

The Internationalization of Undergraduate Level Education at Kyoto University

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In its mission statement, Kyoto University states its intention ‘to pursue harmonious coexistence within human and ecological community on this planet.’ By our definition, this ‘community’ is not limited to humans, but includes non-humans ranging ‘from animals and plants to rocks and streams.’ Guided by this mission statement, we are striving to better accommodate modern science and technology within the diverse and rich cultures of Asian and other countries. The internationalization of our education program should also be in line with goals of our mission statement.

As far as the internationalization of our campus is concerned, a long-term concern of the university management has been how to internationalize the junior undergraduate students in our university. In this presentation I would like to talk about our efforts in that area.

We are currently operating three university wide programs for undergraduate students. They are the Kyoto University International Exchange Program (KUINEP), the International Exchange Program (IEP) for short exchanges and the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies (KCJS) & Stanford Center for Technology and Innovation (SCTI) Auditing Program.

Our future vision for the internationalization of our campus is manifested in our “10 Year Plan to Promote Multilingual Education.” In order to achieve the goals of this plan we need to collaborate with the international academic community. This idea will be further explained when I describe our idea for the “ISEPO Net System.”

Finally I would like to discuss some issues which we are facing every day. First, what role can the central office for internationalization play in a strong research oriented university. Second, are there effective measures for risk management? Third, what are the most effective ways to secure to funding?

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Kyoto University's Mission Statement

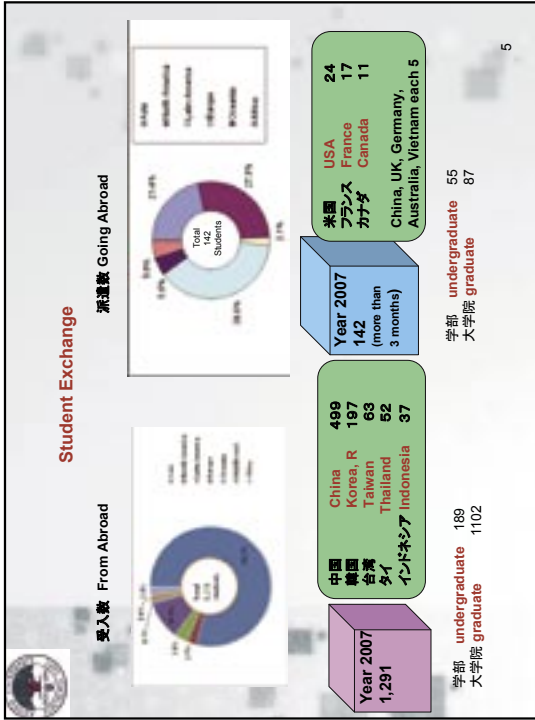
- In 2001 Kyoto University declared a new mission: *'to pursue harmonious coexistence within human and ecological community on this planet.'*
- This 'community' should include non-humans ranging 'from animals and plants to rocks and streams.'
- Kyoto University is involved in the search for a *new civilization* for the human and ecological community on this planet.

How can we translate the mission statement into reality?

Key Statistics of Kyoto University as of May 1st, 2007

Number of Students	22,758	Graduate Students:	9,377
Faculty Members	2,879	Undergraduate Students:	13,381
Non-teaching Staff	2,552		





The Importance of Internationalizing Undergraduate Programs

- Internationalization within the university
 - Faculty - Very internationalized
 - Graduate students – Internationalized
 - Undergraduate students – **Less internationalized**
- KU aims to support young students to experience other cultures.
- How to promote the internationalization of the university at undergraduate level?

Current Programs for Undergraduate Students at Kyoto University

- KUINEP (Kyoto University International Exchange Program)
- IEP (International Exchange Program)
- KCJS & SCTI Auditing Program
- iAT (International Afternoon Tea)

KUINEP

- KUINEP: Kyoto University International Education Program (since 1997) designed for incoming exchange students
- Courses are given in English (biotechnology, statistics, physics, economics, Japanese literature, etc.)
- About 50 KUINEP students from overseas attend these classes
- About 400 KU students attend these classes
- Limitations of KUINEP
 - Number of courses is limited
 - Most lecturers are **not native English speakers**

International Exchange Program (IEP)

- Short term exchange of students with partner universities
- Usual term of exchange is 10 to 14 days
- Accompanied by veteran researchers from the home university
- Multi-disciplinary course
- The International Center assists the faculty/graduate schools by applying for the budget, making travel arrangements, handling student registration and making provisions for risk management.

IEP: Hue Vietnam

- Partner University: **Hue University (HU)**
- Faculty in charge: Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GGES)
- IEP is a part of the **Asia Platform** program which is operated by GSGES in Vietnam
- KU students visit: Hue city, mountain and coastal areas. They are accompanied by Vietnamese students and local villagers
- HU students visit: Kyoto City, Saijo City in Shikoku. They meet with the citizens of Saijo City and discuss their experience of disaster prevention
- Academic Emphasis: Natural Disaster Prevention, Environment, Culture

IEP pictures



KCJS & SCTI Auditing Program

- **Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies (KCJS)**
 - Established in September 1989, the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies (KCJS) is a consortium of 14 American universities
 - Consortium Members:
 - Boston University * Brown University * University of Chicago * Columbia University/Barnard College * Cornell University * Emory University * Harvard University * University of Pennsylvania * Princeton University * Stanford University * Washington University in St. Louis * Yale University. In association with University of Michigan * University of Virginia
- **Stanford Center for Technology and Innovation (SCTI)**

KCJS Auditing Program

- KCJS lectures run from September to April and SCTI lectures from April to July
- Kyoto University students participate in the KCJS lectures
- 3 or 4 students participate in each class of 15 to 20 students
- KU students are treated in the same way as the US students
- Merits for both sides
- communication and cooperation from both sides is very important
- Faculty members and administration officers of KCJS and KU talk continuously to improve the program

KCJS Auditing Program Pictures



iAT (International Afternoon Tea)

- Many Japanese students have difficulty making friends with international students.
- Every Thursday from 16:30 until 18:30 students hold iAT meetings in the KIZUNA building.
- The name KIZUNA refers to "bonds" among students.
- Student arranges iAT meetings and also trips with international students on their own initiative.
- Question: How to assist them?

iAT pictures

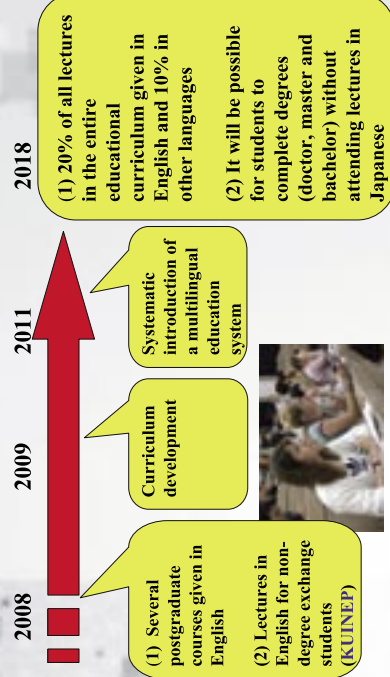


Topics to be discussed

- **Keys to Successful Cooperation**
 - Willingness to have discussions for continuous improvement
 - Identifying the true requirements of students
- **Roles of administrators in the headquarters of a very strong research oriented university**
 - A leading role or a supportive role?
 - An important role is planning for undergraduate education
- **Risk management**
 - How to cooperate with partner universities when accidents occur?
 - Are we prepared for such a serious "Bird Flu" epidemic?
- **Funding**
 - How to secure stable funding for these activities?

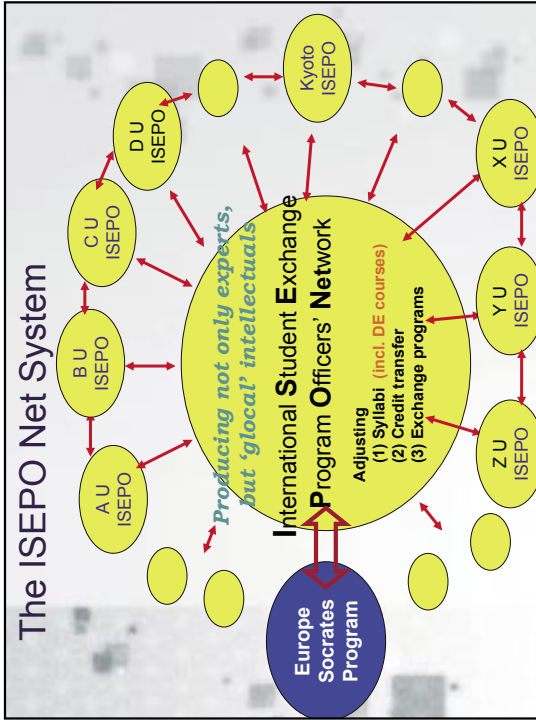
Future Vision

10-year plan to promote multilingual education



Examples of Sensitive Notions in Discussions about the History of Science and Technology

- **civilization** - *wenming* (Ch.文明)
- *moonmyong* (K.文明)
- *bunmei* (J.文明)
- **evolution** - *tianyan* (Ch.天演)
- *jinhua* (K.進化)
- *shinka* (J.進化)



Thank You for Listening