



Newsletter from the Center for International Education and Research

November 2015

International Student Enrollment as of the end of October 2015

The university welcomed 25 new friends from overseas and the total enrolment of international students now reached 186 at the end of October. The newly joined students represent quite a diverse nationalities. 13 from China, 6 from France, 2 Vietnam, 1 each from Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Austria and Australia.

We, at the IER, organized a reception on October 22 to welcome all the newcomers and we had a fairly large number of people coming to the event that all of us really enjoyed in an animated and merry atmosphere. Besides the new foreign students, the participants included volunteers from local community, currently enrolled students and the university officials related to IER.



Mother countries of all the photogenic friends from left to right are Uzbekistan, Japan (President Taki), France and Vietnam (last two of them)



Volunteers and Japanese students were both raising spirit of the reception.

A Newly Added University for the Cooperation and Exchange Program

In June 2015, Wakayama University signed the Cooperation and Exchange Agreement with University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. This Spanish University has a glorious history and it is located in the provincial capital of Galicia.

We expect the newly established agreement between the two universities help both regions further develop their sisterhood relation that was formalized in 1998. The two sisters, Wakayama Prefecture and Galicia Province, share one distinct historic legacy in common.

Both are known for their spectacular pilgrimage routes running through their lands with Wakayama for Kumano Kodo and Galicia for The Way of St. James respectively. Conversely, such a firmly fastened bond between the two regions, we are sure, will amicably assist the both universities in accelerating the mutual activities of student-exchange and interaction between the teachers.



Foreign Students' First-hand Experience of Japanese Culture ~ Kyogen* Workshop ~

*Kyogen is a comedy interlude originally performed between the acts of Noh Play

On November 14th, we hosted a Kyogen Workshop for the foreign and Japanese students who were interested in learning first-hand the very traditional Japanese art. The event was made possible by generous help offered by The Okura Kyogen Zenchiku Society that was led by Mr. Takashi Zenchiku, a master of Kyogen. The master Zenchiku these days have been routinely giving the lecture, teaching a



Students are repeating after two masters for vocal training

part of the JAPAN STUDY course. This is the background that turned the idea of workshop into reality. Why not do it instead of just sitting in chairs and listening?

The workshop started with the preparation, of course. We removed all the obstacles and cleaned a classroom to set up makeshift stage. At the beginning, the Zenchiku master and his brother, Mr. Ryuhei Zenchiku, presented their real Kyogen performance titled "Busu" or "poison" in English. The brothers performed "Busu", a quintessential Kyogen theme in perfect harmony between them and made the audience laugh loudly. Then, the practice session followed and now the students began mimicking both voices and physical movement of the brothers. The students learned how to speak their lines, drop their hips, move their legs and to laugh, all strictly in accordance with basic Kyogen play principles. Participating students enjoyed laughing wildly like they never do usually and they seemed truly relaxed after the workshop. Also, we were able

to create a chance for all of us to reach and feel close to “Noh and Kyogen”, which are extremely important Japanese traditional performing arts registered as the world’s Intangible Cultural Heritage in the UNESCO’s first review. We are sure that the workshop reminded us of our supreme duty to protect and preserve such an irreplaceable traditional culture. Indeed, we sincerely say “Thank you” to all the members of Okura Kyogen

Zenchiku Society for your great kindness and time you so thoughtfully took out for us from your busy schedule.



Students are mimicking the masters' movement to express deafening thunder.

International Students Study Tour

39 international students from 12 different countries, 2 Japanese students, and 2 staff from IER went to Himeji for a one day bus trip. It was a beautiful day and Himeji castle looked gorgeous against the blue sky. We headed to Shoshazan after-



Group picture in front of Himeji castle

ward and took a ropeway up to Engyo-ji. The international students seemed to be interested in the colored leaves and bodhisattva statues. They took many pictures and read descriptions on their own. The trip was full of laughter and fun.



At Maniden, Shoshazan Engyo-ji

Newly Joined IER member



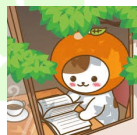
Kumiko is flanked by the students, one from Uzbekistan, and the other from France.

We are now pleased to introduce Ms. Kumiko Jacobson as our new member. She joined us in July this year and she was born and raised in Wakayama. Kumiko-san met Mr. Kyle Jacobson while she was studying in Canada and they married later. They moved into Wakayama city 2 years ago and Kumiko-san’s current main role is to provide assistance to foreign students who came from Europe, Australia and US as well as assuming the task of a thoughtful advisor to help Japanese students considering studying abroad. At IER since her arrival, the office has always been filled with her cheerful laughter that really brightens atmosphere here.



Postscript

How do you like the 3rd issue of our News Letter? We would be happy if we can give you an idea about the way things are going here concerning the foreign students at Wadai. Will you please give advice as Senpai to the foreign students studying here now?



Also, please let us hear from you about how you are getting along where you are. We will post what you tell us on the university website, of course, subject to your consent. We would like to share your latest news with the people in Wadai community. So, once again, we, all of us here at the Center for IER anxiously wait to hear from you very soon.

Note

In issuing the 3rd Newsletter, we express our appreciation for the translation work provided by Mr. Toshiaki Ando, an alumnus, class of 1971, the Faculty of Economics, Wakayama University.



Center for International Education and Research
Wakayama University