



Kyoto University European Center



FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

Season's Greetings from Kyoto University European Center



Christmas market both on the University Square Heidelberg

THE KYOTO UNIVERSITY EUROPEAN CENTER, which celebrated its 3rd birthday in May 2017, is further growing by taking active roles in bridging among broad-ranging knowledge and culture. One result is the Japan-German Joint Lecture organized by the Center, and another is the launch of young scholars mobility fund by Kyoto University (for details please read p.2).

What makes the Kyoto University Oversea Center stand out from liaison offices by other universities is stationing two permanent staff members at the Centers, including a University Research Administrator (URA). Main focus of support by the URA is research (研究). Taking a closer look at the Japanese expression the first Chinese character means “to polish” or “to sharpen” (研ぐ, “togu” in Japanese), while the second means “to investigate thoroughly” or “to master” (究める, “kiwameru”). The European Center had launched the above two projects in hopes of polishing and mastering deeper, sharper, and unprecedented goals in diverse environment. In order to achieve these goals we would like to further expand the scope of our activities.

Kyoto University would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to our partners for the many expressions of support and appreciation that we receive this year. May your new year be filled with happiness and prosperity!

Sincerely,

Chiyoko Kanno, Taro Sonobe, Tamaki Suzuki, Kei Ayukawa, Keisuke Iida,
Haruka Yagi, Tomoko Imai, Yukari Tachibana, Bernd Kirchner

Hamburg–Kyoto Symposium

KYOTO UNIVERSITY HELD AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM from June 6th to 8th 2017 in Hamburg in collaboration with Hamburg University. On this occasion both universities concluded a general memorandum of academic cooperation as well as a student exchange agreement. The two-day symposium aimed to further develop the exchange and collaboration ties between the two institutions and explore several new academic areas for potential research cooperations. Six parallel sessions were organized: Manuscript Culture, Physics, Law and Economics, Polymer Chemistry, Japanese Studies, and Infection Research.



Group photo of symposium participants

The symposium commenced with formal addresses by the presidents of both institutions and by H.E. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Japanese Ambassador to Germany. The Addresses were followed by the signing ceremony for the conclusion of the General Memorandum of Academic Cooperation. The

rest of the day was devoted to parallel workshops by six research groups, in which both Kyoto and Hamburg University researchers presented their research topics and interests and exchanged knowledge. The next day started with plenary sessions where researchers discussed future collaborative topics. After the discussion, the representatives from each of the six research groups presented outcomes from their sessions and proposals for joint research projects. The symposium was then formally brought to a close by the addresses from EVP Inaba and Dr. Jan Louis, vice-president of UHH.



Signing ceremony by President Juichi Yamagiwa and UHH President Dieter Lenzen

A total of 31 staff members from Kyoto University participated in this symposium. It was highly successful in terms of establishing and deepening ties between researchers at the two institutions and facilitating the establishment of new collaborative research projects.

A second joint symposium is currently being planned to be held at Kyoto University in autumn 2018.

The Japan-German Joint Lecture Series

WE HAVE BEEN EXPANDING OUR ACTIVITIES through cooperation and collaborative relationships between German, European and Japanese universities. One of these activities is the Japan-German Joint Lecture Series, which is jointly organized by the Kyoto University European Center and the Heidelberg University Office Kyoto. We so far held five lectures in 2017—three in Heidelberg and two in Kyoto.

In these lectures leading scholars introduce their latest research on literature, society and history within the context of Japan-German or Japan-European relations. Young students, faculty members and staff as well as accomplished researchers are invited to visit these lectures and are welcome to engage in multi-tiered and comprehensive dialogue.



The lecture "The transformation and the end of the concept 'Postwar' in Japan" delivered by Prof Kishi, Kyoto University (July 7, 2017, Heidelberg)

AIDA

INITIATED BY THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS from Kyoto University European Center, we have launched a new pilot project on fostering the academic exchange and cooperation for the next generation researchers by exchanging Early Career Researchers (ECR) and creating new values to existing programs and academic networks between Kyoto University and German partner universities.



Dr. Watanabe and Dr. Nicolay at the Heidelberg Center for Ion Therapy

We named this project AIDA (間), which stands for "Ambitious Intelligence Dynamic Acceleration", based on an idea deriving from the philosophy of Tetsuro Watsuji (1889–1960), whose legacy contains thoughts for further exploring the horizon of networks: the ethical concept of "betweenness (*aida-gara*: 間柄)". This is the space which people

During the seminar held in April 2017 in Kyoto, a first-year student exclaimed: "This is the history that I was never taught in high school!" On another occasion a Korean student engaged a lecturer in Heidelberg in a lively dialog.

We are going to have the next lecture in February in Kyoto again, hoping that these meetings become a solid foundation for building further academic exchange among researchers, students, staff, and the wider scientific community.



Announcement for the 4th Nichi-Doku Joint Lecture held by Prof. Kishi Toshihiko in Heidelberg

occupy and in which the various crossroads of relational interconnections are established (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy).

This year, we have selected three ECRs and one research team from Kyoto University to support their ambitious initiatives by creating new research collaborations and strengthening their existing networks with German researchers. URAs from both Kyoto and Heidelberg Office helped to facilitate the connection for ECR with relevant academic communities in Germany. Until now we have successfully established two new networks in different research fields between Kyoto University and German partner universities.

Dr. Tsubasa Watanabe, Assistant Professor from Research Reactor Institute, could take advantage of our support and was able to meet several professors from German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) as well as researchers of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). He could get an insight into their innovations in Immunotherapy at their institutions before his stay at Freiburg University in 2018. Mr. Shoma Ishikawa, Ph. D. candidate from Graduate School of Biostudies, was also able to make new connections with professors and scholars from the Chair for Genome Stability in Ageing and Diseases (CECAD) at University of Cologne while staying at their laboratory for two weeks. We are going to accelerate dynamism and mobility of ECRs from Kyoto University to Europe by creating new values on their research activities.

New Partnerships 2017



Main Events & Activities 2017

Research

International Symposia (Hamburg, Bordeaux)

DFG Seminar with participation by DFG Secretary General Dorothee Dzwonnek at Kyoto University

2nd to 6th Nichi-Doku Joint Lecture Series

Lecturer of the 6th Joint Lecture Prof. Schulz in Kyoto

Education

European Association for International Education [EAIE 2017] (Seville)

Experience Japan Exhibition 2017 (London)

Study in Japan (Freiburg & Heidelberg)

Experience Japan Exhibition in London

Outreach

5th Round-Table-Meeting (Stammtisch) of the Kyoto University in Heidelberg

Promotion of HeKKSaGOn at APAIE (Kaohsiung) and Science Agora (Tokyo)

3rd Kyoto-Tag (Cologne)

5th Stammtisch in Heidelberg

Networking

EARMA Conference 2017 (Malta)

JANET Forum and Workshop (Freiburg & Strasbourg)

Awarding Ceremony for Siebold Prize (Berlin)

Hiroshi Abe from Kyoto University being awarded the Siebold Prize in Berlin

Kyoto-Tag

WE CONTRIBUTED TO STRENGTHENING AND DEEPENING the sister city relationship between Kyoto and Cologne through participating at the 3. Kölner Kyoto-Tag in January 2017 in cooperation with Heidelberg University Office Kyoto (HUOK). At our exhibition booth we introduced Kyoto as a genuine university town with a harmonious balance between tradition and innovation. We also made reference to Kyoto University's academic activities to visitors from all over Germany. Five students from Kyoto University, who were studying in Germany, also prepared presentations to give a glimpse into the typical character of Kyoto University and their current activities in Germany. All students held their speeches in German and could give a good insight into the unique characteristics of Kyoto University as well as various aspects of students life to the many people in the audience.



Kyoto and Heidelberg staff members and students attending the 3rd Kyoto Tag Köln

Joint Degree in Master's Program between Kyoto and Heidelberg University

KYOTO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LETTERS and the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies have established the "Joint Degree Master of Arts Program in Transcultural Studies (JDTS)" in October. This is the first joint degree program in Humanities in Japan and also the first joint degree master course program for students at Kyoto University.



Prof Hirata, Dean of the Graduate School of Letters in Kyoto University at the student orientation (November 24, 2017, Heidelberg)

The Joint Degree Master of Arts Program in Transcultural Studies is a full-time research-oriented program which focuses on transcultural

We could also established personal networks with organizers and visitors such as members of the German-Japan Society Cologne, the Japanese Consulate in Cologne, the Japan Foundation Dusseldorf et alii. We are going to participate in 4. Kölner Kyoto-Tag this year again and are glad to contribute to further strengthen the bridge between Japan and Europe for a peaceful society and brighter future .



Sabine Schenk (HUOK) introducing the Kyoto University European Center and Heidelberg University Kyoto Office

dynamics between and within Asia and Europe in a global context. In their two years of studies, following an introduction to basic theories and concepts, students choose one theme from these three foci: "Society, Economy and Governance", "Knowledge, Belief and Religion", and "Visual, Media and Material Culture". The first topic is on political, social and economic interactions and exchange processes, the second one is on religious practices, knowledge systems and the history of ideas, and the third one is on transcultural processes that relate to the production, presentation and critical reception of images, films and objects. They will receive a Master of Arts degree jointly awarded by both universities upon completion.

Ten students are expected to enroll in this program each year—five in Heidelberg and five in Kyoto—and each study the first year at their home university and in the second year at the partner university.

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