

Kyoto University's Efforts towards a New Form of Inter-University Exchange

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ABSTRACT

1. A view of the traditional form of international academic exchange

When concluding general (university-level) memoranda with foreign universities, Kyoto University has been adopted a policy to keep the terms of agreements general in nature, omitting stipulations such as the number of exchange activities to be conducted, or liabilities for financial expenses. However, this has resulted in several cases of relations with memoranda universities where only a few divisions participate in exchange, and overall exchange activities are not as active.

2. Examples of various form of exchange

On the other hand, in addition to the exchange based on university-level memoranda, in recent years, there have been unique exchanges between individual faculties, institutes, and centers of our university and their counterparts abroad. The following are examples of such programs:

Overseas offices established at counterpart universities' campus

Japan-China Cooperative Research Laboratory on Environment Technology

Shanghai Center for Economic Research

International Exchange Program (Short-term study abroad program)

Most of those programs were begun on the initiative of Kyoto University, but without the cooperation of our counterpart universities (mostly universities in Asia), their implementation would not have been possible.

3. Challenges and future outlook

There remain unresolved issues for the exchanges at the individual faculty/institute or research group level, including 1) financial problems, 2) human resource problems, 3) legal problems, 4) education problems. Although these issues are not easy to resolve, if the university shares expertise between divisions and provides unified support, then

response measures to deal with these problems can be found.

Furthermore, we can build upon these experiences to develop new forms of exchange on the university-level. The following are examples of such ventures:

Distance learning

University-wide cooperation on interdisciplinary research