

# 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.

## NEWS TOPICS

### The 2x by 2020 Initiative

*Kyoto University's International Strategy.*

In June 2013, Kyoto University formulated a new international strategy in order to further develop the university as an institution of higher learning and a producer of world-class knowledge. Based on our mission statement, the strategy's driving force can be found in the academic tradition, creativity, and rich accumulation of culture for which the university is internationally renowned. Its aims are established around three central pillars of research, education, and international service.

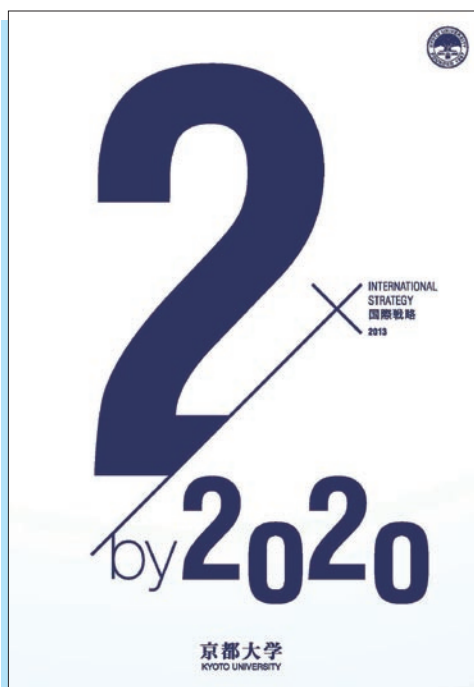
The slogan of the strategy is "2x by 2020" (double by twenty-twenty), as it aims to double the university's performance in key international indices by the year 2020. It delineates specific measures and numerical targets to achieve its goals, such as an increase in the number of international academic exchange agreements from the current 93 to 200, and an increase of the number of international researchers at the university from the current 2,950 to 6,000.

The strategy also includes a specific target for the holding of international symposia, setting a goal to host approximately five international symposia per year in order to enhance the university's international presence, share our academic achievements with the international community, and promote international collaborative research. A brochure has been produced that provides full details of the strategy.

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The brochure may be  
downloaded from the  
following website.

**WEB**

[www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/issue/  
international\\_strategy/index.htm](http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/issue/international_strategy/index.htm)



## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

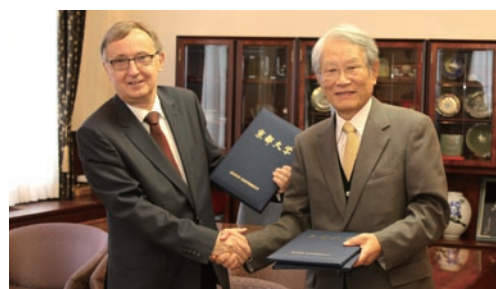
## Academic Exchange Agreements with 113 Universities and Institutions



To date (January 10, 2014), Kyoto University has concluded academic exchange agreements with 113 universities and institutions (including four university associations and two research institutes). In the period from April 2013 to the present, the university concluded fifteen academic exchange agreements, including the renewal of an existing agreement with the University Catholique de Louvain. At present, forty-three agreements with European institutes (including NIS countries) and thirty-seven agreements with Asian institutes account for seventy percent of the 113 agreements concluded so far, indicating a particularly active involvement with institutions in Asia and Europe.

The fifteen academic exchange agreements concluded in the period from 2013 to the present are as follows:

- ◆ Saint-Petersburg State University
- ◆ The National University of Ukraine “Kyiv Polytechnic Institute”
- ◆ University of Cologne
- ◆ University Catholique de Louvain
- ◆ University of Glasgow
- ◆ Royal University of Bhutan
- ◆ University of Conakry
- ◆ Bogor Agricultural University
- ◆ Centre national de la recherche scientifique
- ◆ Mandalay Technological University
- ◆ Yangon Technological University
- ◆ University of Groningen
- ◆ Nanyang Technological University
- ◆ Jagiellonian University
- ◆ University of Zurich



## SYMPOSIA &amp; WORKSHOPS

## Swiss-Kyoto Symposium, November 21-22



President Hiroshi Matsumoto and President Ralph Eichler (ETHZ)  
(Photographs by Heidi Hostettler)

The Swiss-Kyoto Symposium was held at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich on November 21-22, 2013. The event was held in cooperation between Kyoto University, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ), the University of Zurich (UZH), and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in advance of next year's 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and Japan.



Plenary wrap-up session  
(Photograph by Heidi Hostettler)

Over 350 members from the participating institutions gathered over the two-day period of the symposium, with the aim of raising the international presence of the institutions, widely communicating research achievements, and promoting international cooperative research. The symposium comprised sixteen parallel academic sessions, which were held at various locations on the campuses of the Swiss universities, and also included the signing ceremony for a memorandum for academic cooperation and exchange between Kyoto University and UZH.

In addition to researchers from the four universities, many delegates from various Swiss organizations and institutions also participated in the symposium's academic sessions, engaging in enthusiastic discussions on future research collaboration (see below for a full list of session topics).

Plans are currently being made to follow up on the success of the event with a second symposium, which will be held at Kyoto University in cooperation with the three Swiss institutions.

#### Parallel Academic Sessions:

- ◆ Molecular and Cellular Basis of Development, Tissue Repair and Disease
- ◆ Magnetic Resonance
- ◆ Condensed Matter Physics
- ◆ Nanoelectronics and Nanophotonics
- ◆ Organic Chemistry and Materials Chemistry
- ◆ Product Development and Manufacturing
- ◆ Advanced Nano-/Biotechnology
- ◆ Energy
- ◆ Astrophysics
- ◆ AI and Robotics
- ◆ Natural Hazards and Disaster Prevention Research
- ◆ Virtual Ape
- ◆ Plant and Environment
- ◆ Finance and Risk
- ◆ Existentialismus heute
- ◆ Materials for Energy, Environment and Life



"Virtual Ape" session



"Plant and Environment" session



"Existentialismus heute" session



"Materials for Energy, Environment and Life" session



## SYMPOSIA &amp; WORKSHOPS

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto-Bristol Symposium, January 9-10, 2014



Sixty-two delegates from the University of Bristol, including the institution's vice-chancellor, Prof. Sir Eric Thomas, and several senior executives traveled to Kyoto University to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto-Bristol Symposium on January 9-10, 2014. Seeking to build on the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kyoto-Bristol Symposium, which was held last year at the University of Bristol,

the symposium is expected to initiate further cross-institutional activities. In total, approximately 240 participants attended the event.

The symposium's keynote speeches were delivered by Dr. Jeremy O'Brien, professor and director of the Centre for Quantum Photonics of Bristol University and Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, professor and director of Kyoto University's Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA). The proceedings also included the awarding of an honorary degree from the University of Bristol to President Hiroshi Matsumoto of Kyoto University.

Building on the foundations of the first symposium, the second edition added several new fields of research, including physical chemistry, nuclear materials, nano-photonics, plant sciences, and neuroscience. Parallel academic sessions (full list of session topics below) were held at various venues in the afternoon of January 9 and throughout the whole day of January 10, giving researchers from the two institutions an opportunity to explore new possibilities for research collaboration, as well as the further development of existing ties.

### Parallel Academic Sessions:

Physical Chemistry and Materials Chemistry ♦ Nano-Science ♦ Nuclear Materials ♦ Robotics and Human Machine Interaction ♦ Intimacy and the Public Sphere ♦ Political Transformation in Southeast Asia ♦ Economic Theory ♦ Philosophy/Logic, English Literature, Colonialism ♦ Natural Hazards and Risks ♦ Nano-Photonics ♦ Plant Sciences ♦ Neuroscience ♦ Technology Transfer and Innovation



President Matsumoto receives his honorary degree from Vice-Chancellor Sir Eric Thomas

**WEB** [www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/news\\_data/h/h1/news7/2013\\_1/140110\\_2.htm](http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/news_data/h/h1/news7/2013_1/140110_2.htm)

## SYMPOSIA &amp; WORKSHOPS

## The National Taiwan University and Kyoto University Symposium 2013



The National Taiwan University and Kyoto University Symposium 2013 was held at National Taiwan University (NTU) on December 19-20, 2013. Over 750 members from both universities gathered over the two-day period of the symposium with the aim of raising the international presence of the institutions, widely communicating research achievements, and promoting international cooperative research.



In his opening address, President Matsumoto spoke of his anticipation for the deepening of ties between NTU and KU, which have a long historical relationship, and of the research advancements that would come through the opportunities for networking between researchers provided by the symposium. A signing ceremony was also held for the conclusion of memorandum for student exchange between NTU and KU.

The topics of the academic sessions included such diverse fields as science and technology,

chemistry and material science, agriculture, biology, medicine, humanities, the social sciences, museums, and industry-academia cooperation. Many researchers and students from NTU participated in the sessions, engaging in the enthusiastic discussions on future research collaboration. Plans are currently being made for the next edition of the symposium, to be held at Kyoto University in September 2014.

**WEB** [taiwan-kyoto2013.weebly.com/](http://taiwan-kyoto2013.weebly.com/)



#### SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on East Asian Vertebrate Species Diversity

For the Kyoto University Museum, a leading center for specimen-based research, the formation of borderless network in Asia is important for understanding the biodiversity of terrestrial vertebrates such as mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Kyoto University has led this area research in Asia for over thirty years. Fostering young talent and competent field researchers who can collect data and specimens in Asian countries is also important in order to maintain a sustainable Asian network.



Dr. Motokawa gave a special lecture



## Memorial Auditorium and Museum of Medicine



The Former Auditorium for Anatomy of the Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine was established in 1902, and its single-story wooden building (with *sangawarabuki* hip-roof) has been designated by the university as a historical building. A completion ceremony and celebration was held on February 11, 2014 to commemorate the renewal of the former auditorium as the Memorial Auditorium and Museum of Medicine following renovation to strengthen its earthquake-resistance and other functions.

The stately Memorial Auditorium will be used as venue for a wide variety of lectures, events, and public programs, and the Museum of Medicine will exhibit to visitors from Japan and abroad a selection





This symposium is based on the activities of the 3-year JSPS AA Science Platform Program “Research Platform for East Asian Vertebrate Species Diversity and Formation of a Specimen Network,” a project which is operated in collaboration between the Kyoto University Museum and counterpart institutions in China, Korea, and Vietnam, and which involves 137 researchers from twenty-six organizations in five countries. Following the 1<sup>st</sup> symposium at Guangzhou University, China (2011) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> at Kyoto University (2012), this 3<sup>rd</sup> symposium was held at the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology at Hanoi in Vietnam. The symposium lasted for two days, and eighty-eight researchers from eight Asian countries participated. The symposium aimed to provide a platform for the exchange of information about recent research activities, strengthen researcher networks, and develop young researchers.

Sixty-nine oral and poster presentations were given during the symposium. Most of the oral presentations were given by young researchers, including graduate students from Japan, Korea, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Russia, and many young people were also given the opportunity to chair the sessions. The symposium participants passionately engaged in discussions to promote the borderless, comprehensive understanding and conservation of Asian biodiversity. For the past three years the Kyoto University Museum has played a major role in establishing an Asian network for researchers and specimens, and looks forward to continuing to serve the international academic community by working to further strengthen the research network in Asia, and contributing to the development of young researchers in cooperation with its partners.

Author: **Dr. Masaharu Motokawa**

Associate Professor, The Kyoto University Museum

**WEB** [www.museum.kyoto-u.ac.jp/aa/index\\_en.html](http://www.museum.kyoto-u.ac.jp/aa/index_en.html)



Poster presentation session



The six winners of the Young Researchers Best Presentation Award

of historical materials illustrating Kyoto University's significant contribution to domestic and international medical science during the 110 years since the founding of the Kyoto Imperial University College of Medicine in 1899. The materials on display include a copy of *Kaitai Shinsyo* (The New Book of Anatomy) which is one of the most valuable books in Japanese medical history, and the doctoral theses of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, a prominent Japanese bacteriologist.

Please consider visiting the museum during your next visit to Kyoto University. Please note that an advance reservation is required.

Author: **Dr. Nagahiro Minato** Dean, Graduate School of Medicine

[www.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp/organization-staff/research/doctoral\\_course/r-010/](http://www.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp/organization-staff/research/doctoral_course/r-010/)

**WEB** [www.shirankai.jp/other/topics/stock/whip\\_rounds2/index.html#t01](http://www.shirankai.jp/other/topics/stock/whip_rounds2/index.html#t01) (Japanese only)



## FRIENDSHIP &amp; COOPERATION

## Intercultural Negotiation: Unique Opportunity in Joint Effort with German Program



Bucerius Law School

In negotiation, good relationships breed good outcomes. Negotiating opposite fellow students makes it possible to avoid the challenge of creating good relationships. How can we constructively break out of this problem with a classroom of students? Dealing with new counterparties, particularly when culture, nationality and industry background are disparate, addresses this teaching problem. With this issue in mind, the Will Baber (GSM) developed a negotiation event with Prof. Michael Friedman of the Bucerius /WHU Master of Law and Business (MLB) Program in Hamburg, Germany.

For the third consecutive year students of the Graduate School of Management (GSM) engaged in a negotiation with students in the Bucerius/WHU Master of Law and Business (MLB) Program. The professors jointly designed the negotiation and related assignments. This year, 20 students from Hamburg and 10 from Kyoto participated in the negotiation.

An innovation in 2013 was the addition of a follow-up discussion on Linked In jointly moderated by Baber and Friedman. The discussion group resulted in 14,000 words of comments in about 120 postings on topics from negotiation planning to the challenges of electronic communication.



Baber and Graduate School of Management students (Mie Zheng, Sreehari Jay, Yoav Miro, Koush Singh, Cuc Le Thi)



Prof. Michael Friedman, Guillermo Baganem, and Diego Maldonado of Bucerius MLB

Kyoto GSM student Rachel Sun wrote, "Delivering a sense of respect, trust, and commitment is most difficult, especially where misunderstandings can result due to differences in language and culture."

MLB student Guillermo Baganem summarized: "The negotiation provided us not only with valuable theoretical knowledge but, most importantly, practical "hands-on" skills that will accompany us in our day-to-day practice long after the program ends."

Author: **Will Baber** Associate Professor, Graduate School of Management

**WEB** [www.gsm.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/faculty-information/business-administration-chairs/194-baber.html](http://www.gsm.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/faculty-information/business-administration-chairs/194-baber.html)



### Voices of International Researchers

## My Experience of Research and Education in Kyoto University

Japan's disaster prevention research is the most advanced in the world, and the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) of Kyoto University is best known for research on a variety of problems relating to the prevention and reduction of natural disasters from multiple perspectives, encompassing typhoons, floods, landslides, and other disasters. I joined the DPRI in April 2010. As a principal member, I was lucky to join several great international projects: Sustainability/Survivability Science for a Resilient Society Adaptable to Extreme Weather Conditions, Risk Identification and Land-Use Planning for Disaster Mitigation of Landslides and Floods in Croatia, and Development of Landslide Risk Assessment Technology along Transport Arteries in Viet Nam, among others. Through these international projects, I came to realize how advanced the application of high technology in disaster predication and prevention is. By collaborating with many excellent researchers conducting cutting-edge research, I obtained a lot of experience of both education and research on environmental disasters such as water pollution, floods, and landslides. I believe that joining Kyoto University and working with the people here was a great decision, and it will surely advance my career.

**Dr. He Bin**

Associate Professor, Educational Unit for Adaptation to Extreme Weather Conditions and a Resilient Society

**WEB** [flood.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/member/hebin/bin\\_he.html](http://flood.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/member/hebin/bin_he.html)





## FRIENDSHIP &amp; COOPERATION

# International Exchange Course Overseas Study Program



*Friendship and academic exchange between KU and Kasetsart University.*



Twelve students and two faculty members from Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand, visited Kyoto University for thirteen days from October 14-26, 2013. The visit was part of the international exchange course *Changing Southeast Asia: Environment, Industry and Society*, a joint program between Kasetsart University and Kyoto University's Graduate School of Agriculture. The course was held in corporation with

Kyoto University's Organization for the Promotion of International Relations and Educational Unit for Human Security Development. The students and faculty from Kasetsart University were invited to Kyoto University to participate in classes and field trips. During their stay in Kyoto, they had opportunities to learn about various aspects of traditional Japanese culture, including the *yuzen zome* dyeing technique

and correct way to wear a kimono. They also took field trips to learn about the history, industry, and natural environment of local areas. Kyoto University students who had visited Kasetsart University during previous programs also participated, deepening their friendships with the Kasetsart students. The program has been praised by the staff and students of both universities, and is anticipated to enhance mutual understanding between Kasetsart and Japan.



A group presenting wagashi



At the Agricultural Technology Promotion Center (Ohmihachiman City, Shiga Prefecture)



Visiting Kiyomizu Temple in kimono (Japanese traditional dress)

Author: **Dr. Eiji Nawata**

Professor, Graduate School of Agriculture

**WEB** [kyouindb.iimc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/j/kM91F](http://kyouindb.iimc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/j/kM91F)

## Voices of International Researchers

## Why I Love Kyoto University

The reason I love working at Kyoto University is simple: the university provides a huge amount of encouragement and support to cutting-edge research. It looks like a hierarchical institution, but in reality, its rather flat organization makes it easy to reach anyone from departmental staff to senior faculty in the President's Office. It allows scholars their independence, but also gives assistance whenever they need it. There is a deep understanding of the significance of diversity and equality, which extends to female researchers and international scholars. There is an excellent body of students, which makes teaching all the more exciting and fun. It is a wonderful place for any serious academic scholar to be!

**Dr. Asli M. Colpan**

Associate Professor, Graduate School of Management and  
The Hakubi Center for Advanced Research, Kyoto University / 2010 Tachibana Award Laureate

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

