

INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Newsletter Vol. 81



'10 NOV ~ '11 JAN

Study tour to Taiwan (We love Taiwan!! Students' comments → p 4 ~ p 5)



Welcome to KIT

October 28, 2010 @ Student Cafeteria



A welcome party for the new international students for the autumn semester was held, with the KIT president, 3 vice presidents, several faculty members, tutors and existing international students attending. There are 4 new-comers from Taiwan, 3 from Poland, 2 from Mongolia, 2 from China, 1 from Korea and the United States. The party started with a welcoming address from President Ayuta, followed by a self-introduction of each new student. A total of 100 participants gathered and had a pleasant time talking and getting to know each other. The total number of international students at KIT exceeded 90 for the first time.



Baking Bread



[November 28, 2010 @ Agricultural Promotion Center in Tanno]

Nine exchange students in the intermediate Japanese class had fun baking bread and making udon, traditional Japanese noodles. The event was organized and accompanied by Mr. Suzuki, the lecturer of Japanese. The students, having studied cooking and the related vocabulary in advance, properly understood the instruction of the staff. The results were very tasty; the bread had great flavor and the udon noodles were firm and cooked to al dente. It was a great opportunity for the students to learn Japanese through work experience and to communicate with the staff who helped them.

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Making Soba Noodles

【November 29, 2010 @ Meeting Room, KIT】

Another active learning program was held in November. The chef of a sushi and soba restaurant in Tokoro, kindly agreed to come and hold the soba making session again this year, after a successful experience last year. The students were amazed at the professional skills of the chef as he kneaded the dough, quickly flattened it with an extra long rolling pin, and cut the neatly folded thin dough into noodles. Many volunteered to try the process and all enjoyed the fresh soba, dipping it in the delicious soup the chef had prepared.

Bibliographic Retrieval Session

【December, 2010 @ Library】

The international students who are taking the Academic Japanese class and the Intermediate Japanese class attended the bibliographic retrieval session offered by the KIT library. In the 90 minute session, the students learned how to use the bibliographic information searching / retrieving systems such as JDreamII, Cinii, OPAC and ILL. Two members of the library staff Mr. Kajihara and Mr. Yamamoto explained the proper usage of reference material. The result of this session is seen in an increased volume of bibliography references in the students' reports.



CURLING
DAY
!!



【December 18, 2010 @ Tokoro Curling Hall】

In the town of Tokoro, a mecca for curling, a curling session was hosted by Kitami City and 30 international residents, including 17 KIT international students. They enjoyed the sport in Japan's oldest indoor curling hall. After learning the basics in the morning, the participants were divided into 8 teams and played in the tournament. Although most of them were beginners, some hit great shots and got cheers from their teammates. The top three teams received prizes.

with Nanseda University, Aoyama Gakuin University, Yamashita Gakuin University, and Hokkaido Red Cross College of Nursing

This year's Chinese language study tour was held at Tamkang University in Taipei, Taiwan, for 3 weeks from August 8th to 28th. In the past the program was held at Harbin Engineering University, but some of the students who had participated expressed their desire to study at various locations instead of going back to the same school every year, so Taiwan was chosen as the venue. The biggest difference was the climate. The temperature was over 30 degrees every day. Despite the heat, however, the students were very energetic in spending their time on studying and going to places with the friends that they made. Please read more about the program from the comments of the 10 students:

For your information:

- ① Participation costs... 170,000 yen (allowance not included)
- ② Institutions visited during the program... Tamkang University (Taipei), National Chin-Yi University of Technology (Taizhong), Leader University (Taiwan)
- ③ Credits... 2 credits of Cross-cultural Understanding (for undergraduates students) or International Understanding (for graduate students)

Kazuya Hasegawa (2nd year student)

I participated in the program with very little knowledge of Chinese. In the elementary classes that I attended, we started with learning tones and pronunciation and studied reading basic words and practiced conversation. Over one weekend I did sightseeing at Nanchang with Ryo and Yuzuki, using the simple phrases that we studied in class as we talked to taxi drivers and sales clerks. I found my sense of value transformed through the experience. I learned a lot of things that I could not have learned in Japan.



Juno Lee (3rd year exchange student from Korea)

The study tour turned out to be a very valuable experience for me. During the day we studied Chinese and during the evening we went to various places in Taipei. The classes were quite demanding, but I managed to complete them with the help of my friends and teachers. I even got the progress award on the last day. Over one weekend I travelled around the entire country with my friends, using the words and phrases that we had studied. It was great to meet many people and get to know more about the country. The experience gave me confidence. Making friends with the Japanese students also added to my memories.



Kozue Saito (3rd-year student)

It is very interesting to learn language in the culture where it is spoken. I also studied Chinese in Harbin and I found people in Taiwan speak less directly than people in Harbin. Characteristics of the people in Taiwan seemed more similar to those of Japanese people. One of the highlights of the program for me was to meet the families of the Taiwanese student who had studied at KIT and listen to their experience when the country was under Japanese rule. They told us about their experience in Japanese. It was extremely meaningful for me.



Takehiro Yuki (2nd-year graduate student)

If I were to pick one word to describe my 3 weeks in Taiwan, it would be "great." There are 3 things that were great: language study, life, and meeting new people. I found myself able to understand 80-90% of Chinese movies with the help of subtitles. Life was exciting because I liked the food and shopping was fun with the prices being about one-third of those in Japan. The friends that I made there seemed like old friends even after a few days of eating, laughing, and spending time together. It was truly a memorable 3 weeks.

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Yusaku Minatoya (1st year student)

During the 1st week I had a cold and could not go out after school. The 2nd week was better since I got used to the heat and was able to study more since we were asked to attend the lectures. We were busy during the last week preparing for the final presentation. Even though I had no command of the Chinese language before I went, I was able to handle simple shopping all by myself. The program left a strong impact on me. I want to continue studying the language.



Risa Tomita (3rd-year student)

I decided to participate in the tour because I was a tutor of a Chinese student. I wanted to study Chinese to have better communication with her. I had not expected much more than that. The reality, however, far exceeded my expectations. It was so exciting, amazing and moving - we became such a good group and I cried when we had to say good bye. I gained many priceless memories and the best one is the surprise birthday that the members planned for me on my 22nd birthday. I will never, ever, forget it for the rest of my life.



Michihiro Okuyama (4th-year student)

I went to Taiwan because I wanted to experience something that I could not experience in Japan. The first shocking experience was drinking sweet tea. There were many different kinds of tea, but most of them were sweet. I do not dislike sweet beverages but started avoiding them after a while. Drinking sweet teas, however, might have been one way of experiencing the different culture. Japanese drinks were also available there, but I wonder whether it is good or not to be able to easily obtain familiar things when we do not care for the local things.

Ryo Yamashita (1st year student)

"Study abroad" - these two words had been my dream since I was in high school. I had a strong desire to go to foreign countries and encounter wonderful things that we do not have in Japan. Through my first study tour, I saw many things, thought about many things, and became interested in many things, especially in language learning. Now I want to learn to speak not only Chinese but also English, to learn more about the world and broaden my views.



October

【Wednesday, October 13, 2010 @ 6th floor Meeting Room】

To welcome the 13 new international students, the OFIC members planned a game for the October International “C” Hour. The rule was simple; the participants, each provided with 7 red stickers, found a partner, did rock-paper-scissors and the winner put a sticker on the loser's face. Those who successfully used up all the 7 stickers won the game. Some people quickly changed partners to meet many people while others spent time on each individual that they played the game with. Masaki Miyahara, the OFIC leader who conducted the game said, “It was great to have many people from the community, including children, as well as students. I hope it was a good chance for the new international students to get to know people.”



International “C” Hour



November

【November 16, 2010 @ 3rd floor Meeting Room】

November's International “C” Hour featured Vietnam. Among the three Vietnamese students at KIT, two 2nd-year students, Vu Hoang Hai and Pham Xuanquyen spoke about their beautiful country, while showing us a number of interesting pictures. The presentation covered mainly two topics: food and events. The food in the northern region is generally salty, while the people in the middle part use a lot of red pepper, and those in the south often enjoy sweet cuisine with coconut milk. For the new year, people get together to kill a pig, share it and hang it in their kitchens. They do not visit each other's home during the holidays to avoid being responsible for the bad luck that may hit the home during the year. The packed audience, including about 15 people from the community, intently listened to the presentation and asked many questions, which indicated a rising interest in the country among Japanese people.

December

【December 17, 2010 @ 6th floor Meeting Room】

This year again, the international concert at the December International "C" Hour attracted a large audience. The program, which seemed to have more variety than that of last year, included a Southern All Star's piece by a Malaysian band, "I Love You" (Yutaka Ozaki) by a Korean student, dance performance by a female international students' group and more. Faidhi Izzat, the bass guitarist in the Malaysian band, said, "We practiced for 2 weeks. The performance was not without mistakes but over all, it went well, I think. I want to play again next year." Ma Xinwei, one of the dancers, said they also practiced for 2 weeks. "It was fun to get together every night, chat and practice. I was a bit nervous today but the audience was very kind and receptive, so it was good," Xinwei said.



Badminton Matches

【December 19, 2010 @ KIT Gym】

On the last Sunday before the winter vacation, badminton matches were organized by OFIC, the student organization to promote international friendship. A total of 22 participants got a partner by choosing lots and played in doubles. Chinese students played with excellent skills, while Polish students got many points taking advantage



of their height. First place was won by Li Ao & Miyahara, second place by Tzu Weichun and Chen Huaihua, and third by Lukas and Zhao Jin. The OFIC members said, "Sport creates a different atmosphere. We hope it was a great opportunity for both international and Japanese students to enjoy themselves together."



Snow Sculpture Competition

[January 3-8 @ Harbin Engineering University, China]

Two students and one staff member of the International Center flew to China in the new year to take part in the 3rd International Collegiate Snow Sculpture Competition at Harbin Engineering University. Among the total of 43 teams from 8 countries, the KIT team was the only one participating from Japan. During the 3 days, the 3 members - Norihide Nagasawa (M2), Michihiro Okuyama (4th year), and Mr. Sho Kikuchi made "Totoro," a very popular Japanese animation character which is also well-known in China. Although the figure is not a complicated one, it was not easy to carve a huge snow cube since the "snow" cube had become ice at the cold temperature of minus 20C. The Totoro statue, which some spectators mistook for Pikachu, another famous character of a Japanese animation, seemed to be a good conversation starter and got the team a participation award.



Ski Trip

[January 7 @ Northern Arc Resort]



The annual ski trip for the international center was held on a fine day in early January. Fifty students, the largest number ever, enjoyed skiing in two groups, one of which was made up of almost 30 total beginners. During the morning the beginners had to spend more time dragging the skis and climbing up the hill on foot rather than skiing down the hill. In the afternoon, however, the students all got on the lift and enjoyed snowplowing in the fresh powder.

Events and Announcement

