

International Center Newsletter

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Ready for departure!



Enjoying park golf!



Plant Study & Hiking Tour

On Saturday, 2 June, 50 international and Japanese students joined the annual plant study & hiking tour. The bus departed from the university at 9:00am heading towards Kanoko dam near Oketo town, where the group observed many different wildflowers while hiking in the Kanoko area. The students were fascinated by the explanations of Professor Takashi Yamagishi on the different edible wild plants and poisonous plants. Some of the students even smelled and nibbled on various plants. After the hiking and plant study part, the group continued the journey to the Katsuyama Hot Spring Yuyu in Oketo, where all participants enjoyed lunch before relaxing in the hot spring and playing park golf, experiencing the outdoors. Most participants played park golf for the first time and at the beginning some were confused with the rules. But soon everyone got the hang of it and got lost in the game. Spending such a wonderful day all together in nature strengthened the bond between the students.

International "C" Hour

~Mr. Shiratori telling about his life and work
experience in San Francisco, USA~



On Monday, 25 June, the International "C" Hour took place, where Yoshihiro Shiratori, staff at the International Center, talked about his life and work experience in San Francisco, USA. He introduced not only basic information about the city, but also the unique lifestyle of Americans highly valuing their private and family life. In addition Mr. Shiratori prepared beautiful pictures of San Francisco. After the presentation there were many questions from the audience leading to a lively discussion. At the end, Mr. Shiratori mentioned the famous Silicon Valley near San Francisco where you can find the headquarters of Yahoo, Google or Apple. He strongly encouraged the students to give it a try and maybe someday be able to work there. These words made some students' eyes shine with excitement.

International "C" Hour

~Drawing postcards~



At the International "C" Hour held on Tuesday, 17 July, a workshop was held for drawing postcards. Under the guidance of Ms Chiyo Kobayashi and her assistants of the "Fuku Fuku Kai", the participants learned how to hold and use the brush to draw pictures. For those international students using a brush to draw and write for the first time, it was a slightly difficult task at the beginning. But they all practiced hard looking at the various sample postcards provided. And this practice showed fruitful results when at the end all of them were able to complete their wonderful art postcards. And as the participants used a paper fan to draw their pictures on, the results were colorful fans perfect for the summer.



The KIT Festival



On the weekend of 30 June – 1 July the 50th KIT festival was held. On the first day the International Center organized a workshop for Japanese flower arrangement ('*ikebana*') and many international students participated. First the students watched the teacher arrange the flowers before each of them chose plants and vases to create their own work of art using their imagination. At the end of the workshop all participants voted for the top 2 flower arrangements. The first prize went to Suvdma Tuvaanjav from Mongolia and the second prize to Peng Jingrong from China. On the second day of the festival, the students got again the wonderful chance to experience traditional Japanese culture joining a tea ceremony and wearing Japanese '*kimono*'.

Beauties in Kimono

The chance to wear a kimono at the KIT Festival was very popular among the female international students. For many students it was the first time to wear a kimono, and they were very interested in the beautiful patterns of the kimono as well as in the dressing methods. The kimono experience ended with a photo shoot event on campus and in the university garden.



Stalls of International Students

The stalls of the international students introducing food and drinks from different countries were a great success.



Here you see the Taiwanese Tapioca Milk Tea stall. Ku Chia Hao, a student from Taiwan, had to get up at 6:00am to prepare the milk tea for the opening at 9:00am. He was very happy about all the people telling him how good the tea tasted.



Here you can see the Korean stall. According to Jeong Min Gyo, a student from Korea, everything was sold out at the end of the day, which showed the great success of the Korean stall.

With preparing food and serving customers, this was a very busy, but rewarding day for all the international students.

Gyeongsang National University Short-term Exchange Program – Trainees from Korea



From 19 July (Thu) to 26 July (Thu), 10 students and 3 accompanying school staff from Gyeongsang National University (Korea) visited Kitami Institute of Technology on a short-term study tour. KIT staff, international and Japanese students all joined the welcome party held on 19 July, promoting active exchange with the visitors from the very start.



~KIT Facility Tour~

On 20 July the guests joined a facility tour of the university experiencing among others a cave display system for virtual environments (QVIC) and a driving simulator. Seeing such facilities for the first time, the students were very interested in all of it. They enjoyed the new experiences and listened enthusiastically to the various explanations of the latest equipment.

~Lectures~

The students also took lectures on Japanese language, culture, food and health. Many of the students had a great interest in Japanese language and culture and actively participated in the classes. They were able to deepen their knowledge about Japan.



~Kitami Dance Parade~

On 20 July the students of Gyeongsang National University participated together with university faculty, staff, Japanese students and international students of KIT as KIT team at the annual Dance Parade of Kitami city. The team consisted of 91 people in total. At the end of the parade the students felt joy and a sense of accomplishment. It proved to be a truly unforgettable experience.



~Study Tours~

From 22 July (Sun) to 23 July (Mon) there was a study tour to Lake Akan, Lake Mashu and the volcano Io-zan ('sulfur mountain'). In the evening the participating Japanese students organized a social gathering and everyone had a great time. In addition, on 24 July (Tue) the students joined a sightseeing tour of Kitami city and visited the Hokkaido Museum of Northern Peoples, Mount Tento and the Abashiri Prison Museum the next day. Many Korean students said that they were able to feel the charms and beauty of Hokkaido's nature and the warmth of its people.





Farewell Party

Even though the BBQ party took place in the rain, Japanese and Korean students enjoyed the meat and had a great time with their newly made friends.



All Korean students received a certificate of completion!



One Korean student, a very talented dancer, started an amazing dance performance, and at the end all Korean students joined him on the dance stage.



On Thursday, 26 July, the short-term exchange program came to an end and our guests from Gyeongsang National University returned safely to Korea. Hokkaido's nature must have left a great impression on the students participating in this program as many of them said that they would like to come to Kitami again. Through the various events during the program the Korean guests developed close relationships with Japanese and international students at KIT and at the farewell party you could see that some of the students were sad having to leave their new friends. We hope that such significant exchange programs will continue in the future and further strengthen ties between both universities.

Calendar

- 8/1 (Wed) Course Completion Ceremony for Short-term Students
- 8/9 (Thu) – 9/23 (Sun) Summer Vacation
- 8/9 (Thu) – 9/1 (Sat) Study Tour to Germany
- 8/20 (Mon) – 8/25 (Sat) Study Tour to Korea
- 9/25 (Tue) Information Exchange Meeting between KIT International Students and the Okhotsk General Sub-prefectural Bureau on Tourism in the Okhotsk Region