

Main Moderator's Report

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The third University Administrators Workshop was held at Kyoto University on January 24~25, 2008. We were very fortunate in having the representatives of twenty-six universities from around the world participate in the workshop, and the discussions held reflected the diversity and creativity of the attendees. As moderator for the combined session on the second day, I would like to make a brief report about the discussions.

We had two excellent keynote speakers this year. The first was Ms. Elizabeth A. Baré, Vice-Principal and Head of University Services at the University of Melbourne. The second was Dr. Priscilla Stone, Director for Overseas and Undergraduate Programs at the Washington University in St. Louis.

Ms. Baré's speech was entitled "Internationalization in Australian Universities: a Staffing Perspective." Ms. Baré talked about the changes which have taken place in Australian higher education since the middle of 1990s and how Australian universities have adjusted their operations. She described the Melbourne Model, a comprehensive review of education programs at her university. The university needed to increase its number of international students for financial reasons, and it was also necessary to enhance its human resource management. They focused on more professional staffing and also on very targeted education programs for the staff engaged in international operations.

Dr. Stone's speech was entitled "Current Trends in Study Abroad: The U.S. Perspective." Dr. Stone referred to the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act and discussed the new direction of the U.S. education policy. Under this act, which is still pending in the Senate, the U.S. would send out a far greater number of students to study abroad than it does at present. Currently only one percent of all students enrolled in U.S. institutions of higher education study abroad. Dr. Stone explained the policy of Washington University to encourage students diversify their studies. She pointed out that there is a trend for exchange students to stay for shorter periods, and that summer schools are becoming popular. Dr. Stone also stressed the importance for Asian universities which cooperate with U.S. universities to ensure that the academic level of the courses offered corresponds to the U.S. standard.

After these two key note speeches, the workshop participants worked in two

separate sessions. In each session the participants gave individual presentations and had a Q&A session.

The first session was on the theme of “Networking to promote student exchange,” and it was moderated by Dr. Ru-Qing Zheng of Peking University. The second session was about “Advancing Campus Internationalization” The moderator was Prof. Kar Yan Tam of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). The PowerPoint slides of all presentations are compiled in this book.

In the combined session on the second day, Dr. Zheng and Prof. Tam gave summaries of the two sessions. Dr. Zheng introduced the presentations of the participants and reviewed the major topics discussed. They included the unbalance of incoming and outgoing students, effective and stable funding for educational activities, language of instruction and credit transfer. Dr. Zheng also mentioned the necessity of increasing student exchange within Asian countries. Prof. Tam summarized the discussions of the second group mentioning topics such as the exchange of degree seeking students. He also mentioned the new joint degree programs offered by some universities and the fact that short summer programs are becoming popular in the Asian region. Dr. Tam highlighted the common challenges for Asian universities, such as securing faculty members, housing, curriculum design, language of instruction and the adjustment problems of international students.

After the reports of the two moderators, the main session dealt further with those topics which were of most interest to participants. The ways in which international cooperation can enhance education is very relevant to many Asian universities. The systematic approach to coping with the increasing number of exchange students was discussed and the National University of Singapore (NUS)’s system to manage more than one thousand incoming and outgoing students was also discussed. Summer school was also a major topic in the combined session and many universities reported their experiences. Many participants pointed out the necessity of exchanging information about the courses offered by universities. Other topics such as financing or risk management could not be discussed because of limited time. These topics would be good candidates for further discussion at next year’s meeting.

In conclusion, the participants agreed upon the point that information exchange among universities is of great importance in enhancing the internationalization of higher education. Finally I would once again like to thank the keynote speakers, all the participants, and all the staff who worked hard to make this workshop a success. I hope that we will be able to meet in Kyoto again next year.

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