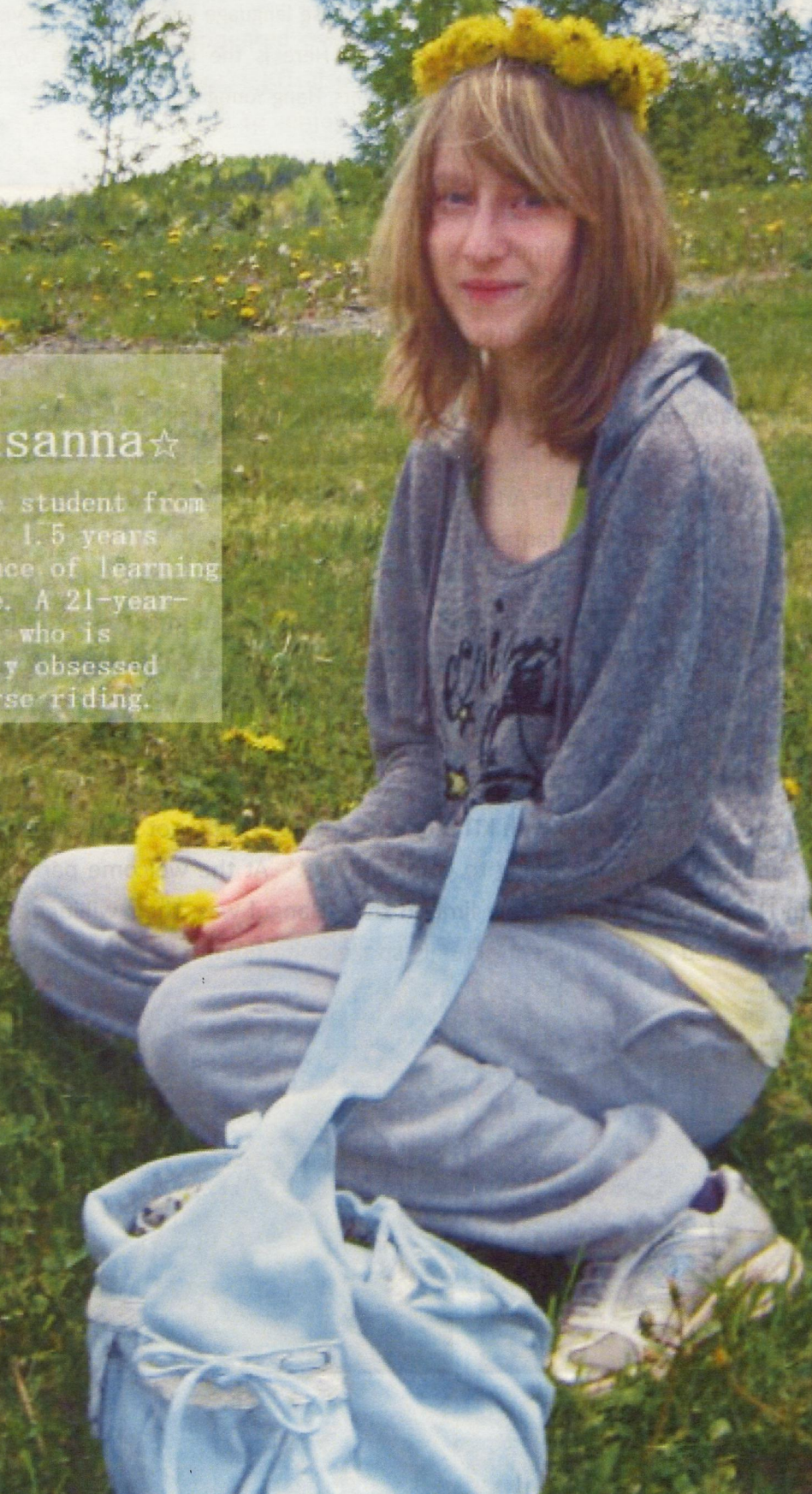


Profile

☆ Susanna ☆

Exchange student from Finland. 1.5 years experience of learning Japanese. A 21-year-old girl who is extremely obsessed with horse riding.



We attended several lectures at KIT. All of them gave us useful knowledge, especially the ones in my field of study. Kitami Institute of Technology and Kangwon National University are both national universities, but the latter is not an engineering institution. So I saw a big difference as far as the research environment was concerned. Also, in our school, labs are located separately, while at KIT the labs of each department all exist in the same building, which seemed convenient. The campus buildings looked friendly and in harmony with the snow. It made us want to study at KIT.

KIT's international programs appeared even more active than those of our school and we saw many international students on campus. KIT also offers good scholarships for international students as well as various opportunities for them to enjoy campus life. Through the International "C" Hour, the international students get to meet Japanese students and even people from the community, which I thought was a revolutionary idea. It is very thoughtful of the International Center to take the time to provide such programs.

As we stayed at KIT as guests we were deeply impressed by the kindness of all the KIT people that we met. They offered very kind hospitality despite their tight schedule. Our short but fruitful one-week trip gave us a budding desire to come back and study here. Needless to say, we could not see everything in one week but we saw many aspects of life in Hokkaido. It left us with a strong impression that associates Japan with cleanliness and kindness. The beautiful scenery of Hokkaido was also etched into our memory.

Ways of thinking and living differ from country to country. Through this trip I learned about the advantages of life in Japan. I hope that more and more students will be exchanged between Korea and Japan, and the relationship will further develop in the future. It will be great if the two countries, with their own strength and weakness, can help and complement each other and nurture true friendship. I would like to express my sincere appreciation toward the KIT staff, faculty and students who took care of us from the beginning to the end. The trip gave us an experience that we will never forget in our lives.



Study Tour to Kitami Institute of Technology



In February this year, a group of 5 students, 1 professor and 2 other chaperons from Kangwon National University, one of our partner institutions in Korea, came to visit KIT. They stayed with us for a week, studying Japanese language and culture, and visiting places with KIT students. Here is the report written by one of the participating students, Hang Young Rok.

For the study tour to Kitami Institute of Technology, I got my first passport in my life. The tour was my very first overseas trip and my very first opportunity to make international friends. Naturally, everything that I encountered during the trip was new and interesting.

Speaking of Japan, I will probably not be the only one to think of Tokyo. I think Hokkaido gave me a totally different experience from the one that I would have gotten in Tokyo. The land of Hokkaido seen from the sky looked like a sheet of white craft paper. After landing, I was amazed to see the snow accumulating over 1 meter. It was purely white and truly fantastic.

We learned many things about Japanese customs and culture. One of them is the attitude toward the environment. There were hardly any trash bins on the streets and I wondered why in the beginning. As time passed I began to see why. People take their trash home! I thought that Korea was a clean country, but Japanese people's attitudes showed me that we still had much to learn.

The focus of our tour was to build friendship with KIT students. Since we do not speak Japanese, we were very much concerned about how we were going to communicate. At the welcome party, however, KIT students spoke to us in Hangul! No matter how limited their Hangul was, their willingness to take the initiative was greatly appreciated. One student actually spoke quite fluently. I was ashamed that I had not studied Japanese at all.



Welcome Party × BBQ

Monday, May 24 @ front yard of the Guest House Shirakaba

The annual welcome barbecue for new international students was held, where a grand total of 121 people - 72 international students, 27 Japanese students, and 22 faculty and staff members - gathered together despite the chilly weather. It was especially great to have more faculty members this year, which made us feel that international friendship is further spreading on campus. The party opened with the toast by President Ayuta. While the participants were enjoying the feast, Dr. Yamagishi, Director of the International Center, introduced each and every new international student, who greeted us shyly in Japanese or English. Zhang Jikun, a freshman from China, sang "Only One" by a Taiwanese singer Wang Leehom a cappella, which boosted the party mood to a high pitch. The meat and alcohol were all consumed in 2 hours. Some of the students who are leaving Kitami this summer were lingering till the very end, being reluctant to leave the final big BBQ for them at KIT.



Exchange student from Korea
Kim Kunsu
It was my first time to have a barbecue with everyone here. It was fun to spend time with so many people, and the barbecue was delicious. I plan to study hard since the Japanese language is very important for me.



Exchange student from Poland
Anna Plonka
I love Japan and I am so glad to be here. I have made many friends. Japanese people are very kind - Polish are fairly kind. Japan is No.1 and Poland No.2! I do not want to go back. I will come back to work here.

Saturday June 5 @ Forestry Center in Tanno
Under the Okhotsk Blue Sky
 Plant Study and Hiking with Dr. Yamagishi

Dr. Yamagishi, Director of the International Center, took us to a fun hiking again this year. This spring the weather was very late in warming up but on that day it was warm enough to make us feel that summer was surely approaching. In the beginning, the Soroptimist Club Kitami and the Kitami East Rotary Club kindly presented us their donation for the event. After that a total of 32 participants - 23 international students, 5 people from the community, and 4 KIT staff/faculty members - enjoyed hiking as they listened to Dr. Yamagishi explain about plants along the way. Some international students were happy to find plants that they were familiar with in their home countries.

Dr. Yamagishi also showed us his excellent skill of playing a reed pipe. Kim Young Joon, from Korea, did quite well, too. According to Dr. Takeshi Yoro, a famous anatomist and professor emeritus at Tokyo University, if you can play a reed pipe well you are likely to have a good ear for music. This made a lot of sense to those who knew how well these two sing karaoke. Susanna from Finland, on the other hand, was inspired to make a dandelion crown as she watched Dr. Yamagishi do so. The result of the hard work is shown on the front page of this newsletter.

Time flew as we found joy in such small but traditional fun activities and it was soon lunch time. Everyone was smiling. Everyone was enjoying themselves in the beautiful natural environment. Isn't this how human beings should naturally be?



IMPRESSIONS

Exchange student from China
Nature in Japan is beautiful! It was fun to enjoy that with students from other countries.



Chen Fengyin



Exchange student from Korea
I had a chance to enjoy Japanese nature that I did not know before. It feels great to be under the blue sky!

Li Joon Oh

Thank You

Our deep gratitude to:
Kitami East Rotary Club
International Soroptimist Club Kitami

JULY CALENDAR

3rd (Sat) Field trip organized by Kitami Sightseeing Beaulau
6th (Tu) International C Hour
10th (Sat) Presentation of Scholarship by the City of Kitami
Okhotsk International Festival
12th (Mon) Visitors from National Chin-Yi University of Technology, Taiwan
19th (Mon) National Holiday
21st (Wed) Monday's classes
30th (Fri) - Aug. 6th (Fri) Final exams

☆Study Tours during Summer Vacation☆
Chinese @ Tamkang University, Taiwan (11 students)
August 8th - 28th
English @ Humber College, Canada (6 students)
September 3rd - 27th