entrance procedures and student support services also provided in English. Further details on K.U.PROFILE can be found on page 40.

## Overseas Offices

In addition to operating many overseas research facilities and field stations, Kyoto University is also in the process of enhancing its overseas activities through the establishment of liaison offices. There are currently two overseas KU liaison offices: the European Representative Office in central London, UK and the Vietnam National University, Hanoi – Kyoto University Collaboration Office (VKCO) on the campus of Vietnam National University in Hanoi. These offices enable KU to more effectively provide and gather information, and plan and implement collaboration with overseas universities and companies. The VKCO also contributes to the G30 Project by serving as a point of contact for Vietnamese students and researchers seeking to study in Japan.



International symposium at Xi'an Jiaotong University.



Clockwise from top-right:  
 AEARU 16th Annual General Meeting at Tsinghua University in Beijing; KUINEP student field trip; A session in progress at the APRU Research Symposium; President Hiroshi Matsumoto greets Ms. Margaret Leong, director of the APRU secretariat.

## University Associations

- The Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU)
- The Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)
- International Association of Universities (IAU)

Through its active participation in university associations, KU maintains strong cooperative ties with leading academic institutions around the world. APRU ([www.apru.org](http://www.apru.org)), of which Kyoto University was a founding member, is an association of forty-two leading universities in the Pacific Rim region. AEARU ([www.aearu.org](http://www.aearu.org)) comprises seventeen of East Asia's major research universities, and the IAU ([www.iau-aiu.net](http://www.iau-aiu.net)) is a UNESCO-based worldwide association of higher education institutions spanning approximately 150 countries.

## Kyoto University International Education Program (KUINEP)

KUINEP provides half-year or one-year programs of all-English courses for undergraduate exchange students from KU's partner institutions. The program enables undergraduate students without Japanese proficiency to study a wide range of subjects from the humanities to the natural sciences together with local KU students, and to enhance their cross-cultural skills and experience.



Top: The KI-ZU-NA lounge for international students.  
 Bottom: courtesy visit by World Bank Vice President, Ms. Isabel Guerrero.