Recent Initiatives by the University of Tokyo to Promote International Student Exchange

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In keeping with the progress of globalization, research universities of the world are pressed to respond to increasing demands to strengthen international competitiveness. How international student exchange programs are promoted at the University of Tokyo (Todai) will herein be discussed.

Todai is currently making full use of a new international alliance, the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) formed in January of 2006 to promote international exchange, in addition to existing mutual exchange activities, such as summer camps among the members of Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) and the Association of East Asian Research Universities (AEARU).

Todai also has established the “Todai-Yale Initiative” at Yale University to promote exchange by sending doctoral students as well as faculty in the fields of humanities and social sciences. In the summer of 2007, Todai hosted Yale summer program for the first time. In addition, a plan to hold a global summer program is underway among the IARU member universities, which aims to start the actual program during the academic year 2008.

At some graduate schools at Todai, English courses are offered for students from abroad. Furthermore, the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, in cooperation with the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S), introduced a new Master’s program in April, 2007. The program formally started in October, in which the entrance exams and all classes are given in English.

Todai’s overseas liaison office in Beijing plays a key role in the on-going student exchange programs, such as the acceptance of graduate students from the School of International Studies at Peking University, and “Chinese National Project for University Students to Study Abroad”.

The ultimate goal of international exchange of students is the internationalization of education. For this purpose, it is imperative that Todai enhance the international presence, provide more substantive international campus infrastructure, give opportunities for Todai students to study at international sites and encourage the promotion of international student exchange activities where the students play a leading role.
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Introduction

• Increasing demands to strengthen international competitiveness
• Establishment of Division for International Relations
  – Adoption of the Strategic Fund for Establishing International Headquarters in Universities
• Drafting a long-term plan to promote internationalization
  – Internationalization of faculty and administrative staff
  – Enhancement of international research activities
  – Promotion of student exchange program

International Activities

• Acceptance of 2,372 international students
• 350 Todai students studying abroad
• 289 Academic Exchange Agreements with universities and institutions in 48 countries and region around the world

The Majority was promoted by individual faculty members and departments at Todai

From UT to Todai

UT → Todai

Tokyo Daigaku
(University)

東京 大学
Recent Initiatives by Todai

- Top-down international student exchange programs are strategically promoted
  - Active participation in the APRU, AEARU student activities
  - Full use of IARU
    - Yale Summer Session Program
    - IARU Global Summer Program
    - Todai-Yale Initiatives
  - Todai Beijing Office - etc -

Summer Camps

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

International Alliance of Research University (IARU)

- Yale, UC Berkeley, PKU, Todai, NUS, ANU, Copenhagen, ETH, Cambridge and Oxford

UT Forum

- UT Forum: Todai (UT) has held a series of Forums outside Japan in order to transmit the Todai’s academic research activities abroad and to promote the international research collaboration
- UT Forum 2000 in Boston with MIT & JSPS
- UT Forum 2000 in Silicon Valley and the Bay Area with Stanford & UCSF
- UT Forum 2002 in Singapore with NUS
- UT Forum 2004 in Sweden with Stockholm Univ., Karolinska Institute, Stockholm School of Economics, Uppsala Univ.
- UT Forum 2005 in Peking with PKU, Tsinghua, CAS
- UT Forum 2007 in Seoul with SNU, Korea Univ.

International Alliance of Research University (IARU)

- Yale, UC Berkeley, PKU, Todai, NUS, ANU, Copenhagen, ETH, Cambridge and Oxford

Programs supported by the IARU
- Research collaboration: “Global Changes and Sustainability”
  Todai will take the lead in “Energy, Resources and Environment” with ETH and NUS.
- Student exchange (undergraduate and postgraduate)
- Faculty exchange
- Conference Participation by faculty
IARU Global Summer Program
“Frontier of Nanoscience and Sustainability”

- Date: June 16 – July 18, 2008
- Level: Undergraduate
- Venue: Hongo Campus, Tokyo
- Lectures
  1. Sustainable Urban Management
  2. Introduction to Japanese Language
  3. Nanoscience
  4. Study Visit (Industry, Univ. Lab and Culture)

Yale Summer Session Program

- Date: July 7 -August 11, 2007
- Place: Hongo Campus at UT
- Course: “Macroeconomics in Light of Japan’s Experience Since the 1990s”
- Instructor: Dr. Koichi Hamada
- Participants: 11 Yale students (1 assistant), 4 Todai students

Todai-Yale Initiatives

The Japanese Studies Laboratory established in 2007 with the cooperation of, and within the campus of, Yale University.
It aims to contribute to the development of education and research on Japanese studies at Yale and in the US.

English Courses at Todai

English Courses are offered at
- Graduate school of Engineering
- Graduate school of Agricultural and Life Sciences
- Graduate school of Science -etc-

The International Priority Graduate Program (PGP) by MEXT
Forming an Educational Alliance

Diverse education programs

Broad selection of courses

Today’s Overseas Laboratories and Offices

− Overseas Offices (45)

− Developing Overseas Offices (94)

- 123 -
A Briefing Session on Overseas Study Program at Changchun

Objective: Government-financed Chinese Students

“Measures to Promote the Settlement of Overseas Researchers in Japan”

• Research and Analysis of Employees and Employers needs
• Holding of symposium on job hunting process of international students with business enterprise
• Creation of Housing information leaflet
• Development of one-stop service center “Academic Support Center “ - etc -

Major Challenges in Promoting Student Exchange

• Enhancement of the international presence
• Development of substantive international campus infrastructure
• Give opportunities for Todai students to study at international sites
• Promotion of international student exchange activities where the students play a leading role

Thank You!