

KIT INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Vol. 1

2005 / Spring

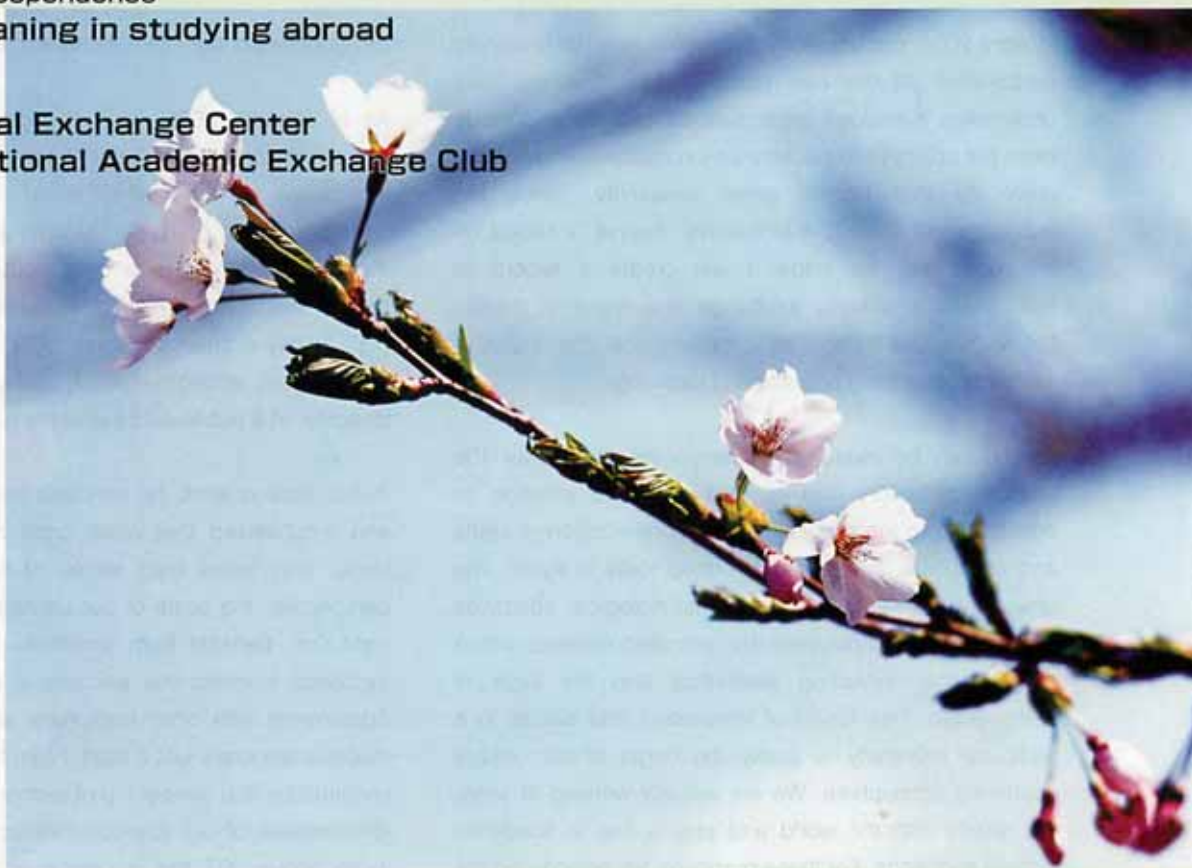
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Kyoto Institute of Technology



On the Publication of the KIT International Journal

President

EJIMA, Yoshimichi

In April 2004, our university became a national university corporation. At this new point of departure, we have undertaken numerous organizational reforms and made clear our objective to become an international engineering university that fosters great sensitivity. Since the publication of the KIT International Journal is based on this objective, we hope it will create a record of international academic exchange and research results, but we will also foster it as a medium that contributes to the continuation and promotion of exchange.

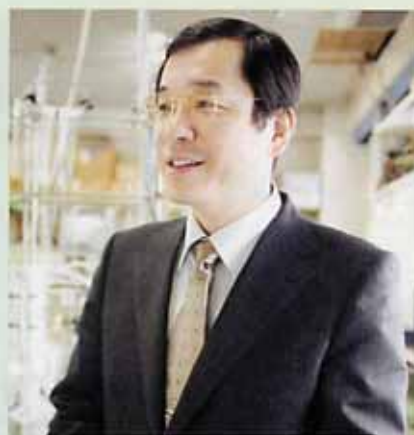
As you may be aware, at the beginning of our over 100 years old history, we started with the mission of contributing to the promotion and modernization of crafts and sericulture, industries with deep roots in Kyoto. The university did not just conduct technological education and research, it simultaneously promoted research with a human face, including aesthetics and the skills of craftspeople. This fusion of knowledge and beauty in a technical university is surely the origin of our unique academic atmosphere. We are actively working to share our results with the world and play a role in academic cultural exchange. For these purposes, we established the Kyoto Institute of Technology International Academic Exchange Club and opened our International Exchange Center in 2004. The International Academic Exchange Club is intended to help students, graduates and faculty members who have a high degree of interest in international exchange expand the breadth of their interaction with foreign cultures and people. The International Exchange Center has divisions of academic exchange, student exchange, and accommodation and public relations. We expect that it will contribute to the

development of our international exchange.

As of January 2005, we had agreements to conduct academic and student exchange with 40 educational institutions around the world and 156 foreign undergraduates, graduate students and researchers. This may not be anything to brag about numerically, but I believe that these are suitable numbers for maintaining high quality exchange. Along these lines, I quoted from the German economist E. F. Schumacher's "Small is Beautiful" in a public address at the beginning of this year.

In this famous work, he criticized materialistic capitalism and emphasized that when organizations become too large, they lose their sense of humanity. From this perspective, the scale of our university, as an academic institution, benefits from smallness and the number of exchange students that we have is suitable for our size. Agreements with other institutions and the exchange of students are really just a start. From this start, though, the continuation and deepening of exchange benefits from the effectiveness of our appropriately scaled institution. As I wrote above, KIT has a unique academic climate that fuses knowledge and beauty. Our curriculum also emphasizes practical learning. With these facts in mind, one plan that I would like to pursue in the future is to provide opportunities for exchange students to have hands-on experiences with the understanding and cooperation of local Kyoto industries. Through these kinds of experiences in the international academic city of Kyoto with its many Japanese and foreign students, I hope that the exchange students will cultivate a sense of friendship that surpasses borders, cultures and languages.

Building an international cooperation network in the field of macromolecules



Laboratory of Materials Physical Chemistry,
Department of Chemistry and Materials Technology,
Faculty of Engineering and Design

Professor

URAKAWA, Hiroshi

In the macromolecule materials field, research and development of new materials is taking place around the world. The Laboratory of Materials Physical Chemistry of our university has a global record of achievement in the structural analysis of network macromolecules. Building on this high reputation, we have developed an international network.

Our laboratory, a part of the Department of Chemistry and Materials Technology in the Faculty of Engineering and Design, made efforts to foster an international research network from fairly early on, even by KIT standards, under the guidance of my predecessor, Kanji Kajiwara. We have pursued cooperative research with universities in Germany, the U.K., Italy, the Czech Republic, Norway, Vietnam and other countries. The main factor in the development of these relationships is that our laboratory works with small angle x-ray scattering methods and other structural analysis methods that are unique in the world for network macromolecule structural analysis. Research on gels and resins with network structures has become very popular and our laboratory, using small angle x-ray scattering methods, analyzes structures with three-dimensionally visibility at the molecular level. Our research projects that make use of this international network can be placed into two broad categories. One is model networks (the ideal structures of network macromolecules) research, and the other is the structural analysis of polysaccharides and other physical gels.

On the other hand, our university has its roots in research on textiles and crafts, the traditional industries of ancient

Kyoto. Our laboratory was formerly part of the Department of Dyeing Technology. With the history of the university in mind, we are taking a new look at dyes by conducting research using small angle x-ray scattering. One of Japan's oldest dyeing techniques is natural indigo dyeing. However, if we compare natural indigo dye with chemical indigo dyes, the resulting textures differ. People usually prefer the feel of natural indigo. We began this research with the idea that differences between dyes in solution could be analyzed by using small angle x-ray scattering to observe their forms. Plant dyes that create good feeling textures are found throughout the world, but after a little investigation, we found that traditional plant dyes have been replaced with artificial dyes in Southeast Asia and elsewhere and that their use has nearly disappeared. In Japan, where indigo dyeing survives as a traditional craft, its techniques were polished by numerous craftspeople through its long history. In the process of making natural indigo plant dyestuff, the way water is added has a profound impact on creating the unique beauty of indigo dye. While continuing our research on indigo dye and traditional Japanese dyeing techniques, we will also promote international research to recover the beauty of dyes created by peoples around the world. If you have any leads for us in this regard, please do not hesitate to let us know.



A front of cherry blossoms tells the arrival of spring in the Japanese Archipelago. When the pale pink flowers of the cherry trees reach full bloom, the scenery around us becomes brilliant as if it had woken up from winter sleep. People also enjoy the long-awaited arrival of spring by having parties under the glorious blooms.

Cherry blossoms in Kyoto

Cherry blossoms truly suit the ancient capital of Kyoto. There are so many wonderful places to enjoy them, such as the Imperial Palace, Omuro and Okazaki Park, and so on. All of these sites welcome us with unique atmospheres infused with the thousand years history of Kyoto. At the Heian Jingu Shrine, the blossoms seem to compete their brilliance with the vermillion architecture. Along the Kamo River, they come out fantastically in the spring mists, and in Gion they bloom elegantly lit by the lanterns of the traditional restaurants. At night, illuminated cherry blossoms adorn Kiyomizu and other famous temples.



Cherry blossoms at Kamigamo Shrine



Cherry blossoms along the Okazaki Canal



View of Mt. Hiei from the Takano River



Cherry blossoms at Shinsho Gokuraku Temple (Shinnyodo)

Blooming cherry blossoms can also be seen on campus of Kyoto Institute of Technology and many of neighboring famous sites. The Kyoto Botanical Garden is located near the Matsugasaki Campus, and the beautiful cherry trees along the Kamo and Takano Rivers as well as the blossoms in Shinsho Gokuraku Temple (Shinnyodo) that is located a short walk away welcome you, too. Meanwhile, Omuro, an imperial temple also known as Ninnaji, lies near the Saga Campus. The view of the cherry blossoms at this World Heritage is one of the best sceneries in Kyoto.

Finding meaning in studying abroad



School of Textiles,
Yeungnam University

Professor

KOO, Kang

Since Korea was to be the host of the 1988 Summer Olympics, Seoul, the capital of Korea, was filled with the blare of construction in February 1987. On the other hand, the nation was also experiencing turbulent political reforms driven by college student protests. At this time, I began my rather late journey to Japan to begin my studies abroad.

My biggest problem studying in Japan was that I could not speak any Japanese, which made it extremely hard to communicate with my professors. The only means of communication I could use was some meager English, so as soon as I began researching, I studied Japanese very hard and tried my best to cope with the new environment. This was also the time when I made a promise to myself to fulfill the goal I made before embarking on my journey from Korea to Japan, and to learn more of Japanese academics and of the country of Japan itself, since, after all, I was in the country.

The Japan I first encountered was very introverted and exclusive compared with many countries of the West. For myself to cope with such an environment I came to the conclusion that I must become Japanese. Therefore, I tried my best and I tried hard to become a part of my research project. From the first, I stayed in the research facility as late as my professor did. Time slowly passed and, in this manner, I completed my masters and doctoral degrees.

Through the help of the University, I was able to receive support for my masters course and I also received a Rotary Scholarship. During my doctoral course, I was selected as a Ministry of Education scholar and thus was able to continue my studies in Japan.

This is the twelfth year since I came back to Korea. Last

year was a very important year for both the Kyoto Institute of Technology and Yeungnam University. Although one of the reasons is that both universities agreed to establish an exchange program, it was also a year in which both universities faced challenges crucial to their very survival. However, I believe that the outstanding personnel of both universities will solve their problems without much trouble and that eventually both universities will rise to important positions in their respective countries.

In this letter, I would also like to present my special thanks on behalf of the President of Yeungnam University to the President of the Kyoto Institute of Technology for establishing the exchange program last December and to all the professors and staff for their cooperation. My studies in Japan, which taught me the simple fact that hardships provide the foundation for today's success, have been more than helpful in providing support during my years back in Korea.

Although it would not be an easy task to endure the same hardships over again, I will always remember those days for the rest of my life. I also believe that the other exchange students that I studied with have all become outstanding individuals in their own societies and are leading successful lives.

In Korea, we have been holding Kyoto Institute of Technology alumni meetings two times every year. I promise to carry on the friendship between Korea and Japan, and I also promise to become a civilian diplomat, cementing the relationship between both countries to make it even stronger. I believe that Japan is not a country that is "close, yet far" from Korea, but simply a country that is always our closest neighbor.

International Exchange Center

International Exchange Center was established in June 2004 to achieve the long-term vision of Kyoto Institute of Technology (KIT) standing as the "International University for Technology". This center is responsible for all international exchange programs both for researchers and students.

Director, Deputy-Director, and other Executive Members (faculty members and the Director of International Planning Division) are appointed to constitute the center. The center consists of three divisions; Academic Exchange Division, Students Exchange Division, and Accommodation and Public Relations Division. Each division plays important roles to promote the international exchange programs of KIT. International Planning Division of KIT deals with all the administrative aspects of this center.

Director: Dr. KUNUGI, Shigeru; Vice-President

Vice-Director: Dr. FURUYAMA, Masao; Vice-President

Executive Member: Dr. HAMADA, Hiroyuki; Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology



KIT International Academic Exchange Club

The KIT International Academic Exchange Club is a global network designed to enhance and contribute effectively to academic development and the promotion of science and technology in today's international society.

In March 2004, the Club was pioneered by current and alumni international students, international researchers invited to KIT, current and alumni Japanese students and KIT faculties who are highly motivated towards development of international exchange.

This Club conducts various activities for members such as holding relevant seminars, and issuing the newsletter 'KIT International Journal.' Anyone who supports the aims of the Club is welcome to join.

The International Planning Division of KIT is in charge of the administration of this Club. For further information regarding membership, please visit the website of the International Planning Division:

http://www.cis.kit.ac.jp/~gaku_k/english/index.html

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Academic Exchange Section

Coordinates international exchange activities, including academic collaboration agreements, international symposia and seminars, and exchange of scholars; also is responsible for international public relations.

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International Student Section

Offers support for international students and is responsible for keeping ties with international graduates. Specific help is available regarding:

- ◆ Application for Immigration
- ◆ Scholarships, places for residence, financial aid, social events, tutoring
- ◆ Counseling on studying at KIT
- ◆ Counseling on study abroad programs

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