

Campus News

"By the students, for the students" "By the students, for the students" "By the students, for the students"

Student Activists Make their Voices Heard

By Minami Matsumura



False." Do you know what this word stands for? The Japanese Kanji Proficiency Society decided on this character to express Japanese social conditions in 2007. Food products, politics, athletes and the list goes on. There was a certain amount of "falseness" in many fields last year, and allegations that it occurred at the highest levels of our university brought the 2007 key word too close to home.

On October 5th, 2007 Kochi University held a vote to elect the president. The candidates were the challenger, Mr. Takahashi, from the Graduate School of Kuroshio Science and the incumbent, Mr. Sagara, who is the current president. The election returns marked 419 votes for Mr. Takahashi and 378 votes for Mr. Sagara. However, scandal erupted when it was learned that administration staff had physical contact with the counted and verified ballots, without any authority, necessitating a recount. The second result was, somehow, 399 votes for Mr. Takahashi and 398 votes for Mr. Sagara, with the new majority standing at just one vote, down from the previous 41 votes from the first count. After this mysterious incident, Mr. Sagara was put forward by the election committee on October 17th as the favorite to be the next president. The problem was that some office workers had touched the votes without any right to do so, and the university side didn't explain anything about the injustice to students, teachers and other staff working for the university. In spite of the strong degree of uncertainty surrounding the vote, our next president was decided.

Ms. Haruko Nagano and Ms. Kahori Kitadai, who are both fourth-year students from the Department of International Studies, were shocked by the irregularities surrounding the election and started to act. They called for the proper administration of the university after the election. They said they had been spending a normal school life for three years and had no interest in what was going on in the university until the incident happened. When they heard of the irregularities in the election, their initial reaction was, "How can this be?", "I can't understand!" and "We have to do something to make our university get back on the right track!"

As a first step, they established a small group of students and held some meetings to determine what had actually happened. After that, they started to give out leaflets to let students and teachers know about the incident and to appeal to them to move together. In all, they handed out about 1500 leaflets. Then, they moved to gather as many signatures as possible. They stopped students one by one and tried to explain about the incident from the

beginning and what they were trying to do. They also visited classrooms and explained the same things in front of lots of students and asked for their signatures. During all their breaks, including lunch time, using all the time available to them, Ms. Nagano and Ms. Kitadai kept doing this for a whole month.

Looking back on this month of heavy activity, they remarked that, "it was the hardest term for us; it felt like we were going to die while we were doing this, because we had to explain all the things to each student again and again, but they kindly agreed with us and they were really cooperative. We could see that students always feel something in their minds but usually they do not try to express it outside. However, just by being asked to move from somebody like us, they could express themselves in a small way. Because of this, we never regret what we did though it was really hard." As the result of their great efforts, 2085 signatures were gathered in just one month, a number which represents 40% of the students of Kochi University. It was an excellent result, and one that gained them the respect of students, teachers and university administration staff.

On November 21st, they walked through the campus with the 2085 signatures and papers requesting that the current president address their concerns about the election irregularities. They tried to talk to the president directly, and sent the information about the election to some institutions outside of the university to help create an environment where the president had to reconsider. However, lots of difficulties were waiting for them. For example, they explained that they couldn't have a satisfactory meeting with the president - it was finished with his one-sided talk. Because of that, they were unable to get sufficient answers about their requests. Ms. Nagano and Ms. Kitadai both expressed strong anger and shock at what they considered to be irresponsible behavior.



"We just want our university to be respectable, not the one where people only in higher positions can get profits, and students' and teachers' voices are disregarded." -Haruko Nagano

As this article is being written, they still keep working for the right administration of university even though they are extremely busy with their graduation theses. When asked about their goals, Ms. Nagano said, "We just want our university to be respectable, not the one where only people in higher positions can get profits, and students' and teachers' voices are disregarded. Until we graduate, we will keep trying hard to get the situation better, even if only a little." Unfortunately, since the student group is constituted of only fourth-year students, there are currently no students left to fight. However, they said that "this movement is voluntary, not something that is enforced. If there are no students who want to proceed in this battle, we can't really help in this regard. I think others will come forward."

"We learned many things through this term. For example, firstly, we thought and acted, and kept trying to believe in ourselves and the things what we've done." -Kahori Kitadai

Ms. Nagano and Ms. Kitadai deserve our admiration and thanks as model students standing up for what they believe. Most students understandably find this hard to do. "We learned many things through this term. For example, firstly, we thought and acted, and kept trying to believe in ourselves and the things that we've done. We could see our university, where we learned over four years, in a new light. There were lots of things that made us get angry but we never regret! And we will never stop challenging!!" said Ms. Kitadai.

As they noted, everyone has some strong feeling about something, even if it's not always voiced. Everyone wants to make a movement but it's often hard to put it in to action. Sometimes people just don't have enough guts to try. What they are doing now is a really tough thing and a big movement. However, the most important thing is if you try to move or not. It is okay to start with even a tiny thing. Your tiny step will lead you to a wonderful world that you've never known. That's what the never-ending challenges of Ms. Nagano and Ms. Kitadai tell us.

Report from the Philippines

By Minami Matsumura

Poverty, starvation, HIV, equal opportunities for eating, for education, even for living a day, and for happiness...These are serious problems we need to think about for life but which are difficult to solve. Ms. Eri Nakano is someone who has been thinking about these problems since she was an elementary school student and she has started to search for what she can do to solve these problems.

Ms. Nakano is a 3rd year student from International Studies who is presently studying and experiencing development in the Philippines.

“Why, since I have enough food and access to safe water, opportunity for study, and safe house to live, are there so many people who are starving and can’t live even a day?”

When she was an elementary school student, she had already started asking herself questions like, “Why, since I have enough food and access to safe water, opportunity for study, and safe house to live, are there so many people who are starving and can’t live even a day?” Her parents were interested in these problems and often watched TV programs about global issues such as starvation in Africa or street children problems in Southeast Asia. Her grandparents often told her their experience about how hard it was to live during World War II and how they recovered from such hard days. From a background like this, it was very natural for her to think about these problems.



The experience that led her to major in International Studies at university was her high school trip to Hawaii. Before visiting there, she had some stereotypes that all American people were rich and equal but it wasn't true. What she saw there were lots of street children and people who are living in warehouses. Ms. Nakano said they looked like “hopeless people” to her. She was really shocked but she got interested in development studies at the same time. That's why she opted to study at the University of the Philippines for one year. The reason why she chose the Philippines is that she can study the concept of development while living there and immerse herself in a developing country. Also the university is famous for its development studies program. She is sure that she made the right decision.

Ms. Nakano is spending most of her time there for classes. She signed up for five subjects this semester including “Community Development,” “Development Economics,” “Sociology” (Philippines contemporary social issues), “Philosophy” and “PE Kick boxing”. Classes are twice a week so she has 10 classes per week. Of course, all the classes are in English and students are always expected to say something. So she had a very hard time to catch up at first. However, all of her friends and professors care about her and she always gets some fresh ideas from them in each class. She is learning a lot of knowledge and skills in her classes.

I found that to get credit in UP is quite tough. I can say that UP students are very hard-working in terms of studying.

“Home work.” This is the most difficult problem for Japanese students when they study abroad because the homework is really different from that in Japan. For example, she has to read 100 pages of economics text each week. Also, students are required to do lots of review work. If she failed to do that, she can not keep up with the class. In looking back on her eight months there, she said, “I found that to get credit in UP is quite tough. I can say that UP students are very hard-working in terms of studying. And classes are very different from Japanese classes. In the Philippines, we have to be more active, not passive, because we have many discussions in class”.

Now, only four months are left to the day I go back to Japan. I can say that the rest of my days here will be full of challenges. But I'm sure that all of my experiences will help me to grow.

Aside from her campus life, she is spending really special times in her dorm for international students. There are 150 residents from 40 countries, who have different values, religions and life styles. Since the dorm is unique in that point, they have many activities there. For instance, they recently had “international week”, an event at which students present their culture to Filipino people. At that time, all residents worked together and enjoyed a lot regardless of nationality. She said that it was one of the biggest memories in her life.

Eight months have passed since her life in the Philippines started. She has learned countless things there. It took a long time for her to get accustomed to life there, because people behave in different ways and speak different languages. Moreover, she often doesn't have a water and electricity supply. For her last four months, she noted her determination when she said, “Now, only four months are left to the day I go back to Japan. I can say that the rest of my days here will be full of challenges. But I'm sure that all of my experiences will help me to grow.”

I'm really looking forward to seeing how Eri has changed and grown through her many special experiences in the Philippines.

Lunch Time Dining Options in Asakura

By Sanae Yasuoka

Having lunch can make you happy, refresh you in the middle of a tiring day and give you the chance to leisurely chat with a friend over a meal. So, where do you usually spend this valuable time?

The cafeteria is one of the most popular options for students to have lunch. The menu has wide variety with low prices which makes it great for students. The style of getting your food is self-service. You take a tray and gather whatever you like to eat. Dishes are very appealing for students. The cafeteria is especially good for students having an unhealthy life, drinking all night or paying money for microwavable meals at convenience stores. What's more, the calories of your lunch are provided on your receipt. The place is open all the time with flexible eating hours for all customers.

However, have you ever had the problem of finding a seat at the busiest times? You probably go there with your friends or someone to have lunch and try to get seats together. Some say that it's difficult to sit together because the place is always so crowded for lunch time. You are so hungry. Some are starving and can't wait to eat. So what can you do in such situations? How about eating outside of the university? There are some very good options to have lunch just around the campus.

Do you know *King*? It is just south east of the university. Just take a 5-minute walk from the east gate. It is well-known for having good quantity at a low price. For most students, good value for the money is most

important. It caters mainly to KU students with big appetites. Some even say that you are not a real Kochi University student until eating at *King*! So why don't you start with the mixed fry lunch there? Usually female customers can't even eat the regular size!

Another option is located directly opposite to Asakura station, called *Kikori*. It's probably the healthiest restaurant around campus. It's very popular with teachers and local people from the community, but sometimes KU students can be found there. The daily lunch set changes everyday with good variety, lots of vegetables and miso soup. You pay only 600 yen (plus 100 yen for coffee). If you want to save money, you can try the cheaper lunch set, which is the grilled fish lunch for 500 yen. The atmosphere is nice to talk with your friends. In fact, this is one of the reasons why teachers prefer this place. Go to *Kikori* to find your teacher, and while you're there you can enjoy a healthy lunch.

Yet another option is *Friend*. It's just outside of the east gate and probably the closest place to eat besides the cafeteria. Two lunch menus can be ordered, the A lunch or B lunch for 550 yen (coffee not included). The A lunch is fried chicken and the B lunch is fried fish. They have excellent volume and good value for your money. Your stomach will certainly be filled to satisfaction. It is usually crowded with KU students at lunch time and you may find some of your friends there. Give

Friend a try and you will have a full stomach for an afternoon of hard studying.

There is another more recent option to have lunch. A little place called *Waka*, which is just outside of the main gate. *Waka* mainly has Japanese style lunch and you can have some options to add, such as tsukemono and miso soup. It sounds healthy, doesn't it? You sit at either the counter or on tatami listening to a nice selection of background music that changes every day. If you are a little bit tired of eating unfit food, why don't you try *Waka*?

The last one is *Café Vadosu* in front of the main gate. This is a dog cafe and there are some special seats for dogs. It's probably the most fashionable café directly around the campus. The daily lunch set is 750 yen with coffee and cake. What's more, you can have different kinds of curry, such as Thai curry, and some pasta as well. There are many seats for visitors in the spacious building. Why don't you have afternoon coffee there? It would be very nice to enjoy with your friends.

So these are just some options where you can eat lunch around the campus. There are some more options a little bit further from the university too. It's nice to have lunch at a different place in a different atmosphere. So, why don't you go outside of a campus for lunch today to make your lunch time special and happier? Find your favorite! And let us know your reviews.

KU Student takes part in East Asia Youth Leadership Forum 2007

By Aya Tobita



From November 25th to December 1st 2007, the East Asia Youth Leadership Forum 2007 was held in Bangkok, Thailand under the auspices of the Thai Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ten people from each of ASEAN + 3 (Korea, China and Japan) countries were selected to join this forum. During the forum, they held discussions, visited the President of Thailand, participated in lecture meetings by the ASEAN Secretary General and planted mangroves. One Kochi University student, Mr. Tetsuya Nomura, a 3rd year student from the Dept. of International Studies, joined this forum as one of the representatives of Japanese youths.

Mr. Nomura's participation in the forum marked his fourth visit to Thailand. "I wanted to join the ASEAN + 3 events because I've never done that kind of thing before. I wanted to know what opinions other youths have about cultural exchange in Asia and about people from other Asian countries. Before I joined this forum, I had seen things only from my own viewpoint, so I had interest other viewpoints," Mr. Nomura said.

This forum was planned at the last ASEAN Summit to develop exchange programs at the youth level and it was the first time to have the forum. Mr. Nomura was quite impressed with the other delegates. "I realized that other youths are very serious and diligent. That means they have their own opinions and can argue their points well. So even during our free time, they continued discussing

things seriously. But sometimes I felt some youths talked about their own countries too much," he said.

I wasn't fully able to tell things that they wanted to know about Japan. I realized I need to know more about my own country before I know other countries.

Remembering his experiences, Mr. Nomura said, "It was fun to meet lots people and talk, but there wasn't enough time. The forum lasted only a week. I hope it'll be longer next time." Mr. Nomura wanted to find out more about the educational support available in each country, but was left disappointed by this. "I couldn't get to know the realities of education in other countries so much. The youths selected to participate came from higher levels of society in their respective countries, so they didn't even know about the real situation in their own countries. It would have been better if each country had chosen representatives from various positions of society. Also, I wasn't fully able to tell things that they wanted to know about Japan. I realized I need to know more about my own country before I know other countries."

When asked why he goes to Thailand so many times, he answered that, "It was just a coincidence, I didn't

choose Thailand this time. It's hard to explain but I feel a sense of destiny about my connection to Thailand!!" His first visit to Thailand was as part of a study tour. He went because he had interest in Southeast Asian countries. He went and saw slum areas and the countryside so that could know more about the reality of Thai life. His second time was just a private trip, and it was easy for him to go to Thailand because he'd been there before. The third visit was to meet his Thai friend whom he met at another forum. "I've become friends with a Thai person, but I didn't choose him. He was my room mate while at the forum. It was just a coincidence! I wanted to see him again, so I visited him. Because of this chance, our relationship became deeper than before. It's important to connect again with someone. I want to meet and see the other people I met at this youth forum, too."

However when asked if he wants to join the ASEAN youth forum again in the future, he said "No" because he wants other people to join the meeting too, and then spread their knowledge and experiences to others. "I felt the power and the size of a country has no relation to international exchange – real exchange is about equality," he noted.

Mr. Nomura has strong plans for his future. "I think it's good to work at an international institution, something like the UN after graduate school. Then I want to make use of my experiences and meetings. In my opinion, I might be able to move smoothly if I have connections with people from other countries. Furthermore, if I have a chance I want to go and learn about African countries. Of course, I want to go Asian countries, too. That's because Japan is part of Asia," he said with confidence.

Finally, Mr. Nomura shared this message: "Coincidence is very important and has a big power. It will connect you to something, and some coincidences will become part of one circle. But if you do nothing, you can't find anything. You need an antenna to get information which you have interest in to achieve your goal. That coincidence you might experience somewhere will connect to something good."

Student Profile: Ms. Ayako Kanda Balances Motherhood and Student Life

By Aya Tobita

Have you ever seen a young mother and father walking hand in hand with their little boy at university? That mother is Mrs. Ayako Kanda, a 3rd year student from the Dept. of International studies. She and her husband, Yasuhiro, are the proud parents of one-year-old Yamato. Mrs. Kanda agreed to talk with the *KU Campus News* about balancing parenthood with student life. During our interview, Mrs. Kanda was smiling happily the whole time with her husband, Yasuhiro while Yamato was in nursery school.

In 2006, during her second year at university, Mrs. Kanda took a one-year leave from KU to have her baby, and has recently returned to school from the 2nd semester of the 2007-08 academic year. She and her young family returned to Kochi just before resuming her studies without telling anyone, even her friends. Now she is a mother and wife, and also a student just like before.

When asked why she chose to come back to KU, she answered, "I wanted to study again at KU because I experienced some exciting things as a student, and I could meet influential friends and teachers. So, because this was my school I really wanted to come back and finish my student life." When she was a 1st year student, she was very active, joining the study tour to Thailand and some events that support people to start a business.



A lot of people think it's absurd for a mother to come back to school and bring up her son but I started to wonder why being a student is not compatible with being a mother?

"Of course I worried so much about returning to Kochi. Everyone knows there is a negative image about a university student getting pregnant, having a baby and coming back to school. Some people say that to continue to be a student is completely out of the question. People never said this directly to me but I could see that they thought it was really unusual. I know a lot of people think it's absurd for a mother to come back to school and bring up her son but I started to wonder why being a student is not compatible with being a mother? I can't imagine what my life would be like in the future if I didn't try.

Mrs. Kanda thought that she could successfully be a student and a mother with the support of her family and friends, but most especially her husband. "We are blessed very much with our families and the people around us. If we have some problems with our son, we can get advice from our parents. They give us both moral and financial support. And my husband encourages and supports me so much. He agreed to live with me and my son here in Kochi when I decided come back here. He said 'Let's deal with this together and think about it later. You can't know the result before you do something.'" It's obviously not so easy to balance being a student and a mother, but she said, "More than me and my husband, Yamato must be

trying hard. It gives him big stress that I can't be with me throughout the long day. He has to go to nursery school and meets lots people who are not his family. But you know, those will be good experiences for him, and other kids have to do this too." With a laugh, Mrs. Kanda joked, "I hope he will be a trilingual of the Kumamoto, Okayama and Kochi dialects." Kumamoto is her hometown, her husband is from Okayama and Kochi is the new place for all three of them.

I want to be a teacher. Not the teacher who teaches at school but the kind who supports the children who can't keep up with school studies.

To conclude the interview, I asked Mrs. Kanda to share her dream. She said, "I want to be a teacher. Not the teacher who teaches at school but the kind who supports the children who can't keep up with school studies." During her year away from KU to have her baby, she taught and helped her sisters and their friends with their studies. "I want to support and help the people like us; who are struggling a little to do what is natural for others. Fortunately, I now have experience as two different kinds of student and as a mother. I want to make use of my experiences for others. Before that, I want to spend daily life with lots of love for Yamato with Yasuhiro, just as we got from our parents, and say it was a nice day without any regret."

Mrs. Kanda has a lot to teach us. She's enjoying her balancing act and doing a fine job. She is living her own life, a very full life, with her family.

Ship for South East Asia Youth Program has Deep Impact on KU Student

By Minami Matsumura



Lots of International Studies students have great interest in youth exchanges at sea. Some of these ship voyages take you all around East Asia and other parts of the world and give participants lots of precious experiences? Ms. Tomoko Shiraiwa, a 3rd year student from the Dept. International Studies who began her studies at KU last April, has just taken a year off from school to take part in the Ship for South East Asia Youth Program (SSEAYP).

SSEAYP is one of the Japanese Cabinet Office's programs which accepts about 40 Japanese youths and about 300 youths from 10 different signatories of ASEAN to study together on the ship for about 50 days, visiting some of the participating countries and exchanging culture in each country.

I want to think about the realities and the possibilities of multicultural symbiosis by seeing and touching it directly by myself with people from countries of the East Asia.

SSEAYP was one of the major reasons for coming to KU and for her absence just shortly after acceptance at the university. She has been very interested in this program since she was a student at a junior college in Shimane. She majored in multicultural symbiosis there and still now is interested in this area. "I want to think about the realities and the possibilities of multicultural symbiosis by seeing and touching it directly by myself with people from countries of East Asia. The important thing is to help each other and not just have one-sided support", she said.

After a long application process that included submitting the right documents, selections via interview tests which included an assessment of English ability, discussions and writing tests, her 50-day journey started on October 23rd 2007 with many hopes. The

participants were divided into about 11 groups and each group included people from different countries. Though 50% of Japanese participants were students, most of participants from other countries were working people including lawyers, professors and people working for the government.



While she was on the ship, Ms. Shiraiwa said she was very busy joining in discussions, club activities (clubs included Karate, Yosakoi, Wadaiko from Japan and Ms. Shiraiwa joined the Sado club). Other clubs included Thai massage from Thailand, for example, and activities which introduce the culture of each country. Although activities and work kept her busy until after lights out every night, she also enjoyed chatting and sometimes talking about serious topics with her room mates. One of her room mates was from Myanmar and Ms. Shiraiwa spent time talking with her about the Japanese photographer killed there in 2007.

When not at sea, Ms. Shiraiwa experienced countless things in each country. In one developing country, she saw a road development, and she noted that they were following the Japanese method but not only Japanese distinguished skills, Japanese failures also. However Japanese people often tell nothing about their failures. It is a very big waste of time and money for them and, at the same time, she felt it would be nice that Japanese could tell the right ways not to repeat the same failures and help for more efficient ways.



On a positive note, Ms. Shiraiwa had a wonderful cultural experience in Malaysia. As you well know, Malaysia is one of the multicultural countries made up of people from Malay, Chinese and Indian background, and people from many other ethnicities too. One day, her host family took her to Harmony Street which has temples from each of the represented religions. She saw that different types of temples from different religions can exist together and join each other in community activities. Though there are lots of wars because of religious differences in the world, she was moved to see such positive scenes that different cultures can exist together so naturally. She was sure that if this model and way of thinking extended all over the world, world peace would come someday.



Ms. Shiraiwa met great friends with whom she wants to work together for life. Not only did the members talk about a lot of things together on board the ship but also the people she met in each country, including her host families of course, supported her in many ways. What was most impressive for her was the encounters with all these people through this journey.

"With so much thanks to all the people who supported me, I want to be on the supporting side next time" - Tomoko Shiraiwa

Ms. Shiraiwa's future goal is to activate regions with international exchanges. In more concrete terms, she wants to launch an organization in the region where she can help to better accept foreigners who join the kinds of programs just as she experienced this time. "With so much thanks to all the people who supported me, I want to be on the supporting side next time", she said.

There are lots of people who are thinking that, "I want to do something," but they can't. But nothing happens if you don't make the move! The moment you feel, "I want to do something" is the time that you should move. Taking a step forward with a little courage leads you to a more enjoyable, exciting and wonderful world. If you fail, never mind. Ms. Shiraiwa, who has grown a lot through this journey, leaves us with a magnificent message.



Studying Abroad in China: Ms. Yuka Shiba Broadens her Horizons

By Sanae Yasuoka

Ms. Yuka Shiba is a student who chose a path a little different for a typical third year student in the Dept. of International Studies. Instead of taking courses with her classmates here in Kochi, she opted for a one-year study abroad programme in China. This story profiles Ms. Shiba and her life experiences in China.

After entering Kochi University, Ms. Shiba studied Chinese for two years. Through this study, she got really interested in the language and also thought more about Chinese society and culture. For her, the decision was easy – to get to know more about China, she had to go there. That's just what she did after her second year at KU. Part of her decision to go abroad was also based on the belief that to really grow as a person, she needed to see more of the world. In short, she wanted the chance to change something in her life.

So in February, 2007 she left Japan for China to follow her dream at The Language College in Beijing. Everything was new for her and it took a while to get accustomed to her new life there. At first, the most difficult problem for her was, of course, the big language wall. Learning Chinese from the textbook is so much different than actually speaking it to Chinese natives. She wasn't even able to understand how much to pay when she went shopping. Another problem she found was the food there. The taste was a little weaker than Japanese food, but the amount of oil used in the dishes was a lot more than her stomach could bear. There were other problems too, especially about public restrooms in China. Ms. Shiba found that they were not cleaned as often as in Japan, even the ones in restaurants. Further-



more, it was quite surprising to find that restrooms often don't have doors or walls for privacy in rural areas. What an amazing thing this was for her!

At The Language College, she met a lot of friends from all over the world through her stay – people from Korea, Australia, and of course lots of Chinese. Her class was a special one for learning Chinese and she's been taking it since she got there. In her class, Chinese was the language used for instruction, but the interesting thing was that it was different for each person. Ms. Shiba found that the Chinese spoken by Koreans was somehow affected by their mother tongue. By meeting these people, she was able to figure out which country they came from after talking for a short while. What's more, through meeting them, she learned what was going on in their countries, and this widened her field of vision about the world, she said.

With respect to the difficult international problems between China and Japan, she definitely had problems at times. There are still some Chinese and Koreans who don't like Japanese because of the things that happened in the past. She had a particular experience with some older Chinese. "They started to ask me about the history of China and Japan when they met me", she shared. "The questions were concrete. For instance, in what year did the Japanese army begin to attack China and what exactly did they do". That was a question she could answer, though only by chance. However, they made some critical points that Japanese education about the



history of our country was not enough. This was a key moment for her to see only a small part of the serious antagonism that still exists between us.

Before leaving Japan, she thought that having better skills in Chinese would help her for job hunting. However, she realized she also needed English as well.

Learning these things had a big impact. One of the most important things she found was the value of time. Time goes so fast. Now she feels that the first two years she spent at Kochi University was somehow wasteful. It means that she should have studied more. Before leaving Japan, she thought that having better skills in Chinese would help her for job hunting. However, she realized she also needed English as well. This is because she found so many Japanese in China, which made her think that it was no longer a rare thing for Japanese to master Chinese. Today, English is the international language in the world and some her friends have already started learning English or other languages. Their earnestness helped her to realize this, she said. After all, she strengthened her determination to study and learn more international things diligently after getting back to Japan. Now that she is back, be sure to ask Ms. Shiba about her great experience when you see her!

Writing the Senior Thesis: Advice from this Year's Students

By Hisashi Bando

All fourth-year students have to face the difficult task of writing their senior thesis. Whether you write the thesis in English or Japanese, it's still a very intimidating task for almost everyone. Of course most students write in Japanese, with only a small percentage who try to write in English. I talked to students, three from Humanities, and one from Science to learn more about writing the dreaded sotsuron.

I interviewed Mr. Hirokazu Ito who wrote a thesis on a phonetics/phonology topic. He spent almost three months writing his thesis in Japanese because there are so many difficult things to go through. First, is the statistical work related to his area of research. He did not have the confidence to do this well, but he could get help from a teacher with specialization in statistics. Second, it was very hard for him to find reference books, so he actively went to different libraries and other universities. Third, he needed to get the data for his study and though he tried to ask his friends to get tested, and acquire the data, it was still not enough. He went to a conference, and gathered information as much as possible there. Mr. Ito said, "Although my thesis is finished, I strongly feel that I could have made it better. I noticed that I need to study more through writing the thesis."

Whether I write the thesis in Japanese or English, it was still going to be very tough. I don't think it really matters which language you use. -Minako Miki

One of students who wrote a thesis in English about Japanese marriage customs as a gender equality issue is Ms. Minako Miki. She spent almost two months writing the thesis. In her case, there were many slightly different expressions in words between Japanese and English. She took very much care in choosing the word in English, because it is very important to tell readers precisely about what she wanted to say in the thesis. Ms. Miki said, "Whether I write the thesis in Japanese or English, it was still going to be very tough. I don't think it really matters which language you use. The important thing is to write logically. When I was writing the thesis, I was often confused about what I wanted to write. I thought I was getting lost at times. I tried very hard to lead it in a correct direction to the goal." It was very difficult to get the data. Although she went to libraries, there were often no reference books available for what she needed. At that time, her seminar teacher found the one for her. She says, "My consideration of the problem between genders has grown through writing my thesis. I will try to solve these problems after I graduate from this school."

Another student who wrote a thesis in English is Ms. Kaori Mine. She also spent almost two months writing her thesis. She said that one of the things that kept the process going well was that she was able to keep meeting the regular deadlines set by the teacher in the seminar. But, trouble still came like a thunderbolt to her. Her computer was totally broken down on the way to her goal, and she realized how indispensable it was for her because she often got the data in DVD format. She was not able to work in her house, so she stayed long hours in the library at school everyday. When she read a reference book, she sometimes got confused because it

was difficult to translate English into Japanese and vice versa. Ms. Mine agreed that writing logically was more difficult than writing in English. She noted, "My view about sitcoms, my topic, changed through writing this thesis. I came to be more critical when I am watching these TV programs. The only thing I regret is that I could have written better if I had started to do it earlier."

One student who wrote a thesis about saphirine-bearing ultrahigh-temperature metamorphic rock in North China is Ms. Akiko Teraoka, from the Faculty of Science. She had to do a lot of field work to get the data for her thesis. For example, she stayed for 10 days in Inner Mongol in China, and took part in geologic reconnaissance with her professor and some students of Beijing University. She took metamorphic rock back to Kochi from there. She experimented with the rock as a sample. Part of the process included putting it in thin-sections, observing under the microscope, and getting the data. When we did this interview she had not yet finished writing her thesis, but it was almost finished. She said, "The hardest thing in writing the thesis for her is the field work. It made me very tired all the time, but it is very interesting at the same time. My thesis represents the sum product of my student life. I will be satisfied with it."

Our 4th year students certainly have to face a difficult task in writing their senior thesis. Whether the thesis is written in English or Japanese, it's still a very intimidating task for almost everyone. The four students I interviewed tell us that writing the thesis will be something good in our life. The thesis is awaiting all students sooner or later. It is necessary to enjoy it and embrace the challenge, rather than to fear it. Let's learn from those who have already successfully finished.

KU English Teacher Nurtures Tosa-Hawaii Connections

By Sanae Yasuoka



Fusa Nakagawa

“Today’s Japanese can’t be as international as they are without Hawaii.” -Fusa Nakagawa

Have you ever taken any classes with Ms. Fusa Nakagawa? She is a part-time teacher at Kochi University and mainly instructing English here. However, this story is not only about what she teaches. She’s been specializing in social welfare issues in Hawaii, especially for Japanese immigrants there. Ms. Nakagawa holds a PhD degree on this topic, which she received two years ago. “Today’s Japanese can’t be as international as they are without Hawaii,” she said. Does anybody know that Hawaii was the first foreign country Japanese people visited? So, this is what she’s done and what she is really like.

Ms. Nakagawa was not a person who brimmed with confidence at first, just like everyone. At the age 15, she decided to go to America to study English. This was the first movement she did to search for herself. Through her stay, she found the American students she met there were eager in their studies - a lot more than her. Coming back to Japan, she got more eager to study what she really liked, and this was also the time when she got married. Then, she started her studies at Kochi University and followed this up with graduate studies at Naruto Education University as she left her children in preschools. Her majors were American literature and English and then, her interests moved on to Asian English literature, which was mostly written by the immigrants from Asian countries. Through these studies, she learned about Mr. Takie Okumura and became passionate about his story.

Mr. Okumura, whose actions and activities fascinated Ms. Nakagawa, moved to Hawaii in 1885 and worked for Japanese immigrants to improve their social welfare. He acted upon the democracy and happiness of all the people, and established schools, hospitals and especially the Makiki Christian Church for them. By the way, do you know there are three Kochi castles in the world? One is the one you all probably have seen before in Kochi, the other one is in Kakekawa, Shizuoka, and the last one was set up by Mr. Okumura. Makiki Christian Church appears to be exactly the same as Kochi castle. This is not only because he felt homesickness for Kochi as a person of the prefecture, but also because he wanted to bring that particular beauty to Hawaii. And this place became a special place for Ms. Nakagawa in her later life.

“Students found how much they were supported by people around them and started to think that they want to do something to help people.”

After learning about Mr. Okumura for years, she approached the church with a proposal and began to think it would be a good place for exchange between Hawaii and Japan. And, in 2000, the first visit of some Tosa-Juku Junior High School students took place. Actually, before this attempt, there had been some students who had come to Kochi, but after this year, formal international exchanges were started. Her idea was so excellent that students who went to Hawaii had such a wonderful experience there. “They aren’t as they were after coming back from that experience,” she said. “They found how much they were supported by people around them and started to think that they want to do something to help other people”. The exchange program included taking some classes and having camps with local people. However these things seemed to work in other ways - to change their minds and themselves. Now she is proposing to open this program to KU students as well.

“There was no support for me to study and have child care at the same time. Where can women leave the child who is sick? They are not supposed to do it? But they have to go to work for money to live.”

What’s more, these are not the only things she is working on. Ms. Nakagawa is also trying to get more people to think carefully about the social welfare system in Japan. She had experienced very hard times through her lifetime, especially the time when she was going to university and had to leave her children in kindergartens at the same time. “There was no support for me to study and have child care at the same time”, she said. “Where can women leave the child who is sick? They are not supposed to do it? But they have to go to work for money to live.” This is something we all need to think about as we grow up. Have you thought about that? The declining birth rate is one of the biggest problems in Japanese society today. However, not all women can find men who earn enough money to raise a family. Money is necessary to have a baby and even to live, and this means there are many women who must work. “Children are treasures in our society. But how can it be so hard to have a baby in today’s society? It’s difficult to live happily!” Now Ms. Nakagawa realizes she needs to do something for that only because she had this hard time. “I’m even thankful for the hard time I experienced because I could know what I need more,” she said.

Planning the exchange programs between Hawaii and Japan was just her first step. Now she is considering about establishing a place in Hawaii for healing, for all the people. By building it, she would like to tell that there is a place where you are always supported by someone. We all can’t live without support from someone. So, are you interested in this? If you are, just talk to Ms. Nakagawa! She is always pleased to find people who might become as passionate as she is.

FROM TOSA TO HAWAII

— The Footsteps of Takie Okumura —



FUSA NAKAGAWA

"Takie Okumura and the Japanese Hawaiians" Exhibition Committee
ISBN4-87503-199-8 C0023 ¥1905E

土佐からハワイへ

—— 奥村多喜衛の軌跡 ——



中川 美佐
FUSA NAKAGAWA

発行 「奥村多喜衛とハワイ日系移民展」実行委員会
発売元 高知新聞企業 定価2,000円(本体1,905円+税)

Student Feature: Akiko Tamura - Editor of the Free Paper "Jam"

By Aya Tobita

Where and how do you get useful information for your campus life? Chat with your friends? Check the billboard? There is another good way to get information – the new free magazine called Jam.

This is the name of a free paper that KU students are editing. It has been designed for KU students to spend their own campus life usefully and get along with each other like jam and bread. You can get this from students who wear the same T-shirt. You might be able to get useful information from Jam.

Ms. Akiko Tamura, a third-year student of International Studies, worked to produce Jam as the editor-in-chief. "I wanted to carry something through while I'm a KU student and I didn't want my campus life to finish in the normal way. Also I had interest to write essays and make magazines." She belongs to the group called SOS, authorized officially by KU, and gathered some small groups that have been active in things like Jam editing. In that group, people have interesting ideas and broad horizons, and they gave her lots of encouragement, she said.

KU students can get Jam free, so we decided to ask why she doesn't choose to sell the magazine. She answered by saying, "That's because it's not for business but for KU students to help to spend their campus life usefully. To publish Jam freely, we have to visit some companies to ask ad rates, just like a sales job." She said she had never done sales and there were lots of problems and troubles. When she planned to feature about restaurants around KU, she had to eat

lots of food at one time, and it was also the first time to that kind of story. "At first, I didn't know I what should do and what attitude to take for sales. Also there were no profits for companies," she said. Sometimes she was told bluntly by people at one company that if they were going to use money, it's better to advertise in Hot Pepper or other magazines than Jam. They didn't believe Jam editors because they were merely students. Also they didn't believe that when the chief changed, then the concept of magazine changed. It was hard to understand the new concept for companies.

Still, she was philosophical. "Lots of people support us besides those people, so I can do the editing work. Besides, if people point out the problem severely, that forces us to solve them and makes the product better. I am thankful for those people," she said with pride.

Little by little, Jam has been established with students although the name has changed from KITSCH to Jam. KITSCH was also previously profiled in the *KU Campus News*. And it's giving good influence because more students have interest to edit magazines and participate in important student activities. She said, "I could meet lots people through this free paper, all of whom were wonderful! One meeting led to other meetings, and people involved called other people. For example, I could meet one person who has an acquaintance at a local publishing company, then I had a chance to get some advice about publishing."



Jam is the very comfortable place for me where I could find my own pace. Through Jam, I have come to realize what I want to do for my future. It gave me a good influence.



Lastly, I asked her what Jam means for her, and what are the future plans both of Jam and for herself. "Jam is the very comfortable place for me where I could find my own pace. Through Jam, I have come to realize what I want to do for my future. It gave me a good influence." She doesn't like when her pace gets disturbed by somebody. "So, I want to be a freelance writer or get a job at the local publishing company. I want to do my job at my own pace. However, I can't tell the future of Jam because the editing generation will change to younger students. That means it will be changed to suit what the students want to know in next generation. They have to make it next, to suit the next group of students. They have a role to establish for KU students more and more with their own concepts, their own pace." Ms. Tamura shows us what we can accomplish when we set our minds to it.

International Student Profiles: Oskar Mattsson Apelmo and Kwon Jteun

By Hisashi Bando

Do you know how many international students are going to Kochi University? Actually, Kochi University has about 180 international students who come from many different countries. Although we are going to same school, we sometimes don't have enough chances to get know each other. For those students who don't have the chance to meet the many international students around the campus, this article is a good start. But it's not enough and we all need to try a little harder, both international students and Japanese students, to get to know each other.

One of our international students is Mr. Oskar Mattsson Apelmo. He is from Gothenburg in Sweden. Although he doesn't have a major, he takes a variety of courses in the Humanities faculty. I asked him why he decided to come to Japan and his answer was interesting: "In my country, young people often try to go abroad to get some kind of experience through intercultural communication in a short time, for example only a few months. But in my case, I wanted to stay a long time. At this stage of my life, the most important thing is to broaden my world. I didn't want to go to those countries which have a mainly Christian background, so I chose to be an international student in Japan." Mr. Apelmo said that he often tries to communicate with Japanese students on campus, and he has made some good friends. But he also said, "In fact, I don't have a best friend. I want to talk about deeper things. But it seems Japanese students are always talking about

simple things and safe topics. That never develops a friendship in my opinion. Anyway, actually I am an easy going person, so give me call and we'll go get some food together!"

Mr. Apelmo loves music, but actually prefers composition of music to listening. When asked what he wanted do in the future, he said, "I want to be a composer or a doctor. There is free university education in Sweden, so I can even become a doctor from now if I want to." He seems to be enjoying living in Kochi as an international student.

The other student we chose to profile for this column is Ms. Kwon Jteun, who is from Gyeonggi-do in Korea. She belongs to Kochi University's Faculty of Agriculture. One of the reasons why she decided to study in Japan is because she watched Japanese dramas in Korea. Before she joined Kochi University, she was going to a Japanese language school in Tokyo. But she quit studying there because she didn't get the opportunity to communicate with Japanese very much. Students always seem to gather

Although I am now going to this school there are still only a few chances to get close to Japanese students even in Kochi University.

-Ms. Kwon Jteun

She said, "I thought it wasn't working for me while studying there. But although I am now going to this school there are still only a few chances to get close to Japanese students even in Kochi University. It is kind of difficult to cultivate friendships with Japanese students. I don't know if this might be caused by a difference of culture, but some of them seem to try not to get closer with international students. I am not saying it is all Japanese, but certainly some of them. So, I am a little bit tired of this. I miss Korea so much."

She also said, "Now I am taking classes at both the Asakura and Monobe campus though it is hard to go back and forth across the city. So, I really want Kochi University to provide students like us with a shuttle bus." Lately she is very interested in Chinese because of Taiwanese dramas. She shared that she might go to a Chinese school someday. She told me she wants to be a documentary director in the future.

After interviewing these students, I realized that I was a little prejudiced against them. I was ready to speak in English before I met with them because they are "international students", but they can speak Japanese so much better than I thought. They are really good students from around the world. Because they are so proficient in Japanese, we don't have to worry about any barriers between us. If you want to get a chance to broaden your vision in student life, the only thing you have to do is say hello when you meet these international students around the campus. Let's show them some of our best Japanese hospitality.

Kuroshio Studies and International Exchange: A Message from a Filipino Student

By Alex P. Camaya



Presently, I am in Kochi University as a JASSO exchange student for one year under the auspices of the collaborative agreement between Kochi University (KU) and Bicol University (BU), through the efforts of the very enthusiastic group of professors from the Graduate School of Kuroshio Science (GSKS) of KU. They pioneered the collaborative effort with BU towards the on-going research on the influence of the Kuroshio current to different aspects of people's lives in Japan and the Philippines.

I am currently a graduate student on-leave at Bicol University, Tabaco City, Philippines taking up Master of Science in Fisheries with specialization in Coastal Resources Management. While taking up my graduate studies, I have been also working as a Research Assistant for research and development projects on coastal habitat assessment by the Bicol University Research and Development Center since 2004, particularly doing underwater assessment and monitoring of coral reefs, seagrass and seaweed beds, mangrove swamps particularly in the Lagonoy Gulf.

As we all know, the word "Kuroshio" which means black current, was derived from the Japanese words "kuroi" which means dark blue and "shio" for sea water current. The Kuroshio current is the world's second biggest deepest ocean current that exists southwesterly of the Pacific Ocean originating mainly from Philippine seas that curves up Taiwan then stretches to Japan. It was found that a high concentration of uranium is passing through the current every year (about 5.2 million tons). This current boosts the fishing industry in Japan and its warm water sustains the country's coral reefs (northernmost coral reefs in the world). In the Philippines, the Lagonoy Gulf in Bicol Region is the nearest body of water where the Kuroshio current has a direct effluent in the coastal

areas of this region. The gulf has diverse species of corals, sea grasses and seaweeds, mangroves as well as reef and pelagic fishes which are similar to marine organisms found in the waters of Japan especially in Kochi Prefecture. Bicol University is the leading local academe with various research and development projects on ecological to social aspects of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. So KU and BU have forged a joint research program on these aspects and they are currently being undertaken.

The significance of the collaboration with KU was not only for research programs but also for development assistance. This included voluntary support for the renovation of the campus library of BU Tabaco Campus where many facilities were severely damaged by the super-typhoon which hits Bicol in November 2006. The visiting KU professors offered relief assistance to local fishermen in San Miguel Island where the group is currently conducting their field research and data gathering for research. "Thanks a lot and may God bless you all" is what we Christian people sincerely expressed to them.

At Kochi University, I am learning advanced laboratory techniques on plant cell biology especially for seaweed species collected from San Miguel Island called *Valonia* sp. In this study, my adviser and I should come up with a research project with emphasis under the Kuroshio effect. But to the extent of being an exchange student, I am not only gaining knowledge and learning new ideas but I am willing to cooperate and share my ideas and experiences in research - taking part in the Kuroshio studies is a big honor for me. Participating in this continuing research study gives a tremendous challenge for my career.

While enjoying my classes here in KU, I am also exerting effort in gathering reliable information

towards more productive research activity in Bicol. Last August, I was given the opportunity by KU administration, especially the office of GSKS, to visit my home university for two weeks to assist my professors (Dr. Okuda and Dr. Sekida) collect seaweed samples together with BU researchers in Lagonoy Gulf. We had a nice and productive trip because the weather was fine during our diving for wild seaweeds collection. I remember that last year Dr. Okuda lost his personal underwater camera due to strong current and surging waves in the area while doing similar collections. The KU professors are also conducting household surveys and interviews with the local fishermen for the socio-economic component of the research program.

At KU, I also sometimes serve as a translator and reference person for and between BU and KU professors as well as students who wish to visit the Philippines, by gaining first an understanding our language, traditions and places in our country especially in the Bicol Region. In these ways, I am proud being here to experience Japan and to learn to the utmost toward a better understanding of the Kuroshio and its scientific and social challenges and the benefits from it. This does not only give significant contributions to the world of scientific environmental researches but also fosters better relationships between the two nations for more socio-economic and environmental welfare. Once again, I sincerely acknowledge Kochi University especially the aforementioned noteworthy professors.



Our Fifth Edition: KU Campus News Continues Focus on Students!

The Kochi University Campus News aims to present a voice for the students of our university. It is not enough for students to live their every day lives without searching for the possibilities and potential kept deep inside our hearts. We must learn from the experiences of those who have taken the first step in making something special and unique from their university experience.

This newspaper will introduce some of the unique students and professors who might inspire other students. These people encourage us to try something new. Although it is hard to try things that you are not sure about, it is very important for us, as university students, to take advantage of our time here and make the most of our opportunities. Now is the time to search for your future and gain your experiences. So please do not hesitate to give something new a try.

The purpose of publishing *The Kochi University Campus News* is to inform students about what is happening around the campus. As we profile some students and teachers from the various faculties, we can take a look at what other students are interested in. We believe students will see that our university is a lot more dynamic than we might think. It's a small local university, but each student has so much potential to open up his or her world. As we present some aspects of our university, we hope that this

would give students an opportunity to think about how university life should be and inspire them to be more active in their learning.

Another goal of this newspaper is to promote the many international aspects of our campus. There are many international students and teachers here at Kochi University and there are many Japanese students who are involved with international projects that are not so well known. Hearing about them helps us to understand more, start friendships and develop relationships. International opportunities abound for us. Let's learn more about them and do what we can to help them. Knowing more about this aspect of our campus is good for us as students.

Until recently we didn't have a newspaper that represented the voice of students. Sometimes courage is needed to do something that few people have done and we think strongly that we have a right to express ourselves freely. You only get what you give.

The theme remains the same this 5th edition, "By the students, for the students". But we have tried to give a greater focus on students and the Dept. of International Studies in this volume. We thank you for taking the time to read our paper. Comments, suggestions, criticisms and feedback of any kind are welcome. Please enjoy the fifth edition!

The Kochi University Campus News

The Kochi University Campus News (English version) is a student production made possible by a grant from the Department of International Studies. All articles are written by students unless otherwise noted.

EDITOR

Minami Matsumura



WRITERS

Aya Tobita, Sanae Yasuoka,
Minami Matsumura, Hisashi Bando,
Alex Camaya



EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Darren Lingley

The K.U. Campus News aims to provide an English language forum for sharing university related news, profiling students and faculty members involved in unique endeavours, promoting a sense of pride in our university and highlighting the international aspects of Kochi University.

Inquiries and comments may be directed to the writers at:
Rm. 407, Faculty of Humanities and Economics
Kochi University, Akebono-cho 2-5-1, 780-8520
Tel: (088) 844-8203 E-mail: lingley@cc.kochi-u.ac.jp