

News from overseas centers

Washington North American Center

On 20 November 2019, the Center hosted a celebration commemorating the first anniversary since its establishment, joined in Washington DC by more than 80 individuals and institutions that have supported the Center's efforts, including strong showings from the University's Washington DC alumni and the New York Rakuyu-Kai alumni association, as well as old, new, and prospective partner organizations.

KyotoU's third overseas office, the Center is working to enhance the University's presence and support for academic and student exchange activities in North America. The first year saw an intensive push to expand and solidify networks of communication with universities, academic institutions, and alumni associations in the region.

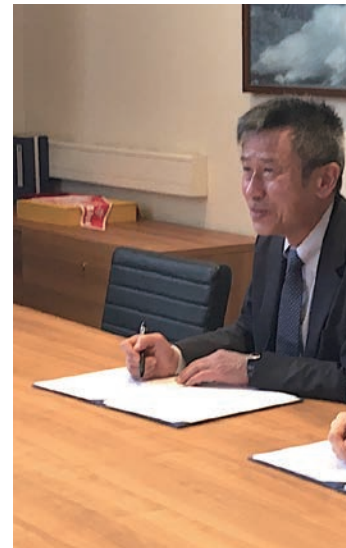
KyotoU president Juichi Yamagiwa's welcome remarks were followed by speeches by Japan's ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama, Yoshiaki Nishimura of Sumitomo Riko Company Ltd and vice-president of the KyotoU Kanae-Kai, Sachiko Kuno, president and CEO of the S&R Foundation, and Frank Jannuzi, president of the Mansfield Foundation. The speakers expressed their

wide-ranging encouragement for the future activities of the Center.

Center director Nathan Badenoch provided an overview of the Center's activities during its first year, including the signing of new student exchange agreements with three universities and prospects for three more in progress. The Center also develops new concepts for interdisciplinary collaborative research with partners.

President Yamagiwa's stimulating keynote address provoked discussion of Japanese perceptions of nature and human evolution. Participants expressed deep appreciation for the president's intellectual leadership. Kayo Inaba, executive vice-president for gender equality, international affairs, and public relations brought the ceremony to a close with thoughts on the importance of a regional presence in promoting internationalization.

Moving into its second year of operation, the Center will continue to function as a "window" to North America, serving as a hub to deepen cooperative relationships while enhancing internationalization efforts in the region.



Addis Ababa Africa Office

KyotoU marked an important milestone in August 2019 with the official opening of its Africa office — KUAO — in the Ethiopian capital, where Addis Ababa University (AAU) and its Institute of Ethiopian Studies (IES) are generously acting as hosts. Located on the Sidist Kilo main campus, the KUAO space is at the entrance of the well-known Museum

of Ethnography at IES, a popular tourist attraction. The office seeks to facilitate collaborative research between Japanese and African students and scholars. KUAO will also support courses in Japanese language and culture at AAU, encouraging Ethiopian students interested in studying in Kyoto.

