

# INTERNATIONAL CENTER

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*Apr & May*



# Greetings

Hello, everyone. I am Nobuo Takahashi, the newly appointed International Center Director since this April. I am also executive director and vice president of the Institute, though originally I am a faculty member of the Materials Science Department.



International Center Director  
**Dr. Nobuo Takahashi**

As many of you know, my predecessor Dr. Yamagishi was advisor, teacher and fatherly figure to many international students. He also contributed to building partnerships with many overseas universities, and it is a big responsibility to take on the job that he has done. Fortunately, KIT international programs and activities receive strong support from many individuals of the community. I also feel reassured to have reliable faculty members at the International Center: Dr. Konomi, who joined the center this April, along with Mr. Suzuki and Ms. Aratani. There is also powerful staff in the Research Cooperation Division under the director Mr. Takahashi and the vice-directors Mr. Murai and Ms. Ono. Moreover I would like to express my deep appreciation to our hardworking international students for their contribution to the development of our programs. Their health, good friendship, personal growth and fruitful campus life are what I sincerely hope for. I hope everyone will keep participating in our international activities as often as possible. With that wish in my mind, I will give my very best at this new post. Thank you.



Associate Professor, International Center  
**Dr. Natalie Konomi**

Hi, everyone. Or how we say in Germany: Hallo alle zusammen! I moved from Nagoya to Kitami in March and I am working at the International Center since April now, where I teach the subjects “Cross-cultural Understanding” and “Japanese Writing”. I came from Germany to Japan, Nagoya, as international student in 1998. And like then, though coming from abroad, also this time, moving from Nagoya to Kitami, I enjoy new cultural experiences every day. I hope your stay here will not only positively influence your self-confidence and world-view, but also your career path. I wish you all a wonderful time studying at KIT and living in Kitami.



Research Cooperation Division,  
International Section  
**Mr. Yoshihiro Shiratori**

Hello, everyone. I joined the International Center in April. I actually have been working at the Institute for 8 years now. However, I have not met most of you since I have never worked in the international section before, and in the past two years I worked away from the office. As college student I studied in Korea for one year, which sparked my interest in international affairs. I enjoy working at the center every day. Nice to meet you.



Research Cooperation Division staff (part-time)  
**Ms. Hisako Futamata**

Hello, everyone. It is a great pleasure to work here at the International Center. I am from Sapporo and moved to Kitami 7 years ago. I am married with 3 children, 2 daughters (age 5 and 3) and a 1-year old son, who keep me busy at home. When I have time, however, I enjoy sports such as walking, skiing and yoga. I love baking and scrapbooking my children's photos. When they are a little older, I want to go camping and traveling with my family. Nice to meet you all.



## International "C" Hour - Okhotsk Travel & Tourism Information

We had the first International "C" Hour of this academic year on April 21. The topic of the event was Okhotsk travel & tourism information. Staff from the Tourism Division of the Okhotsk General Subprefectural Bureau came and gave an attractive presentation on sightseeing in the Okhotsk area. First a video clip introduced different places of Hokkaido, and the international students seemed very impressed with the beautiful scenery and rich natural resources that the region possesses. In the presentation that followed, colorful pictures of popular places such as the world heritage site Shiretoko National Park, the Pink Moss Park (Higashi-Mokoto), and the Tulip Park (Kami-Yubetsu) were shown, which attracted much attention from the audience. Local news media was also there and interviewed a number of international students after the presentation. Many students expressed their desires to visit the introduced places. It must have been a valuable opportunity for them to get ideas about sightseeing in this area.

































## Welcome Party

On May 23rd, which happened to be the coldest day of the month, a welcome barbecue for the new international students was held. About 100 participants attended this annual party including President Ayuta, Executive Director and International Center Director Dr. Takahashi and three Vice Presidents, Professors Tamaki, Tamura and Yoshida, a dozen of staff and faculty, many Japanese tutors, and of course, a large number of international students both new and old. The program started with the welcome greeting of the president. After the toast, the cold air of 3°C was soon filled with the good smell of grilled meat and vegetables. During the party each new international student introduced themselves in Japanese. We, staff and faculty of the International Center, sincerely hope that both the new and old international students will continue deepening exchanges, have fun and enjoy fruitful campus lives. As Peter Drucker said: "The best way to predict the future is to create it." You can do it!

## Calendar June

6/9 (Th)	International "C" Hour 16:30~18:00 in the 3rd fl. Meeting Room	6/19 (Sun)	Japanese style tea 10:00~15:00 in the 6th fl. Meeting Room
6/15 (Wed)	Physical checkup 11:00~12:30 at the Health Center	6/19 (Sun)	How to wear a Kimono 10:00~15:00 in the International staff room
6/18 (Sat)	Flower arrangement class 10:00~12:00 in the 3rd fl. Meeting Room	6/25 (Sat)	Plant study & hiking 9:45~15:45 at the Tokoro Forestry Park
6/18 (Sat)	Japanese style tea 14:00~16:00 in the 6th fl. Meeting Room	...	

# New International Students

 <p><b>Ahmad Fashan Farizi bin Suznan (Malaysia)</b>  <i>Mechanical, Civil, and Environmental Engineering</i>            I am the oldest of 5 siblings. I came to Kitami because I wanted to come to somewhere colder than Malaysia. It is hard to understand lectures in Japanese but I am going to overcome one difficulty at a time and enjoy my campus life here.</p>	 <p><b>Dai Chong (China)</b>            Before coming to Kitami I studied Japanese for a year in Kyoto. I chose my major because I want to construct various kinds of machinery in the future. I want to obtain the necessary knowledge for that while at KIT.</p>
 <p><b>Hou Rui (China)</b>            I first majored in forensic medicine at another university but I did not enjoy it, so I came to an engineering university to switch my major. After graduating, I would like to return home to China and work for my father's plant.</p>	 <p><b>Liang Zhiying (China)</b>            Before coming here I majored in humanities at another university. I realized, however, that my interest was in engineering so I came to this school. I look forward to making friends with all of you.</p>
 <p><b>Wang Xinhai (China)</b>            I love sports, especially badminton and basketball. I also enjoy reading. I have read several thousand books so far. I have also been studying ink painting and drawing. When I was in high school physics was my strongest subject. I came to Japan to gain advanced knowledge.</p>	 <p><b>Zhang Chi (China)</b>            About 10 years ago, I lived in Japan for a year with my parents. I went to a Japanese elementary school and graduated from it. The good memories of that period made me decide to come back to Japan for college education. I chose KIT because a Japanese friend of mine told me that it was a good school.</p>
 <p><b>Cui Liu (China)</b> <i>Computer science and electrical engineering</i>            Just like "Doraemon," I have wanted to become a specialist in creating a good life. That is why I chose to come to Japan. The weather in Kitami is cold but I hope the summer will be pleasant. I want to get used to living and studying here as quickly as possible.</p>	 <p><b>Fan Zijian (China)</b>            The reason that I came to Japan is because it is the place where I belong. I want to have a lot of fun while in college. In the future my dream is to save money and travel all over the world. I am especially interested in going to Israel.</p>
 <p><b>Lin Wei (China)</b>            I have always lived close to home until graduating from high school. I wanted to try living in a different place away from home, which is why I came to Japan. It has been tough so far but I will keep working and make the best of it, since the experience will be useful in my life.</p>	 <p><b>Pan Xiaolong (China)</b>            Since I started to live on my own, I have realized how difficult this can be. However, I want to enjoy my college life here. I consider studying in Japan as the most important period of my life.</p>
 <p><b>Tan Ziyun (China)</b>            I like studying electricity. I decided to come to Japan because I heard that the country is known for its good research in electrical and electronic engineering. I chose KIT since a friend of mine was already studying here. In the beginning I was worried about many things, but I am getting used to the life here. I have already made friends with Japanese students and the teachers are kind, too.</p>	 <p><b>Yin Yue (China)</b>            I enjoy many things including reading history novels and playing internet games. It is a great opportunity for me to come to study in Japan. I want to obtain specialized knowledge and change myself. My dream is to return home in 10 years and build a company with my fellow internet game players. I would also like to work on social problems in China.</p>
 <p><b>Zhou Sichao (China)</b>            Before coming here, I studied Japanese and prepared for the college exams for 2 years in Okayama. Now that I am a college student, I think of my future plan. I want to work in Japan but if that is not possible, I will return to China and seek a job where I can make use of the skills that I am going to gain in college.</p>	 <p><b>Kim Wontae (Korea)</b> <i>Biotechnology, environmental chemistry and materials</i>            I decided to come to Japan because I can study environmental issues more thoroughly at a Japanese university. In Japan I often hear people mention the word "eco," which alone shows high awareness of the people toward environment. I love nature and like to be in quiet places, so I think Kitami is the best place for me to study.</p>
<p><b>3rd year transfer students</b></p>  <p><b>Li Dongyang (China)</b> <i>Mechanical engineering</i>            Professors at KIT and people in Kitami are very kind. I am very happy because I have other students and we can study together every day.</p>	 <p><b>Jin Zhuguang (China)</b> <i>Materials science</i>            I think I have a cheerful character, so I can easily make friends with new people. I have many friends, both Japanese and international. I am not good at sports, but enjoy it anyway. My goal right now is to graduate in two years and enter graduate school.</p>
 <p><b>Zhang Xiaoyu (China)</b>            I consider myself as a cheerful person but sometimes I am shy with new people. Luckily I have made many friends and am enjoying my life here. Japanese is a difficult language but I am going to do my best.</p>	<p><b>Master's Program</b></p>  <p><b>Kim Bumki (Korea)</b> <i>Mechanical engineering</i>            I was at KIT as an exchange student 2 years ago, and I got interested in mechanical engineering at that time. I came back here for further study because I missed Kitami and thought that I could study hard if I came back to KIT. I am planning to go on to the doctoral program and hope to find a job in Japan.</p>
<p><b>Doctoral program</b></p>  <p><b>Mohammad Ashraf Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh)</b> <i>Manufacturing engineering</i>            I gain precious experience every day. KIT has a multi-cultural, friendly atmosphere and I enjoy studying here.</p>	 <p><b>Li Ying (China)</b> <i>Medical engineering</i>            I want to develop effective medicine, under the guidance of Professor Yoshida, which will be useful for people. After completing my studies here, I want to return to China and continue helping people.</p>
<p><b>Research students</b></p>  <p><b>Liu Feilong (China)</b>            I am from Wuhan, China. I am preparing for the exams to get into the graduate school here. My undergraduate study was in electrical automation. I would like to gain a lot of knowledge at KIT in the subject of electrical power.</p>	<p><b>Exchange students</b></p>  <p><b>Kim Hyungu (Kangwon National University, Korea)</b>  <i>3rd year in mechanical engineering</i>            I am now majoring in automobile engineering but I am planning to switch my major to aeronautical engineering at a graduate school. I would like to do my master's in Japan and pursue a doctoral degree in the United States.</p>
 <p><b>Ma Hyungil (Kangwon National University, Korea)</b>  <i>2nd year in mechanical engineering</i>            I am interested in material mechanics among the topics in mechanical engineering. I want to go on to the graduate school to study more about it.</p>	 <p><b>Kim Indeok (Gyeong Sang National University, Korea)</b>  <i>3rd year in mechanical engineering</i>            My major back in Korea was aerospace engineering. I came to Japan because I am interested in Japanese culture and wanted to live here once. I would like to give my best in my studies to go on to a graduate school in Japan in the future.</p>
 <p><b>Ye Youzhi (Northeast Forestry University, China)</b>  <i>3rd year in mechanical engineering</i>            I am very glad to be here at KIT as an exchange student. I think this is a great place to live and study. My favorite hobbies are sports and listening to music. I consider myself sociable, and I want to make many friends and enjoy this year here.</p>	 <p><b>Liang Shiyang (Northeast Forestry University, China)</b>            I am getting used to the life in Japan and I have made some Japanese friends. Once a week I practice aikido (art of weaponless self-defense) with my friend Li. I also enjoy swimming and jogging. My dream is to study at Tokyo University in future.</p>
 <p><b>Li Dongqin (Northeast Forestry University, China)</b>  <i>3rd year in bio-environmental chemistry</i>            I enjoy living in Japan. I am busy but having fun. I practice aikido (art of weaponless self-defense) 4 times a week. Nice to meet you.</p>	 <p><b>Tseng Po-Yen (National Chin-Yi University of Technology, Taiwan)</b>  <i>2nd year in mechanical engineering</i>            I am going to be here for only 6 months on the exchange program. While living here I would like to deepen my knowledge in my specialized field and improve my Japanese.</p>
 <p><b>Ni Yang (Northeast Dianli University, China)</b>  <i>2nd year in civil engineering</i>            I want to study Japanese hard so that I can better communicate with many people soon. I look forward to making many friends. Nice to meet you all.</p>	 <p><b>Su Yucheng (Northeast Dianli University, China)</b>  <i>2nd year in civil engineering</i>            I would like to deepen my understanding of Japanese culture and make many friends during the year that I am here. Nice to meet you all.</p>