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International Exchange Center

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Cultural Literacy and International Experience; KIT Moves Forward

FURUYAMA, Masao

Director of the International Exchange Center, Vice-President



Every year we accept international students from all over the world. They have come from such Asian countries as China, Thailand and Vietnam and recently we are witnessing an increase in students coming to us from Europe. The International Exchange Center is the body responsible for promoting international exchange activities at KIT. It's sphere of influence goes beyond the facilitation of international students at KIT. In fact, we are making best possible use of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology GP and graduate school GP funding. A recent example involved cooperation among national and private universities and the Kyoto municipal government. Under this alliance, Kyoto Notre Dame University, Kyoto Sangyo University, Kyoto City University of Arts and the Kyoto municipal government exhibited work of traditional Kyoto industries, at a KIT partner institution: Leeds University, in England. In addition, a symposium and exhibition of work were held at the Korean Design Center in Seoul. Following that, the event made a second appearance at the KIT Machiya campus, an authentic traditional townhouse in central Kyoto near Sanjo Street. A third example is that of the mutual student exchange with the National School of Architecture of Versailles in France. French students from this institution participated in a workshop with our students. We then facilitated a student exchange that took KIT students to participate in a similar workshop in Paris. In this way, we have conducted various international interchange programs. With the advance of globalization, however, we have become aware of a need to proactively institute further campus-wide international interchange by putting an array of intercultural awareness heightening measures into practice.

As regards our support of KIT international students, in addition to preexisting dormitory and economic supports, we maintain a Comprehensive Portfolio system that allows us to monitor student success and provide timely counseling and support, to assure the academic success of our international students. In the event that semester grades of international students worsen, we pursue causes and provide assistance with coping strategies. We also provide career guidance services. Coaching is available to all international students who experience differences in language and culture during their time in Japan. Portfolio support works conscientiously to lessen any gaps that may exist between our international students and those students who were born and raised here in Japan.

KIT supports language education by offering early morning English lectures and evening TOEIC strategies seminars. These extra courses have a good reputation among the students. We also encourage short-term language study abroad. The effectiveness of these combined efforts has been proven by recent improvements in our students' TOEFL and TOEIC scores. Furthermore, we have sent many students abroad, dispatching them to conduct research abroad at KIT partner institutions and making it possible for them to obtain both international and business experience in overseas branch offices of Japanese firms through our International Internship Program. Students

have been accepted to labs at Panasonic and Ajinomoto in Vietnam and other locations.

Due to Japan's advanced development, we are able to readily access any information we may need, without leaving the country. For this reason, people have a tendency to assume overseas travel is unnecessary. In the current global climate, however, experience abroad is more meaningful than ever. Although study or work abroad is often seen as an unwelcome obligation that exposes us to minor conflicts and difficulties, there is much to be gained by these very experiences. In this regard, we feel the more opportunities we can create, in which students and instructors can gain experience in other countries, the better. To accomplish campus-wide internationalization, administrative staff should also take advantage of opportunities to gain experience overseas. A support system is needed to make it possible for the university to run smoothly during their absence. When we adopt plans to encourage a global perspective at the administrative level, we should take human resources management into consideration at the same time and revise personnel structure and regulations where necessary.

In developing international interchange, another important consideration is an objective understanding of the physical, historical and cultural features of one's own culture. This regional awareness is essential to a cosmopolitan populace. With this in mind, we offered lectures in English, on traditional Japanese cultural practices such as tea ceremony and the art of flower arrangement, in addition to the evening English language seminars previously noted. With the advance of globalization, the value of regional identity has grown. For example, especially in fields such as architectural design, there is strong interest abroad in Japanese craft and technology. As our university is located in Kyoto, an area central to Japanese culture, we intend to make best possible use of Kyoto's predominance in Japanese culture. The Kyoto Machiya campus, has much potential as an ideal venue for international interchange.

The way forward for international interchange involves consolidation and systemization of the international interchange we have undertaken to date. Through our array of international interchange programs, we have accumulated a wealth of useful, experience-based know-how. We would now like to organically piece together this valuable intellectual property and put it to work for us university-wide.

In addition, through international interchange, we will improve the name recognition status of KIT and our internationally acclaimed degrees. At the worldwide ranking of design schools in Business Week, our university was ranked 16th. This is clear evidence that our research and educational activities are highly competitive at an international level. In the future, as we combine international interchange and publicity activities, we will continue to improve the international perspective of the unique, world class programs on offer at Kyoto Institute of Technology.

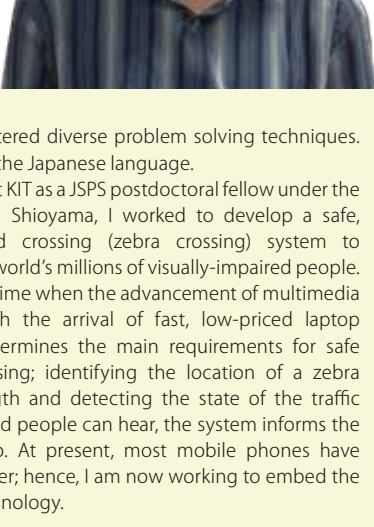
International Alumni ■ KIT INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Career Building Mission to Japan

Mohammad Shorif Uddin

2002 Alumni, Division of Information and Production Science, Graduate School of Science and Technology
Professor, Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Former Japanese Government Scholarship student, Dr. Uddin, received his Bachelor degree from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Master's degree from Shiga University and studied at KIT from April 1999 to March of 2002 where he completed his PhD. He returned to KIT in November 2003 for two years on a JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers. JASSO (Japan Student Service Organization) brought Dr. Uddin to KIT again through the 2010 Follow-up Research Fellowship program for three months to research holographic 3D PIV (Particle Image Velocimetry).



After close observation of some impressive instructors during my undergraduate study, I developed a strong desire to become a university professor. I studied hard and soon after graduation I had a lecturer position offer from one of our national universities. As higher degrees and research are prerequisites for a university teaching career, I was desperate to continue my studies. Japan, a world pioneer in electrical, electronic and computer engineering, seemed an obvious choice for my career building mission. I applied for a Japanese Government Scholarship, which allowed me to study at Shiga University. At that time Shiga University had no doctoral program, so my supervisor, Prof. Yasumasa Itakura (a former KIT faculty member), introduced me to Prof. Masao Kasahara of KIT. Later, as Prof. Kasahara's retirement was approaching, he transferred me to Prof. Yasuo Yoshida. I took the entrance exam, was admitted to KIT and completed my PhD in 2002 in the field of image velocimetry.

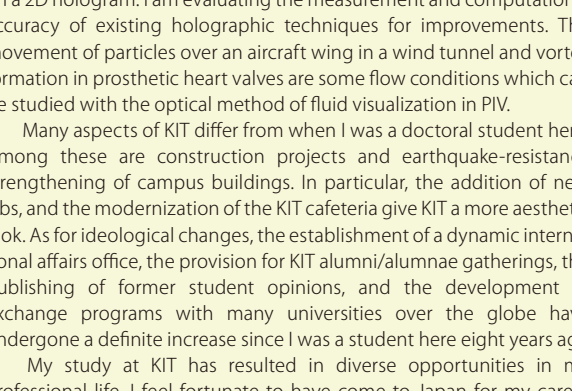
When I first came to Kyoto in 1999, I stayed at Marikoji Kaikan (KIT International House) and commuted by bicycle. I remember being stopped by two policemen who asked about my bicycle. I was worried, as I had not registered the bicycle in Kyoto when I brought it from Otsu. They ran it through their system, and finally concluded that it was not a stolen bicycle. In Otsu, the police had never checked my bicycle registration.

My study at KIT prepared me to handle my academic life with ease and responsibility and also to face new challenges and contribute novel solutions in professional spheres. I found Japanese are hard working, polite, devoted to work and well disciplined. Most importantly, they possess the craftsmanship to copy any model and make it compact and later, more compact. In my view, these are the qualities behind Japan's high technological development and prosperity. I always tell this to my students to build their professionalism, a quality which will contribute to national development in Bangladesh. One of my students completed his master's degree at KIT and another recently enrolled at Okayama University.

Due to the small size of KIT, foreign students receive more individual attention. Yet KIT lacked nothing I needed to pursue my postgraduate study. I greatly benefitted from interaction with my supervisors, other instructors and students. At KIT, I achieved flexibility in adapting to

different situations and mastered diverse problem solving techniques. The main barrier I faced was the Japanese language.

During my second stay at KIT as a JSPS postdoctoral fellow under the guidance of Prof. Tadayoshi Shioyama, I worked to develop a safe, computer-vision-based road crossing (zebra crossing) system to enhance the mobility of the world's millions of visually-impaired people. This idea occurred to us at a time when the advancement of multimedia technologies coincided with the arrival of fast, low-priced laptop computers. Our system determines the main requirements for safe negotiation of a road crossing, identifying the location of a zebra crossing, measuring its length and detecting the state of the traffic lights. As the majority of blind people can hear, the mobile phones have camera and computing power; hence, I am now working to embed the system in mobile phone technology.



Dr. Uddin capturing holographic images at Prof. Murata's laboratory during his JASSO follow-up research in 2010.

As a JASSO Fellow, I am currently working with holographic 3D PIV (Particle Image Velocimetry) for three months under the supervision of Prof. Shigeru Murata. Conventional PIV is limited to 2D measurement. Holographic PIV, however, is capable of recording 3D flow information on a 2D hologram. I am evaluating the measurement and computational accuracy of existing holographic techniques for improvements. The movement of particles over an aircraft wing in a wind tunnel and vortex formation in prosthetic heart valves are some flow conditions which can be studied with the optical method of fluid visualization in PIV.

Many aspects of KIT differ from when I was a doctoral student here. Among these are construction projects and earthquake-resistance strengthening of campus buildings. In particular, the addition of new labs, and the modernization of the KIT cafeteria give KIT a more aesthetic look. As for ideological changes, the establishment of a dynamic international affairs office, the provision for KIT alumni/alumnae gatherings, the publishing of former student opinions, and the development of exchange programs with many universities over the globe have undergone a definite increase since I was a student here eight years ago.

My study at KIT has resulted in diverse opportunities in my professional life. I feel fortunate to have come to Japan for my career building mission. I am now attempting to develop an exchange program between Jahangirnagar University and KIT, which will eventually help my students to pursue higher education and research.

KIT 60th Anniversary Commemorative Campus Renewal Projects Completed

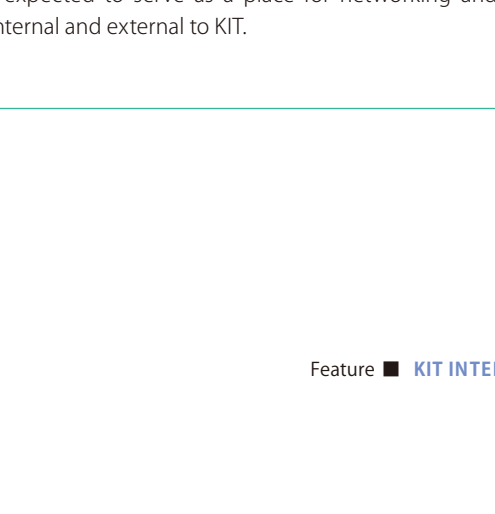
KIT House Improves Campus Appearance

Over the many years since 1969, the former university cafeteria, endeared to many, had become dilapidated and the increase in student numbers made for an overcrowded dining experience. In commemoration of KIT's 60th anniversary, the dining space was enlarged, and the mini-coop, book center and school supply store were relocated to the second floor of this chic new dining complex, KIT House. A ceremony marked the completion of this new facility on March 30th and an opening reception was held on April 5th. Designed by KIT professor emeritus, Dr. Waro Kishi, to improve the services to students and staff, this new facility contributes to overall improved campus appearance. Popular with the students, the cafeteria soon filled with customers with an appreciation for the airier, more spacious facility.



Alumni Gathering Place: KIT Pavilion

In conjunction with other 60th anniversary campus improvements, KIT has completed construction of a gathering place for alumni, the KIT Pavilion, where a ceremony of completion was held on March 30. This architectural design is the work of KIT associate professor Akira Kakuda who, at the end of 2008, received first place

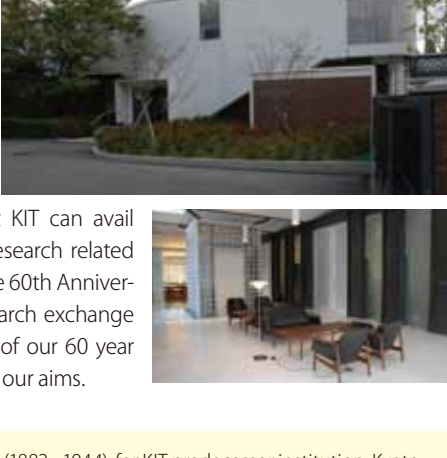


in the pavilion design competition. The concept for this design synthesizes KIT principles and accumulated history with the current influence and impact of KIT.

The pavilion provides lodging for returning alumni/alumnae and is located immediately to the north of the KIT central campus. It is adjacent to Villa KIT (Kosen Kaikan) and KIT Club and is expected to serve as a place for networking and socializing for persons both internal and external to KIT.

A New Icon for KIT, the 60th Anniversary Hall

This gem among the 60th anniversary projects, the 60th Anniversary Hall, was erected just inside the east gate of the KIT central campus. KIT eagerly welcomed domestic and international university affiliates to the ceremony held to mark its completion on March 30th. Designed by KIT Architecture and Design professor, Dr. Kimura Hiroaki, this commemorative lecture hall/gallery synthesizes both traditional and modern elements and can be used for events, large and small. The ground floor can be utilized as a gallery. The lecture hall has a 190 person capacity while the second floor houses large and small seminar rooms.



Persons from other universities who give presentations at KIT can avail themselves of this space which is designated for collaborative research related communication and academic conferences. As a KIT showcase, the 60th Anniversary Hall will also serve as a venue for community interface, research exchange and gatherings of prospective students. We anticipate this icon of our 60 year history will be utilized by many and contribute to the furthering of our aims.

Comment

KIT Building Three was designed by architect Seigo Motono (1882 - 1944), for KIT predecessor institution, Kyoto College of Technology. It was constructed of reinforced concrete, a state of the art building material at the time, and was an iconic KIT symbol which gave a modern impression. The 60th Anniversary Hall is a new symbol of our future expectations and role. Its steel beam construction, dynamic and elegant use of space and new, advanced design are representative of what we envision for the future of our institution.

KIT Architecture and Design professor, Dr. Kimura Hiroaki

Automobile and Motorcycle Parking Area Upgrades

KIT has provided a new parking area to make campus access more convenient for students and KIT personnel who attend KIT by car or motorcycle. The parking area at right has a 100 car capacity and space for about 200 motorcycles and motorbikes. To improve campus safety, vehicles are now banned from the east campus.



(View from the south east)

Marikoji Kaikan: Information Seminar on Living in Kyoto

We made optimum use of the residents' assembly held on July 3, 2010 at Marikoji Kaikan (KIT International House). A lecture on crime prevention and traffic safety was followed by a welcoming party for new residents and an information session on house hunting. A police officer from the Kawabata Police Station gave an accessible and anecdote-filled talk on how to avoid purse snatchers, procedures for returning or recovering lost items, important road signs that tend to be overlooked by cyclists, areas of Kyoto requiring particular caution and high-visibility night clothing. The welcoming party featured a peaceful lunch where residents and Japanese students who live in this international housing facility enjoyed animated conversations. The information session on house hunting was an optional event at which a representative from a KIT-approved real estate agent, provided helpful advice for residents, who will soon leave the Kaikan this fall following their 12 month residence, and need to find other accommodations. Time was also provided for individual consultations. The day's activities provided an opportunity for residents to get acquainted with each other and discover information essential to international students in Kyoto.



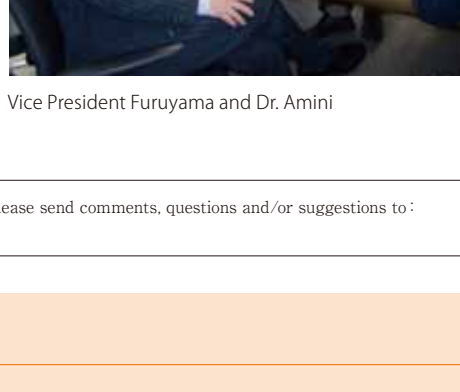
Students from Many Nations Become Acquainted

The 8th Japan-Vietnam Joint Seminar

The 8th Japan-Vietnam Joint Seminar was held at KIT on March 23 and 24, 2010. This seminar has been organized every year since 2003 to facilitate research exchange between KIT and Vietnamese research institutions. The seminar is alternately held at KIT and Vietnamese institutions. This 8th seminar welcomed 11 researchers from 6 Vietnamese universities/institutions. KIT researchers and Vietnamese students currently studying at KIT also participated in the seminar, where a total of 22 presentations were made.

Over the course of the seminars, KIT has accepted a total of 29 students from Vietnam and the number of Japanese students sent from KIT to Vietnam has reached a total of 34. The number of students exchanged between KIT and Vietnam continues to increase yearly. The day's activities provided an opportunity for residents to get acquainted with each other and discover information essential to international students in Kyoto.

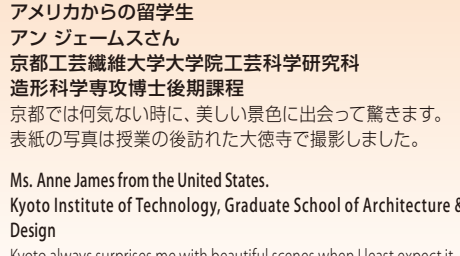
The seminar concluded with a warm, friendly atmosphere. The next seminar will be hosted by Hanoi Medical University in the spring of 2011.



Question-and-Answer Session

KIT Alumni from Syria Visits Alma Mater

Dr. Mousallam Sakka Amini, a former KIT international student, came to KIT on February 25, 2010. Dr. Amini completed his Doctorate in Applied Science for Functionality in 1994 and now works as the representative director of the Cultural Heritage Association in the Syrian Arab Republic. He also holds a professorial position in Damascus University's Department of Architecture. During his recent February visit to Japan for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored Reunion of Former Students in Japan, he visited Kyoto and paid his respects to President Ejima. At this time he also met with Vice President Furuyama and Professor Hyuga to exchange views on academic exchange between Japan and Syria. This exchange was followed by a lively discussion regarding differences in city planning and architectural design in Japan and Syria. On February 27, KIT students were privileged to attend Dr. Amini's lecture on heritage sites in Syria.



Vice President Furuyama and Dr. Amiri

Feedback Welcome

Thank you for reading the KIT International Journal. Please send comments, questions and/or suggestions to: e-mail: ab7129a@jim.kit.ac.jp

表紙写真 Cover photos

クロアチアからの留学生アレクサンダー・コヴァチン。京都工芸繊維大学大学院工芸科学研究所造形科学専攻博士後期課程。騒がしい街の中にも、ひとしずけ静けさがある夕方の四糸を撮りました。

Mr. Aleksandar Kovac from Croatia. Kyoto Institute of Technology, Graduate School of Architecture & Design. Busting and serene. Evening Kyoto.



アメリカからの留学生アンジェームス・スミ。京都工芸繊維大学大学院工芸科学研究所造形科学専攻博士後期課程。京都では何気ない時に、美しい景色に出会って驚きます。表紙の写真は授業の後訪れた大徳寺で撮影しました。

Ms. Anne James from the United States. Kyoto Institute of Technology, Graduate School of Architecture & Design. Kyoto always surprises me with beautiful scenes when I least expect it. I took this photo after a class visit to Datoku-ji.