

D) Internationalization of Domestic Students (Presentation Abstract)

by

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Internationalization is at the core of the original mission of Keio University, as it was founded by Yukichi Fukuzawa in 1858 to educate future leaders of a Japan that was then bringing in Western civilization to the country.

Keio was one of the first universities to establish a centralized office to cope with international affairs, and it actively developed student exchange programs with universities overseas. Many students benefited from these student exchange opportunities. We, however, are now facing new challenges, as Japanese students are said to be less eager to venture abroad to participate in these exchanges due to a) the long slump in Japan's economy; b) uncertainty for job prospects after graduation; and c) the long and early "*Shu-katsu*" (job searching) process.

Under these circumstances, Keio is introducing some measures to overcome the above difficulties:

- i) Introduction of short study abroad programs (Summer/Spring vacation) as a first taste for students of longer study abroad
- ii) Change in administrative office structures so that both international and Japanese students can mingle in daily campus life
- iii) Fee waiver for students for privately financed study abroad

At the presentation, in addition to the measures that are already in place, some other measures that may be considered will also be discussed.