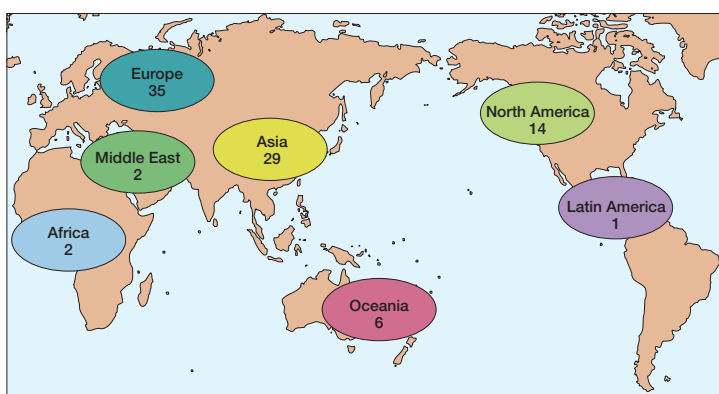


International Relations at Kyoto University

International cooperation and exchange is an indispensable component of Kyoto University's operations as a world-class higher education and research institution seeking to make a significant contribution to a stable and harmonious global society.

Extensive Roster of International Partnerships

As of May 1, 2012, Kyoto University has concluded general memoranda for academic exchange and cooperation with 86 universities, three university alliances and one national academy in thirty one different countries/region (see map for regional distribution). In addition to those university-level agreements, a substantial number of international collaboration agreements have also been concluded between individual faculties, graduate schools, institutes, and centers. The university has also concluded fifty-eight student exchange agreements with overseas partner institutions. Further details available online.



WEB www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/international/agreement/index.htm

Thousands of Research Exchanges Annually

The university- and departmental-level cooperation agreements provide the basis for a diverse range of collaborative international research projects. A total of 2,950 international researchers worked at Kyoto University during the 2011-12 academic year, with 8,128 researchers from Kyoto University undertaking research abroad in the same period.

NEWS TOPICS

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Visits Kyoto University



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, chairperson of the National League for Democracy (NLD) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, visited Kyoto University on April 15, 2013 to deliver a lecture. The lecture was one engagement in her first visit to Japan in twenty-seven years since she studied at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University in 1985 to 1986.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, an internationally recognized pro-democracy leader, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 in recognition of her contribution to the nonviolent struggle for democracy and human rights. She was also awarded the United States Congressional Gold Medal in 2008. As a representative in the lower house of the Burmese House of Representatives, she has been actively involved in negotiations for settlement and democratization with the new government established in 2011.



Prior to her lecture, which was titled “Socio-Political Change in Recent Burma and Women’s Participation in It,” Dr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, president of Kyoto University, presented Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with the first honorary fellowship in Kyoto University’s history for her outstanding and internationally-recognized achievements.



After the lecture, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the Center for Southeast Asian Studies where she studied as a visiting scholar in the mid-eighties. During that period, she was engaged in research on her father, General Aung San, who is known as the leading architect of Burmese independence and “the founder of Union of Burma.” She was welcomed to the center by its director, Prof. Hiromu Shimizu, and its staff members, and guided to the center’s Aung San Suu Kyi Room, which is preserved as it was at the time of her studies. There, she enjoyed talking with the center’s members, while viewing journals and albums from the period, and recalling her time there. Her visit was concluded with the presentation of a bouquet of flowers by the center’s staff.

SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

The 1st Bristol-Kyoto Symposium

A major new development in UK-Japan academic relations.



A party of approximately ninety researchers and other delegates from Kyoto University traveled to the University of Bristol, one of the UK’s foremost education and research institutions, to attend the 1st Bristol-Kyoto Symposium on January 10-11, 2013. With approximately 240 participants, the symposium is believed to have been the largest of its kind ever held in the UK. A major step in a collaborative relationship that the two institutions have developed over the past four years, the aims of the symposium were four-fold: 1) To raise international awareness of the two institutions; 2) Enhance existing collaborations; 3) Build a foundation of research collaboration for future student, faculty, and staff exchange; 4) Promote collaboration with industry and academia built on the university partnership.



The symposium opened with welcome addresses by Vice-Chancellor Eric Thomas of the University of Bristol, President Hiroshi Matsumoto of Kyoto University, and His Excellency Mr. Keiichi Hayashi, the Japanese Ambassador to the UK. Following those addresses keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. Stephen Mann of the University of Bristol’s School of Chemistry and Prof. Susumu Kitagawa of Kyoto University’s Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS). After those sessions a ceremony was held for the signing of an affirmation of the 2011 General Memorandum for Academic Cooperation and Exchange by Vice-Chancellor Thomas and President Matsumoto, reaffirming the commitment to the two institutions’ partnership.



Vice-Chancellor Thomas (left) and President Matsumoto (right) sign the affirmation of the 2011 General Memorandum for Academic Cooperation and Exchange.

The symposium included thirteen parallel sessions (details below) dedicated to specific fields of research. The sessions gave researchers from the two institutions an opportunity to discuss the establishment of new research collaboration, as well as the further development of existing ties.

Parallel Sessions: Organic / Inorganic Chemistry ♦ Nano-technology / Stem Cell Biology ♦ Novel Quantum Phases of Condensed Matter ♦ Energy ♦ Design of Human-Robotics ♦ Retinal Imaging / Translational Research ♦ Risk and Natural Hazards / Ecological Interactions and Sustainable Humanosphere ♦ Mathematics ♦ Academia-Industry Partnerships ♦ Psychology ♦ English Literature / Asian International History ♦ Economic Theory ♦ Social Science and Law

The success of the event was reported in major local and international media, and both institutions are keen to develop the collaboration further, with the 2nd Bristol-Kyoto Symposium scheduled to be held at Kyoto University on January 9-10, 2014.

WEB www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/news_data/h/h1/news7/2012/130111_3.htm

SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

The 2nd Engineering Workshop between Myanmar and Kyoto University



Since 2012, Kyoto University has been pursuing cooperation in the field of engineering with major technological universities in Myanmar and the Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The 1st Engineering Workshop between Myanmar and Kyoto University, organized in cooperation

with MES and the Japan Friendship Association, and held at MES in Yangon, Myanmar on August 22, 2012 was a major development in the collaboration. The first workshop focused on research and educational cooperation in the field of civil engineering, and it was attended by over 100 participants from Myanmar and Japan.



Building on the success of the 1st workshop, the 2nd Engineering Workshop between Myanmar and Kyoto University was held at Yangon Technological University (YTU) in Yangon, Myanmar on March 12, 2013 in cooperation with YTU, MES, and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Myanmar. A large delegation of scholars from Kyoto University, headed by Prof. Kiyoshi Yoshikawa, executive vice-president for research, attended the event together with over 130 participants from Myanmar.



Dr. Koichi Ono, senior research administrator (SRA), reporting the workshop's success to the Ministry of Science and Technology

The Kyoto University Research Administration Office (KURA) directly reported the outcomes of workshop to major authorities in Myanmar, including the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, and speakers from the Upper and Lower Houses of the Assembly of the Union. Reports were also broadcasted in Myanmar.

Kyoto University intends to continue playing a major role in fostering research and education cooperation between Myanmar and Japan in the future.

WEB www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/news_data/h/h1/news7/2013/130312_1.htm (Japanese only)

Voices of Visiting Researchers

Kyoto Sojourn

The CSEAS Visiting Fellowship in Kyoto is one of the most meaningful and productive research fellowships I've ever had. Kyoto is an extraordinarily beautiful ancient city, full of historic samurai castles, temples, and shrines to visit. For me and my son (Hadomi, 9), our favorite activity was riding our bicycles all over Kyoto, especially during the sakura spring season when the flowers were in bloom. After our challenging life in post-war Timor Leste, Kyoto was a space of repose and serenity: our favorite garden is the grounds of the Ryoanji Temple. As a "single parent" struggling to balance work and family, Kyoto was convenient and full of dynamic, interesting people who offered support and camaraderie. My husband also visited twice from Timor Leste to do his medical check-ups, and was very inspired by Kyoto's art, architecture, and food scene. Some of the CSEAS seminars I attended were truly producing new, cutting-edge knowledge and I learned so much from some of my colleagues there, especially Professor Caroline Hau (my counterpart), Director Hiromu Shimizu, and the other visiting fellows, such as Professor Bliss Cua Lim and Professor Suhardja. However, in spite of the strengths of the Center, it is not yet a truly "cosmopolitan" place, and visiting fellows faced many problems and challenges, including with very basic things like banking. In retrospect, I have many fond memories of Kyoto and CSEAS as an intellectually and spiritually enriching life-space.



Dr. Jacqueline Aquino Siapno

Visiting Research Fellow, Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University/Independent Researcher, Timor Leste

WEB kyoto-u.academia.edu/JacquelineSiapno

SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

The 1st Kyoto University and Saudi Universities Research Collaboration Workshop



Promoting research collaboration with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Kyoto University is involved in several research-oriented international exchange efforts with institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The following is brief overview of several major recent developments.

In April 2012, a delegation from Kyoto University attended the 3rd International Exhibition and Conference on Higher Education (IECHE) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The IECH

IECHE is an annual international academic convention organized by the Ministry of Higher Education of Saudi Arabia, which aims to promote student recruitment and academic cooperation between Saudi Arabia and higher education institutions throughout the world. The event provided an excellent opportunity to introduce Kyoto University to the students and scholars in Saudi Arabia. The delegation was able to meet with executive staff from several major Saudi institutions, laying the foundations for subsequent research collaboration workshops held together with Saudi Arabian universities in 2012.



In November 2012, the 1st Kyoto University and Saudi Universities Research Collaboration Workshop was held at Kyoto University's Clock Tower Centennial Hall. Held in cooperation with the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Japan, the workshop focused on the fields of energy, environmental protection, and information and communications technology. Seven researchers from Kyoto University and twelve from leading Saudi Arabian universities participated. The workshop provided the Saudi researchers with an opportunity to visit research labs in Kyoto University, and to lay the groundwork for future collaboration.

The success of the first workshop was quickly followed-up with the 2nd Kyoto University and Saudi Universities Research Collaboration Workshop, which was held at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in March 2013. Fifteen Kyoto University researchers from the fields of medicine, disaster prevention, and engineering participated in the event, further deepening the collaborative ties between Saudi and Japanese scholars.

WEB www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/news_data/h/h1/news7/2012/120420_1.htm

Voices of Visiting Researchers

Life and Research in Kyoto

In November 2009 I joined Kyoto University's Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS). I was very excited to take up my first job as a researcher. Soon I found out that a similar excitement was shared by all members of iCeMS, being then a brand new research institute. It was remarkable to see how such advanced biology, chemistry and physics laboratories were gathered under one roof. Attending weekly seminars that brought junior researchers as well as principal investigators together, it did not take long before I got to know my new colleagues. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the researchers around me, I started collaborating with many laboratories doing cutting-edge research. My experience with researchers from other departments of Kyoto University, such as the Institute for Virus Research and the Graduate School of Biostudies has been similarly fruitful. In addition to the productive research environment, I also found a most helpful staff that makes life easy for foreign researchers. Thanks to the iCeMS staff, I never had trouble with living in Japan, or accessing work-related information that is only available in Japanese. Looking back, I think it was a great decision to join Kyoto University and work with the wonderful people at iCeMS, which surely advanced my career beyond my expectations.

Dr. Ziya Kalay

iCeMS Kyoto Fellow/Assistant Professor, Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS)

WEB www.icems.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/ppl/grp/kalay.html

