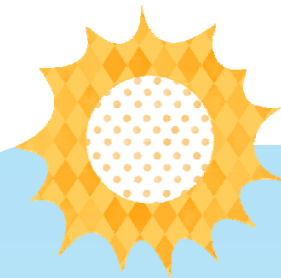


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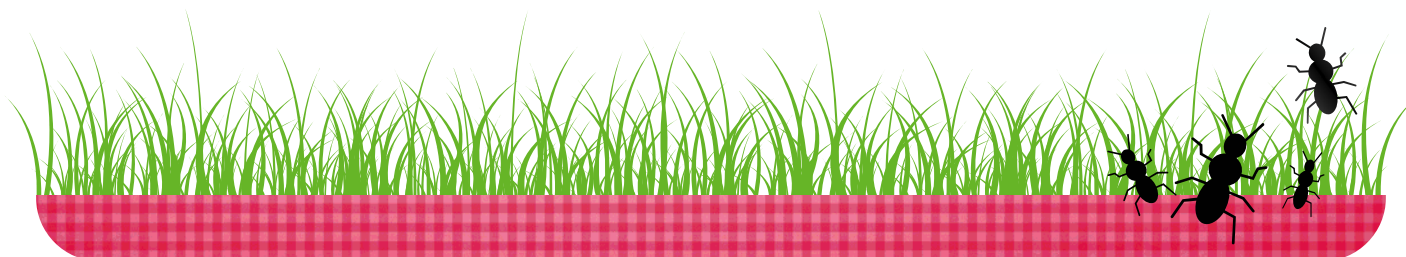


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Calendar

8/1	Tutor Guidance
8/10	International "C" Hour
Short-Term Language Programs	
8/11-9/2	In Germany
8/30-9/24	In China
9/4-9/27	In Canada





International "C" Hour—A Presentation on "Traveling in Antarctica at 5 mph"

In our second International "C" Hour on 9 June Ryo Kusaka, the first KIT graduate student who joined an Antarctic observation team, told us about his incredible journey to Antarctica and presented amazing photographs. After a long and often rather boring journey on planes and the ice breaker *Shirase*, Ryo Kusaka arrived after 1 month in the Antarctica. There he and the observation team traveled 1000 km one-way on the continent by snowmobile. They stayed at the Dome Fuji Station, where one of the tasks was to take ice core samples for research purposes. Before returning to the ship, the observation team made a stop at the Showa Station where they enjoyed drinks in the bar and a nice hot bath (*ofuro*) – for the first time after several weeks. Then it was time to return to the ship and endure another long journey homeward – but not without getting the chance to see the beautiful Southern lights. After the presentation there was time for Q&A and all participants were deeply interested in more details of the trip. They were impressed by Ryo Kusaka's experiences and fascinated by the beautiful scenery and breathtaking photographs.



The 49th KIT Festival

On the weekend of 18-19 June the 49th annual KIT Festival was held. After a rainy start, the clouds cleared and the participants, KIT students, faculty, staff and Kitami citizens, were able to enjoy a wonderful and sunny time. Each year the festival gives the students the opportunity to introduce their lab and research to friends, family and other people. Outside, in front of the main building, participants had a great time watching various stage performances and playing games. And like the years before, thanks to the many international students, the festival had again a very international touch. Various food booths offered Japanese and international cuisine, such as Japanese *yakiniku*, *okonomiyaki*, Korean *chijimi*, Chinese *gyoza*, Taiwanese *Tapioka* milk tea, Vietnamese noodle soup—to mention just a small number. One main attraction for international students during the KIT Festival was the Japanese cultural corner with three events. Here the students could learn Japanese flower arrangement (*ikebana*), experience a Japanese tea ceremony and wear beautiful Japanese *kimono*. But this time the festival also had a more serious note in the light of the Tohoku earthquake disaster. Students collected money which has been donated to the victims of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami area.



Plant Study and Hiking Tour at Shinrin-Park

On 25 June Prof. Yamagishi, former Director of the International Center, and important figure to the international students at the Center, took a group of 26 students on a hiking tour to Shinrin-Park to learn about plants in this region. The trip was kindly supported by the Kitami East Rotary Club of which 5 members joined the tour as well. After a 1-hour bus ride the group arrived at Shinrin-Park where the Kitami East Rotary Club first presented their donation for the event. Then Prof. Yamagishi started the tour by explaining about the various plants along the way. Students not only enjoyed listening to the explanations, but even got the chance to taste some of the plants and learn how to pipe on a blade of grass. After the hiking tour everyone enjoyed the delicious Genghis Khan BBQ. Full and satisfied the spontaneous idea came up to drive a few meters ahead and visit the beach of the Okhotsk Sea. After walking through the beautiful green of the woods and plants, the contrast to the sand and dark blue water left another wonderful impression on the group. Everyone had a marvelous time, and on the way back on the bus, the singing voices of the international students confirmed this.



International "C" Hour—Postcards for the Tohoku disaster area

This month's International "C" Hour, on 13 July, had a special flavor. As the previous year, the topic was to draw a Japanese style postcard. But this time, the postcards included a message to the people in the Tohoku earthquake area to show them the support. First, Chiyo Kobayashi and her assistants explained how to draw the postcards and practiced with the participants. Then, everyone was ready to create their own postcard with their own choice of motif. Though for most participants it was their first time, the results were impressive. Some chose heart-warming words while others decided to draw more humorous motifs to hopefully bring a smile to the victims' faces.



Bonchi-Festival in Kitami



As a tourist, it is really nice to be in the right place at the right time. Like me, who arrived in Kitami the evening before the „Kitami Bonchi Festival“ began. Because I am a Japan geek, of course I had my own *yukata* with me and was wearing it during the days of the festival. „Buyu Parade“ and „Tonden Otsunahiki“ were amazing and I enjoyed it very much. While on Sunday the rain was so heavy that the fireworks had to be postponed, thankfully the weather changed so that on Monday everyone could enjoy the *hanabi* in all its beauty. Thank you Kitami for this great welcome party ;-)

*Sven Kannenberg,
German student.*

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Time to Say Goodbye - Course-Completion Ceremony for Short-term Students

And again the time has come to say goodbye to some of our short-term students who have now been in Kitami for 6 months to 1 year. This semester 9 short-term students will be leaving KIT: Liu Chang Yu, Tseng Po Yen, Tzu Wei Chun, Zareba Maciej, Jin Wonsig, Batbaatar Purevkhishig, Ganbold Mungun-Erdene, Huang Jin-Yan and Chuang Yu-an. As a farewell event, the International Center organized a course-completion ceremony with touching speeches by staff and students, as well as a farewell photo slideshow with lots of memories of the whole year. Each student received a course completion certificate from Professor Takahashi, Director of the International Center. The whole staff at the International Center wishes the students all the best and we hope to see you here in Kitami again someday! Take care on your future journey!



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9/4 (Sun) -9/27 (Tue)	In Canada