

GLOBAL NETWORK

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

Opening of the Kyoto University ASEAN Center



Attendees at the opening ceremony

Kyoto University has opened a new center in Bangkok, Thailand, dedicated to supporting research, education, and international collaborations across the ASEAN region. To mark the launch of these activities, an official opening ceremony and a symposium titled “Kyoto University in ASEAN — Past, Present, and Future” were held in Bangkok on Saturday 28 June 2014.

Over 200 delegates representing academia, government, and industry from ASEAN member states and Japan convened at the opening ceremony and commemorative symposium. Key delegates also participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new ASEAN Center. It is expected that the Center will not only reinforce the presence of Kyoto University within the ASEAN region, but also strengthen international cooperation and coordination.

The ceremony commenced with an opening address delivered by Michiaki Mishima, Executive Vice-President for International Affairs and Hospital Administration. The ceremonial address was delivered by Kyoto University President Hiroshi Matsumoto, who emphasized that the ASEAN Center would not only strengthen existing partnerships but also spur new collaborations, and shared his hope that the new Center would “enhance regional cohesion and global competitiveness.”

Congratulatory addresses were given by HE Shigekazu Sato, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of the Thailand, Sadayuki Tsuchiya, Japan's Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Takashi Shiraishi, President of the National Graduate Institute Policy Studies, Suphat Champatong, Assistant Secretary-General for Thailand's Higher Education Commission, Setsuo Iuchi, President of JETRO's Bangkok Office, and Yasushi Negishi, Asian Development Bank's Thailand Director.



Ribbon-cutting marking the opening of the center

Mamoru Shibayama, Director of the Kyoto University ASEAN Center, presented an overview of both the University and the objectives of the new Center. He focused on the importance of cultivating *Wa* (human relationships) and *En* (connectedness) to promote excellence in education and research and inspire the next generation of world-class scholars.

In his closing remarks, Junichi Mori, Director-General of the Organization for the Promotion of International Relations, Kyoto University, highlighted his hopes for further collaborations in terms of both research and education in the ASEAN region.

It is expected that the Kyoto University ASEAN Center will act as a frontline base to deepen existing collaborations with ASEAN universities and support projects that will benefit the ASEAN region and the global community. As part of Kyoto University's "2x by 2020" (Double by Twenty-Two) Initiative, which aims to strengthen the University's internationalization efforts, the ASEAN Center will support knowledge transfer activities, and promote wider engagement with the international community.

NEWS TOPICS

Heidelberg Office Opens, May 3



The historic building in Heidelberg's city center housing the University's liaison office

On May 3rd, Kyoto University opened its first liaison office in continental Europe, complementing an office opened in 2009 in London.

Adjacent to the offices of Heidelberg University's senior administrators, in the middle of the city's historic center, the Kyoto University office is located in a building which formerly housed Heidelberg's "student prison" (Studentenkarzer). This facility is now part of the university's historical museum, and is a popular tourist attraction.

Kyoto's London and Heidelberg offices both aim to support student and researcher exchanges between Kyoto University and institutions across Europe, as well as to promote collaboration with government and private sector firms. An additional aim for the Heidelberg office is to support Kyoto's participation in the HeKKSaGOn university consortium,

consisting of six institutions in Japan and Germany.

A ceremony marking the opening event was attended by over 30 dignitaries and guests, including Michiaki Mishima, Executive Vice-President for International Affairs and Hospital Administration at Kyoto University, Kiyoshi Yoshikawa, Kyoto's Executive Vice-President for Research, Dieter Heermann, Vice Rector for International Relations at Heidelberg University, and Kumiko Bando, Japan's Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Following welcome remarks, the attendees gathered at the entrance of Heidelberg University's Bel Etage building for a ribbon-cutting, after which they toured the museum and Kyoto University's new office.



Dignitaries cutting a ribbon to mark the opening of the new center



Kyoto's Executive Vice-President Mishima delivering welcoming remarks

SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

Bordeaux-Kyoto Symposium, May 5–6



Kyoto University and the University of Bordeaux held their first joint symposium in early May, consisting of over 200 attendees, a quarter of whom travelled from Kyoto for the event.

Similar to other such joint symposia held over the past two years between Kyoto and universities in Bristol, Switzerland, and Taiwan, the Kyoto-Bordeaux meeting consisted primarily of numerous parallel sessions covering a wide range of topics from engineering and chemistry to philosophy and the environment.

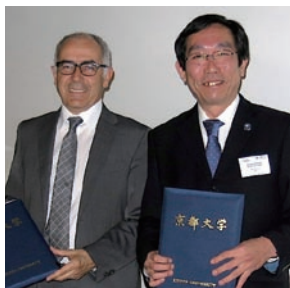
Aiming to promote increased collaboration between the universities, the symposium opened with welcome addresses by Manuel Tunon de Lara, President of the University of Bordeaux, and Michiaki Mishima, Kyoto University's Executive Vice-President for International Affairs and Hospital Administration, after which a memorandum of academic cooperation was signed.

Vincent Dousset, Vice-President for International Affairs of the University of Bordeaux and Kiyoshi Yoshikawa, Executive Vice-President for Research at Kyoto University, continued with overview presentations of both universities, followed by keynote lectures on polymer organic electronics and cancer immunotherapy.

The afternoon of the 5th and most of the 6th were then devoted to parallel sessions in the following fields: philosophy and translation and understanding other cultures; archaeological sciences; territory and environment; organic, biological, and materials chemistry; nutrition and public health (including discussions on grapes and wines specific to the area); inorganic chemistry and photonics; engineering and computer science; academia-industry partnership in medical innovation; medical imaging and applications for clinical medicine; new generation functional materials for diagnosis and cure of diseases; and cell function control by membrane meso-domains and cell-material interactions.



The Hall de l'Atrium at the entrance of the University of Bordeaux Victoire campus



Bordeaux President de Lara (left) and Kyoto Executive Vice-President Mishima following the signing ceremony

Overall, participants from Kyoto were greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm of their Bordeaux colleagues, as well as enthralled by the classical architecture of the symposium main venue at the Victoire campus, the picturesque city center, and delicious wines and dishes of the region. It is hoped that the meeting will serve both to strengthen existing research-level partnerships in addition to providing impetus for new joint efforts.

Voices of International Researchers

Kyoto University: "Everything That Researchers Dream of"

Conducting successful research overseas requires continued support from the host institute and colleagues. Kyoto University, and the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS) in particular, offer me the best support that I've ever had. My knowledgeable colleagues can answer my questions and satisfy my academic curiosity. The library has a large collection of books and documents that I need. It is not an exaggeration to say that Kyoto University can offer everything that researchers dream of.

Attachak Sattayanurak, PhD

Department of History, Faculty of Humanities, Chiang Mai University, Thailand.



NEWS TOPICS

President Matsumoto Engages in Discussion with PM Abe at Japan-UK Universities Conference in London



Prime Minister Abe and President Matsumoto posing for a group photograph

Kyoto University President Hiroshi Matsumoto, attending a conference of leading Japanese and UK universities held May 1 at University College London, played an active role in discussions on education and research, as well as took part in an open conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The one-day meeting at UCL, “Japan-UK Universities Conference for Collaboration in Research and Education,” brought together senior executives from 14 Japanese and 16 UK universities, who took part in a wide-ranging forum examining successful joint programs, exchanges of students and researchers, and challenges for the future.

Prime Minister Abe, in London for meetings with the UK government, attended a special roundtable session at the conference, also attending a ceremony at a UCL monument commemorating the Choshu Five, young Japanese scholars who attended the college toward the end of the feudal period and later went on to become leading figures in Japan’s early modern era. Mr Abe himself hails from the Choshu region of Japan (present-day Yamaguchi Prefecture).

The bulk of the meetings was taken up with presentations from each university, highlighting key milestones in the development of their educational and research efforts, and noting important joint Japan-UK efforts. One oft-cited example was RENKEI, a program launched in 2013 by the British Council and eleven of the institutions participating in the conference, which has already successfully realized two pilot exchange visits at Bristol and in Kyoto.

President Matsumoto co-chaired a morning education panel discussion, succinctly summarizing various issues and points for consideration, which he then later presented to the Prime Minister. These included strengthening RENKEI, overcoming challenges such as credit transferability and curriculum compatibility, securing external funding to support future exchanges, and increasing participation by improving accommodation and language issues.

Later in the day the President delivered a presentation, describing Kyoto University’s many achievements and numerous connections with scholars and institutions in the UK, including the strong partnership in recent years — echoed by several other speakers during the day including the Prime Minister — with the University of Bristol.



The venue for the meeting at UCL

■ **Participating Japanese institutions:** Doshisha University ◆ Hitotsubashi University ◆ Hokkaido University ◆ Keio University ◆ Kyoto University ◆ Kyushu University ◆ Nagoya University ◆ Osaka University ◆ Ritsumeikan University ◆ Tohoku University ◆ University of Tokyo ◆ Tokyo Institute of Technology ◆ University of Tsukuba ◆ Waseda University

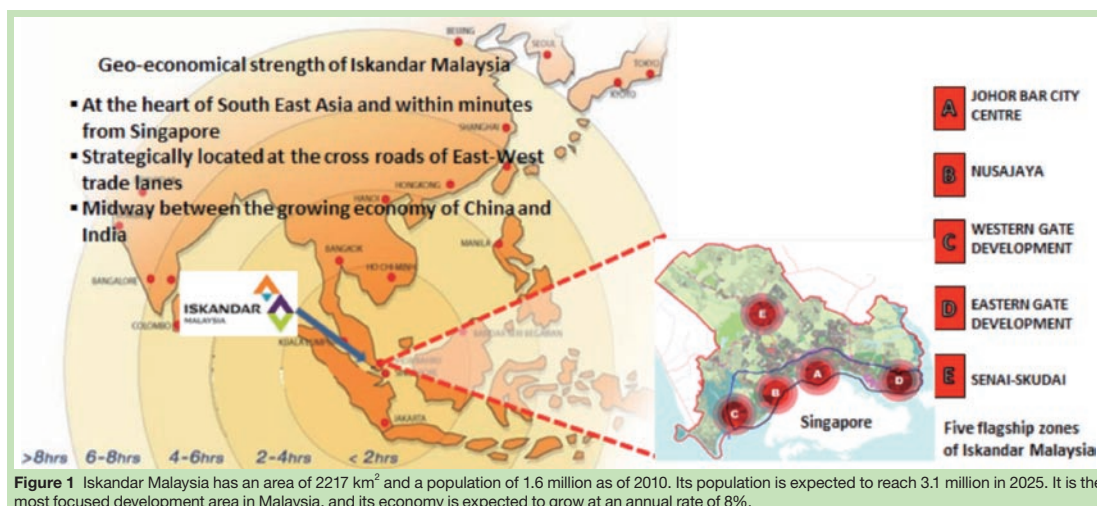
■ **Participating UK institutions:** University of Bristol ◆ University of Cambridge ◆ University of Durham ◆ University of Edinburgh ◆ Imperial College London ◆ King’s College London ◆ University of Leeds ◆ University of Liverpool ◆ London School of Economics ◆ University of Manchester ◆ University of Newcastle ◆ University of Oxford ◆ University of Sheffield ◆ University of Southampton ◆ University College London ◆ University of York ◆ University of Warwick

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

Development of Low Carbon Society Scenarios for the Asian Region



Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia 2025, a project formulated by an international research team including Kyoto University members was approved by the Malaysian government.



The Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia 2025 (LCSBPIM), an action plan for the realization of a low carbon society in Iskandar Malaysia formulated by an international team including Kyoto University members, was formally approved by the Malaysian government on March 20, 2014. The international team is led by Yuzuru Matsuoka, professor in the Graduate School of Engineering, and consists of researchers from Kyoto University, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), the National Institute of Environmental for Studies (NIES), Okayama University, and policymakers from the Iskandar Region Developing Authority (IRDA) and other governmental institutions in Malaysia. Iskandar Malaysia is a main southern development corridor in Johor State, Malaysia (Figure 1). The endorsement was granted by the Approvals and Implementation Committee (AIC) headed by the prime minister of Malaysia. The committee endorsed not only LCSBPIM, but also its “Roadmap” and “Implementation Plan,” although the actual implementation of the initiative began last year. This is the first practical formulation of a low carbon blueprint at the regional level in an ASEAN country, and it is expected to become a model for creating low carbon cities in Asian nations.

In order to realize a low carbon society, there must be plans for long-term activities spanning a decade in a wide range of areas, such as energy, industry, commerce, agriculture, and transportation, as well as plans for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with those activities. The plans must be implemented in a way that connects them in an integrated and quantitative manner with the region's plans for socioeconomic development. Japanese research institutes, including Kyoto University, have approached this challenge by developing methods to create low carbon society scenarios

Mitigation Options	ktCO ₂	%
Reduction		
Green Economy	6,937	54%
Action 1 Integrated Green Transportation	1,916	15%
Action 2 Green Industry	1,094	9%
Action 3 Low Carbon Urban Governance	-	-
Action 4 Green Building and Construction	1,203	9%
Action 5 Green Energy System and Renewable Energy	2,725	21%
Green Community	2,727	21%
Action 6 Low Carbon Lifestyle	2,727	21%
Action 7 Community Engagement and Consensus Building	-	-
Green Environment	3,094	25%
Action 8 Walkable, Safe and Livable City Design	263	2%
Action 9 Smart Urban Growth	1,214	10%
Action 10 Green and Blue Infrastructure and Rural Resources	392	3%
Action 11 Sustainable Waste Management	1,224	10%
Action 12 Clean Air Environment	-	-
Total	12,467	100%

Table 1 The twelve major actions in the Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia 2025 action plan and their corresponding anticipated reductions greenhouse gas emissions by 2025

using different areas of expertise, including integrated assessment modeling, public economics, energy planning, and mathematical programming. Quantitative socioeconomic simulation and CO₂ reduction technology simulation models have been utilized as the principal tools for creating the scenarios.

The Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia 2025 was formulated with these methods, which were developed through research collaboration with Malaysia. The initiative consists of twelve major actions with quantitative targets (Table 1) and 281 concrete measures for the realization of a low carbon society. As a best practice for the formulation of an action plan for a low carbon society at the regional level, the study is expected to become a showcase in the Asian region. The details of the blueprint were reported and published at the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP18) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP8), held in November 2012 in Doha, Qatar. They were also announced to the people of Malaysia by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, in a televised press conference on December 11 of the same year (Figure 2). Following the AIC endorsement, a policy implementation framework will be established to achieve the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2025, which will add further impetus to the move towards a low carbon society in Malaysia.



Figure 2 Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak delivers a televised announcement of the Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia 2025 action plan to the Malaysian people on 11 December 2012

The Low Carbon Society Blueprint for Iskandar Malaysia 2025 action plan was formulated under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), which is a program operated by two Japanese government agencies: the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as part of the Development of Low Carbon Society Scenarios for Asian Regions research project, also headed by Matsuoka.

Matsuoka's team has also been involved in similar joint studies in several other ASEAN countries, and has collaborated with each country's governmental institutions, such as the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO), the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE) in Vietnam, the Cambodian Ministry of Environment (MOE), and the Ho Chi Minh City Climate Change Bureau in Vietnam. The fruits of those collaborations, expected to be disclosed soon, are anticipated to consolidate the ASEAN region's position at the forefront of the drive towards a global low-carbon society.



Author: **Yuzuru Matsuoka, PhD** *Professor, Graduate School of Engineering*

WEB www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/research/forefront/message/rakuyu15_c.htm/

Voices of International Researchers

What's Hidden in Inuyama?

In 2012, I got a great opportunity to do research at the Primate Research Institute (PRI) of Kyoto University in Inuyama City for six months. It was very exciting for me. Inuyama is a small, relaxing town full of nature and tranquility. What I was impressed with soon after my arrival was my lunch at the institute's restaurant. The Japanese food there is more delicious than any other I have ever eaten. During my stay, I felt like I was at home thanks to the kind hospitality and assistance from all of the PRI staff and students. Dedicated teaching staff provide knowledge and technical guidance, which helped me succeed in my research on monkeys. The PRI has a lot of friendly apes and monkeys. They growl from early in the morning, but the sound encourages me. Please visit this nice place and say Hi to those growling ladies and gentlemen.

Ornjira Prakhongcheep

PhD Candidate, Kasetsart University, Thailand



INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

Sustainable Energy and Environment Forum (SEE Forum)

Pioneering Academic Network to Explore New Horizons in Collaborative Programs Among Asian Countries.

In an effort to advance the “New Energy Initiative,” which addresses global warming and energy security, two common problems throughout the Asian region, Kyoto University launched the Sustainable Energy and Environment Forum (SEE Forum) in 2006 as an international research and educational network in the region.

The SEE Forum is a pioneering initiative that seeks to expand horizons in cross-border collaborative programs in the Asian region, both through so-called “vertical” communication, as seen in such fields as technology, art and science, and through the moralistic “horizontal” communication that joins each field of science based on an equal partnership in the region.



ASEAN COST +3: New Energy Forum for Sustainable Environment (NEFSE), May 2008



The forum has yielded marked achievements in developing strong academic networks that have produced various collaborative research and education programs funded by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the UNESCO ODA Program, as well as local governmental agencies.

Author:

Susumu Yoshikawa, PhD

*Chairman of the SEE Forum /
Professor, Institute of Advanced Energy*

WEB www.seeforum.net/



Voices of International Researchers

GPS-related research activity at Kyoto University

I joined the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere of Kyoto University (Tsuda Laboratory) in May 2011. My research involves the analysis of GPS signals for both positioning and atmospheric water vapor retrieval. The work environment is excellent, thanks to the availability of a wide range of instruments and facilities for atmospheric sensing (e.g. GPS stations, radars, lidars, radiosondes), and to the interdisciplinarity of the research team, that has broadened my understanding of atmospheric sciences and measuring techniques. I am grateful to my colleagues at RISH for their continuous help and support to let me carry out productively my research activities.

Eugenio Realini, PhD

Postdoctoral researcher, Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere
www.researchgate.net/profile/Eugenio_Realini/

