



### University Calendar (July - September)

- Tue, 16 July  
Monday classes will be held
- Wed, 31 July - Wed, 7 August  
1st semester examination period
- Thu, 8 August - Mon, 23 September  
Summer holidays
- Fri, 6 September  
Diploma ceremony
- Tue, 24 September -  
Fri, 27 September  
Intensive courses, period for extra  
classes or supplementary lessons

### Upcoming Events

- Bonchi-Festival Dance Parade  
Friday, 19 July, Kitami City Center  
Continuing last year's tradition, the university will participate in the parade again this year, too. All international students are invited to join and dance in the parade.
- Course-Completion Ceremony for Short-Term Students  
17:00, Wednesday, 31 July, Kodo Hall  
As 13 international short-term students will soon be leaving Kitami, there will be a course-completion ceremony including the award of a completion certificate and a photo slide show looking back on the students' time here in Kitami.
- Short-Term Language Program in Germany  
Thursday, 8 August - Saturday, 31 August  
Group leader: Dr. Natalie Konomi, Director of the International Center  
The program to be held in Freiburg (Germany) includes German language courses, seminars on environmental issues, sightseeing and visits to neighboring countries such as France and Switzerland and many more.
- Short-Term Language Program in Canada  
Saturday, 31 August - Monday, 30 September  
Group leader: Mr. Christopher Bozek, Lecturer  
The program to be held in Toronto (Canada) includes English language courses, homestay experience, sightseeing such as visiting the Niagara Falls and many more.

Photos of the Flower Arrangement Class (Photo on the upper left: Winner of the best flower arrangement: Mr. Davaanyam Budragchaa from Mongolia).



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# Kitami Institute of Technology International Center Newsletter

Number of International  
Students (June 2013)

Total number  
109 students

【Breakdown】

Undergraduate students	48
Graduate students	34
Research students	3
Short-term exchange students	24

Currently 109 students from 9 different countries are spending their student years at Kitami Institute of Technology. And this year, for the first time, our university has welcomed an international student from Panama in Central America. The KIT campus is becoming more and more cosmopolitan every year. The Japanese students should make great use of this and make an effort to talk to and get to know the international students.

### New Study Abroad Brochure Available

The International Center has made a new "Study Abroad Brochure". The brochure provides an overview of study exchange programs at KIT partner institutions, short-term language programs and cultural exchange programs. Students who are interested in studying abroad should take a look at it to get some first information.



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## Orientation for International Students

【Monday, 8 April / Thursday, 11 April, RoomA208】

The International Center held orientations separately for the new 16 short-term exchange students and 11 regular students.

Dr. Natalie Konomi, Director of the International Center, provided the students with information regarding various procedures to smoothly start their student life in Kitami, university events, and their daily life, including rules on garbage separation, and more.

The orientation also included an introduction to traffic safety, crime and emergency contacts from a police officer of the Kitami police department. After the orientation the students got the chance to meet with their Japanese tutors for the first time, who will help them to settle into their new lives.



## Study Abroad Information Session 【Wednesday, 24 April, Room A208】

An information session was held on "short-term language programs" and "cultural short-term exchange programs" offered by KIT in order to promote the dispatch of students abroad. This year during the summer vacations we offer a short-term English language program in Canada, a German language program in Germany and a cultural exchange program in South Korea. 34 students interested in the programs participated in the session.

We hope that the participating students will experience and learn a lot during their stay abroad. In addition, the International Center offers a Chinese language program in Taiwan during the spring vacation. An information session with further details will be held in October.

Japan is facing a rapid depreciation of the yen due to the change of government which also increases the participation fees of the various programs compared to the previous years. However, still 7 students applied for the Canada program, 6 students for the Germany program and 10 students for the program in South Korea, which is why the International Center is able to carry out all three programs.



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Issued by the International Center,  
Kitami Institute of Technology  
165 Koencho, 090-8507 Kitami  
TEL 0157-26-9370  
FAX 0157-26-9373



## International Food Festival

【Saturday, 11 May, Kitami Citizen's Hall】

The "3rd International Food Festival" sponsored by the Kitami International Executive Committee was held in the Kitami Citizen's Hall, and many international students of KIT participated in the event.

The students set up food booths and prepared national dishes from their home countries to introduce their cuisine to the local citizens, including Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese and Mongolian cuisine as well as German cuisine introduced by Natalie Konomi, Director of the International Center.

The guests at the festival enjoyed not only the various dishes of each country, but also the conversations they could have with the international students and other international participants.



## Welcome Party for International Students

【Tuesday, 28 May, Lawn in Front of Guest House Shirakaba】



This semester again we held a large scale Welcome Party for the newly arrived 27 international students. Compared to previous years, we were blessed with warm temperatures and a clear sky – the perfect weather for having an outside barbecue party. The party started with a welcome address and a toast from President Ayuta, and the 120 participants consisting of international students, Japanese students, faculty and staff sat around a number of grills enjoying their food, chatting, laughing and making new friends.

During the party the 27 students, slightly nervous, introduced themselves in Japanese in front of everyone. In addition, there were a number of spontaneous singing, dancing and guitar performances, even more than the year before. Time passed very quickly and the evening ended with a closing address and toast by Executive Director Takahashi who appealed to the students to have no fear of failure and to always be eager to take on new challenges - words that left a lasting impression on the students.

## Plant Study & Hiking Tour

【Thursday, 13 June, "Tokoro-iseki no mori" (Forest of the Tokoro Ruins)】



As every year the plant study & hiking tour was led by Professor Takashi Yamagishi, former Director of the International Center. This year the venue of the tour was the "Forest of the Tokoro Remains". 54 students including staff and local citizens joined the outside tour in rather chilly temperatures. Professor Yamagishi introduced various wild plants along the way and the participants listened carefully and were able to see, touch and sometimes even taste them. There was a description and demonstration of very hard wild grass which had been used to sharpen knives in the past. Professor Yamagishi also explained that the giant butterbur, so-called "fuki" in Japanese, had been used as umbrella against the rain.



The students who heard this and saw the giant butterbur unanimously said that it reminded them of "Totoro" (Japanese anime character). After the plant study tour, the group visited the Tokoro Archaeological Culture Center "Dokidoki" located in the forest. Here they were able to take a closer look at earthenware and pit houses, and learn a little about as well as experience Okhotsk culture. Next on the program was lunch at the "Wakkagensei Kaen" ("Natural Flower Garden") and free time. The students enjoyed their free time riding in a horse-drawn carriage or renting a bicycle. The trip was kindly supported by the Soroptimist International Kitami. We would like to express our gratitude here once again to the Organization.

## The KIT Festival

【Saturday, 22 June – Sunday, 23 June, KIT campus】

The 51st Kitami Institute of Technology (KIT) Festival held under the motto "It's Summer! It's Festival Time! KIT Festival 2013!" was blessed with glorious weather.

The Festival offered many fun events and entertainment to the large crowd of visitors, such as open laboratories, exhibitions and performances by various circles and clubs, live shows and booths.

The International Center organized its annual cultural event for international students to experience Japanese culture, which included a Japanese tea ceremony, a flower arrangement (*ikebana*) class and a *kimono* wearing class.

In the *ikebana* class the international students got the chance to let their creativity flow, creating beautiful flower arrangements, some all by themselves, some with the help of the invited *ikebana* teacher. At the end of the class, all participants chose their favorite flower arrangement. Mr. Davaanyam Budragchaa from Mongolia won the first prize and his work was exhibited at the President's Office.

At the *kimono* wearing class, this year, for the first time, not only our female students, but also the male students got the chance to wear *kimono*. In total 18 students enjoyed the experience of wearing a real *kimono*, walking

around on campus in it and taking many photos. All students looked amazing in the traditional wear and attracted a lot of attention of other visitors.

We would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the people also from outside the university who supported and made this event possible.



## International C Hour

【Tuesday, 25 June, Meeting Room 2, 6th Floor, General Research Building】



The second International C Hour this academic year introduced Mr. Carlos Beitia, the first international student at KIT from Panama, who presented his home country located in Central America – a country that most participants didn't know much about. The contents of the PowerPoint presentation showed a rich variety, starting with basic information and a brief historical outline, continuing with topics on traditional food or sightseeing spots and ending with the introduction of various music

styles. In his presentation Carlos Beitia explained why Panama is famous as the so-called "Melting Pot", a term representing the combination and fusion of many different cultures, ethnic groups and many other elements, which make Panama such a unique country. By using PowerPoint slides and photos it was very easy for the audience to get an image of the country, to get the chance to take a look at various national dishes or see the differences in the facial features

of the styles. various ethnic groups. During the a Q&A time after the presentation, Carlos Beitia even fulfilled the request of the audience to sing a song. The presentation of more than one hour provided the audience with a lot of new knowledge about Panama.



## International C Hour

【Friday, 26 April, Meeting Room 2, 6th Floor, General Research Building】

The first International C Hour in this academic year took place with a large number of participants, including the 27 new international students, other international students, Japanese students, faculty and staff as well as Kitami citizens. The motto of this first International C Hour was "Make new friends through games!" consisting of a "Business Card Bingo Game".

The purpose of the game is to get to know each other. First, each participant receives 10 empty business cards and one bingo sheet. Each business card has a number on the back. On the front of the business card, each participant is asked to write his/her name and other information.

After having prepared the cards, all participants are asked to exchange those business cards with people they don't know. The numbers on the back of each newly received business card are then entered in the bingo sheet, and the person with a "Bingo" then wins the game.

In the end, not everyone got lucky, but those who reached a "Bingo" received a small gift. While some participants focused on the bingo game, others simply enjoyed meeting and chatting with new people and making friends.

