

# International Relations at KU

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/regions. 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.

**WEB** [www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/international/agreement/index.htm](http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/international/agreement/index.htm)

### NEWS TOPICS

## The Kyoto University Bhutan Friendship Program

*Kyoto University's long-standing relationship with Bhutan began with a meeting between the Queen of Bhutan and two KU professors in 1957.*



In the fall of 1957, Queen, Ashi Kesan Choden Wangchuk (front row, right), was welcomed by Prof. Kuwabara (rear row, second from right) and Prof. Ashida (rear row, far right).

Not many people know about the role that mountaineering has played in Kyoto University's long-standing tradition of academic fieldwork. The university's original mountaineering club was founded in 1913 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Imperial High School of Japan, which would later be integrated into Kyoto University. This year, 2013, marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the university's mountaineering tradition. In 1931, the alumni members of the original club formed the Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto (AACK), aiming to be pioneers in both mountaineering and academic field study. 1958 was a significant year in the history of Kyoto University: the AACK members succeeded in making the first ascent of Chogolisa (7654 m) in the Karakorum Himalaya, the first primatological survey of Africa, the first over-winter stay in the Antarctic,

and the first field trip to Bhutan. The study in Bhutan was carried out by Dr. Sasuke Nakao. His collection of photos provides a precious visual record of the country more than fifty-five years ago. His visit was arranged by Her Majesty, Ashi Kesan Choden Wangchuk, Queen of the Third King of Bhutan. She visited Kyoto in the fall of 1957, and was welcomed by two professors who were members of the AACK: Profs. Takeo Kuwabara and Joji Ashida. This meeting initiated what is now a long-standing connection between Kyoto University and Bhutan. Bhutan is a small country in the Himalayas. The population is about 700,000, and the country is approximately the same size as the island of Kyushu in Japan. Bhutan is famous as the birthplace of the concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH). In October 2010, Kyoto University launched a new project called the Kyoto University Bhutan Friendship Program (KU-Bhutan). The first visiting party met Bhutan's Fourth King, Jigme Syngye Wangchuk, who originally coined the phrase GNH. The KU-Bhutan was created as an umbrella consortium supporting a wide variety of academic activities in Bhutan, including cultural anthropology, education, religion, agriculture, biodiversity, health, field medicine, and risk management. Since then, the KU-Bhutan has successfully sent eleven parties, representing a total number of seventy-one professors, administrative staff, and students, to Bhutan. Kyoto University has



In February 2011, Hiroshi Matsumoto, the president of Kyoto University, welcomed Princess Ashi Kesan Choden Wangchuk. The daughter of the Fourth King, she is named after her Grandmother.



In May 2013, Michiaki Mishima, executive vice-president of Kyoto University, and others, visited Dasho Pema Thinley, vice-chancellor of the Royal University of Bhutan, in the capital Thimphu, to conclude an MOU.

also welcomed three parties (a total of fifteen scholars) from Bhutan. The most recent exchange revived the historical tie between Kyoto University and Bhutan, and resulted in the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Kyoto University and the Royal University of Bhutan. More details of the activities of the KU-Bhutan are available at the following web site and Facebook page.

**Dr. Tetsuro Matsuzawa**

*Coordinator of the KU-Bhutan Friendship Program / Professor, Section of Language and Intelligence, Primate Research Institute/President, the International Primatological Society*

**WEB** [www.kyoto-bhutan.org/](http://www.kyoto-bhutan.org/) **FACEBOOK** [facebook.com/KU.Bhutan](https://facebook.com/KU.Bhutan)



#### NEWS TOPICS

## Supporting Engineering Education in Myanmar in Cooperation with JICA



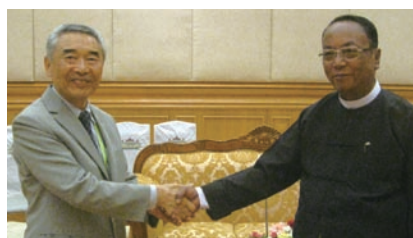
*Enhancing the friendship between Myanmar and Japan through a broad network of personal connections.*

At the beginning of 2012, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi appealed to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) about the shortage of engineers and teachers in Myanmar, saying, "National reconstruction and development should be achieved by Burmese hands. However, we currently have neither the necessary skills nor people who can educate engineers in our country." It was that statement which prompted Kyoto University's determination to support education in Myanmar.

In May 2012, a delegation from Kyoto University made its first visit to Yangon to investigate what can be done to support education in Myanmar. Although it was the first visit, thanks to several helpful contacts, the delegation was able to visit the Ministry of Education, Yangon University, Myanmar Engineering Society, Yangon Technology University and other institutes. They also visited the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar and the Myanmar Office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The visits enabled the team to build a network of personal contacts in Myanmar.

During the visit, the delegation realized that various kinds of support are needed to enhance higher education in Myanmar. They also found that there is a considerable shortage of laboratory equipment, and discovered that each university falls under the jurisdiction of the corresponding government ministry: Yangon University is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Yangon Technology University is under the Ministry of Science and Technology. Myanmar Engineering Society expressed their need for technical and engineering information and specialized books. Support in the field of infrastructure was also identified as the first priority.

In August 2012, the 1<sup>st</sup> Engineering Workshop between Myanmar and Kyoto University was held at MES, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop was held at Yangon Technology University in March 2013. Kyoto University's Global Engineering made a very big contribution to the workshops. During the workshop, the Kyoto University participants were able to develop close connections with U Khin Aung Myint, speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (the Upper House of the Myanmar Parliament), Dr. Ko Ko Oo, minister of Science and Technology, and Mandalay Technological University.



With U Khin Aung Myint, At the Myanmar parliament house

Further to those initiatives, Kyoto University was requested by JICA to provide civil engineering education support for its project, Enhancement of Engineering Higher Education in Myanmar. The five-year project includes various initiatives, such as educating the new graduate school students and leveling up the present teaching staff, seeking out talented Ph.D. students and supporting their study abroad at Kyoto University, introducing a Japanese-style laboratory system, assisting faculty education reforms, and cooperating to build a Myanmar-Japan Engineering Research Center. After the necessary preparation, Kyoto University commenced the JICA project

in summer 2013, and since the end of August 2013, approximately twenty teaching staff members and professors, mainly from the Global Engineering Department and the supporting industrial sectors have been delivering lectures and providing research advice for graduate students at Yangon Technology University and Mandalay Technological University.

As Myanmar and Japan have similar natural disaster issues including earthquakes, floods, landslide, and typhoons, collaborative research on those issues is expected to improve the disaster security of the two countries. It is also highly anticipated that the friendship between Myanmar and Japan will advance through this JICA education project.

**Dr. Koichi Ono**

*Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University/Senior Research Administrator (SRA)*



SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

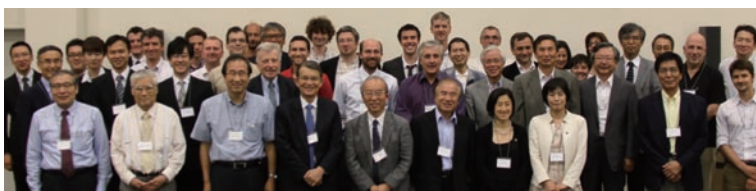
## The 10<sup>th</sup> Japan-France Workshop on Nanomaterials

*A four-day event bringing the six C'Nano centers of the French National Center for Scientific Research and the four Japanese WPI institutes together for the first time.*



Kyoto University's Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS) and three other Japanese World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI) institutes co-hosted the tenth annual Japan-France Workshop on Nanomaterials in Kyoto on June 6-9, 2013. The four-day event was the first to bring the six Centers of Competence in Nanosciences (C'Nano) of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) together with the four Japanese WPI institutes: iCeMS; the International Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics (MANA); the Advanced Institute for Materials Research (AIMR); and the International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research (I<sup>2</sup>CNER).

Since 2000, the nanomaterials workshop has been organized by the French CNRS and the Japanese National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), alternating venues between France and Japan every eighteen months. The main objective of the meeting has been to exchange scientific ideas, foster inter-disciplinary collaborations, and forge new friendships between researchers from both countries. The 2013 gathering marked the first time the workshop was held at Kyoto University. About seventy participants from France and Japan attended the workshop, which featured thirty-three presentations by scientists from specialized backgrounds in material sciences. Eighteen of the invited speakers represented the six French C'Nano centers, while the



**Voices** of International Researchers

## GSGES Encourages Independent Research and a Global Approach

On my first day on the job at the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GSGES) in March 2010, I was surprised to be told that I needed to pack my bags right away – to join a delegation going to Vietnam that week to exchange research findings! I soon realized that GSGES encourages both independent research and a global approach. As someone who is interested in development studies and Southeast Asia, I have greatly benefitted from our enthusiastic international and Japanese students, our strong ties with universities all over Southeast Asia, and my very supportive colleagues.

**Prof. Jane Singer**

*Associate Professor, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies*

**WEB** [www.ges.kyoto-u.ac.jp/cyp/modules/contents/index.php/shokai/faculty\\_staff/singer\\_jane.html?ml\\_lang=en](http://www.ges.kyoto-u.ac.jp/cyp/modules/contents/index.php/shokai/faculty_staff/singer_jane.html?ml_lang=en)







other fifteen represented the four Japanese WPI institutes.

After three days of presentations, the workshop concluded with the visiting French researchers taking a facility tour of iCeMS on the final day. The next Japan-France Workshop on Nanomaterials will be held in Rennes, France, with dates and details to be announced later.

**WEB** [www.icems.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/pr/2013/06/11-tp.html](http://www.icems.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/pr/2013/06/11-tp.html)

#### SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

## AUTM Asia 2013 Kyoto

*The rising importance of technology transfer : tackling problems and providing education.*



AUTM Asia 2013 Kyoto was held at the Kyoto International Conference Center on March 20-22, 2013. The event was organized by Kyoto University in collaboration with the University Technology Transfer Association (UNITT), with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan.

The Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) is a nonprofit association of university technology transfer offices, research organizations, hospitals and companies that license from universities, research organizations and hospitals based in the U.S. AUTM Asia is a platform for academic research institutions, industry, technology transfer professionals, and entrepreneurs to meet and discuss current issues related to commercializing technology, with a particular focus on the characteristics of the Asian region.

The three-day conference included eighteen seminar sessions on topics such as venture trends, license negotiation, and R&D trends.

Exhibition booths operated by law firms and other companies provided attendees with information regarding business and R&D activities, as well as licensing opportunities. The seminar portion of the conference featured various professionals engaged in the commercialization of university research, and provided an arena for not only the speakers and moderators, but also the attendees, to share their experience and knowledge.



The event was a pronounced success, drawing over 600 participants. AUTM Asia 2014 will be held in Taiwan on April 9-11, 2014.

**WEB** [www.autm-kyoto.jp/](http://www.autm-kyoto.jp/)

#### Voices of International Researchers

## My Time at Kyoto University

*A combination of work and pleasure at its best.*

I felt in love with Japan in 1992 and Kyoto has been by far my favorite city. I have always been fascinated and stimulated by the countless cultural and religious sites and treasures, the elegant gardens and gorgeous mountain scenery, and not to say the least, the refined food and sake. Kyoto people are very kind and know well how to make me feel at home here. So I consider myself as extremely lucky to have been invited to join Kyoto University since 2005 as a visiting professor. Staff in the Human Brain Research Department have done their best to provide me with a comfortable working environment. I have enjoyed very much working with the knowledgeable and friendly colleagues and students there, and also those from the Radiology department, developing very creative projects which have already received national and international recognition.



**Dr. Denis Le Bihan**

Visiting Professor, Human Brain Research Center, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University / Director, NeuroSpin (ultra-high field MRI facility for brain research), CEA, Gif-sur-Yvette, France / Member of the French Academy of Sciences / 2012 Honda Prize laureate

**WEB** [www.meteoreservice.com/dlb](http://www.meteoreservice.com/dlb)