

# Kitami Institute of Technology International Center Newsletter

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## Dance Parade at the Kitami Bonchi Festival 【Friday, 19 July】

On Friday, 19 July, the “Kitami Institute of Technology Team” joined the Dance Parade at the 60th Kitami Bonchi Festival held in the city center of Kitami.

The Dance Parade consisted of 2,900 participants in total, and the “KIT Team” led by Executive Director Professor Tamaki danced in the parade until the very end with 120 persons, 26 faculty and staff and 94 KIT students.

The 34 international students joining the summer festival for the first time were enjoying the Japanese style dance with its enthusiastic shouts and jumps. When asking the students if they have a dance festival like this in their home countries, they all unanimously said no.

Therefore they enjoyed this new experience to the full and took many photos during the parade with other teams’ dancers and cute mascots. And luckily, unlike last year’s parade, this year’s parade was blessed with warm weather.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2013 Short-term Exchange Students’ Course Completion Ceremony 【Wednesday, 31 July】

The Course Completion Ceremony for the Short-term Exchange Students was held on Wednesday, 31 July, from 5:00pm. This semester, 13 short-term exchange students successfully completed their study period of 6-12 months at KIT.

The ceremony started with the awarding of the completion certificates on stage to each single student by Dr. Natalie Konomi, Director of the International Center. The awarding ceremony was followed by congratulation speeches of faculty and staff praising the hard work of the international students.

Next, one representative student of each partner university gave a speech talking about their impressions of and experiences during their stay and studies. This year, some of the short-term exchange students expressed their wishes to return to Kitami and enter the graduate program at KIT, proving that such a short-term exchange program can lead the way to becoming a full time student at KIT. Faculty and staff at KIT are looking forwarding to welcoming the students back at the university.

Before coming to an end, students and audience enjoyed a photo slide show prepared by the students looking back on their days and life in Kitami.

The International Center wishes the students all the best and may everything you do lead to a future of success.



# International C Hour

## • Drawing postcards 【Tuesday, 16 July, Meeting Room 2】

On Tuesday, 16 July, the International C Hour was held in Meeting Room 2 on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the General Research Building. Like in previous years, Mrs. Kobayashi, representative of the “Fuku-fuku-kai”, a special class for drawing postcards, accepted the Center’s invitation to teach the participants how to draw Japanese style postcards. Thanks to the participation of many students, but also citizens, everyone enjoyed to freely express their creativity in a bustling atmosphere.

This time the participants didn’t use regular postcards, but drew directly with a writing brush on different sized hand-held paper fans. Before drawing on the fans though, everyone first learned how to hold the brush and practiced drawing lines and circles. The participants chose their own themes using pictures provided by Mrs. Kobayashi or pictures on their smartphones as samples. Minni Kukkonen, an exchange student from Finland, for example chose the skyline of Kitami and campus landscape as theme and her art was admired by many of the participants.

Others struggled slightly with their drawings or choice of colors, but Mrs. Kobayashi and her assistants took the time to teach them various skills and tricks, helping them to complete their one-of-a-kind fan. At the end of the event a commemorative group photo was taken with everyone holding up their works of art. Once again we would like to say thank you to all the members of the “Fuku-fuku-kai”.



## • “Flowing Noodles” (Nagashi Somen) 【Friday, 2 August, Student Lounge】

This year again the annually event of “Flowing Noodles” (Nagashi Somen) was held in the courtyard of the international lounge. The nice weather with comfortable temperatures attracted many people to join the event. The participants tried to “catch” the noodles flowing down a half-cut bamboo pipe, and when successful dipped them in a special sauce and enjoyed the taste. Some were faster, some were slower in “catching” the flowing noodles, but everyone seemed to have a lot of fun.

The International Center would like to use this opportunity to thank the members of OFIC who always support the International C Hour and who prepared everything for this event, starting with the setup of the bamboo pipe. Without them, this special summer event would not be possible.



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