

# INTERNATIONAL CENTER

*Newsletter Vol. 85*

Aug  
Oct



In this issue of the newsletter, it is our great pleasure to introduce ten new international students who came to study at KIT from our overseas partner institutions. We hope that they adjust to their new life here as soon as possible and make wonderful friends and memories during their stay.



Wei Tana

*Inner Mongolia University, China*

My major is organic chemistry. It has been a great opportunity for me to be at KIT. I really enjoy my life here. The air is fresh, the city is clean, and the people are friendly. I can learn Japanese culture, the way of their living and thinking. The most important thing is I have to finish my research experiment here. I like singing, dancing, travelling and eating delicious food. I will travel around in my spare time with my new friends and enjoy life at KIT.



Siqintana

*Inner Mongolia University, China*

I am a second year student in chemical engineering. Hohhot is a famous city in Mongolia - very big and pretty. People there enjoy watching horses and eating lamb. I enjoy my life here, studying Japanese, climbing mountains with new friends, and going to electric appliance stores. I love the fall season in Japan. Studying Japanese is tough, though!



Chien Chiao Wen

*China Medical University, Taiwan*

I major in bio-environmental engineering in Taiwan. My hobby is photography. I would like to learn to speak Japanese fluently and travel in Japan. Nice to meet you.



Ku Chia Hao

*China Medical University, Taiwan*

My hobby is magic, shopping, and playing the piano. I would like to buy many things while in Japan \* food and comic books, for example. My greatest desire, however, is to improve my Japanese. I will study hard.



Lin Cheng Hsuan

*China Medical University, Taiwan*

I major in nutrition in Taiwan and my hobby is cooking. I would like to learn to speak Japanese well and make many friends. After returning to Taiwan, I would like to find a job where I can use my Japanese. Nice to meet you.



Arto Allila

*Oulu University of Applied Science, Finland*

My hometown, Oulu, is about the same size as Kitami. My hobby is ice hockey, snowboarding, and swimming. Last summer I worked in Helsinki.



Jeong Min Gyo

*Kangwon National University, Korea*

I love sports, especially soccer and tennis. I consider myself an earnest person. I like to participate in different activities and talk to people. I came to study in Japan because when I came here 3 years ago I wanted to get to know more about different cultures. I chose Japan because I study new materials, which is well studied in Japan. Nice to meet you.



Peng Jingrong

*Nuhan University of Science and Technology, China*

When I came here, I fell in love with this clean, beautiful and comfortable place. Thanks to the enthusiastic teachers and friends, I have adopted myself to the life here and am focused now on my studies. It's wonderful to stay here for one year and everything is great. I'm looking forward to more surprises!



Ji Guanghui

*Nuhan University of Science and Technology, China*

My major is computer science and technology. I like pop music and many kinds of sports such as basketball, football, and table tennis. But I'm not good at these. I'm just studying most of the time. I do not think we can have fun without friends, so I like to make friends. I want to become friends with you, too!



Yu Chien Yi

*National Chin-Uji University of Technology, Taiwan*

I major in mechanical engineering in Taiwan. My hobby is sports. I also like Japanese dramas and music. I would like to pass the N1 level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test while I am in Japan. It will also be nice to have a chance to travel around Japan and climb Mt. Fuji.

## WELCOME PARTY FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Welcome to Kitami! The huge bi-annual gathering was held again this October in the newly expanded student cafeteria, where 90-some international students, their tutors, staff and faculty got together. Following the greeting from President Ayuta, Dr. Konomi introduced new international students, one of whom was dressed in her traditional costume to add to the festivity of the occasion. The new students were seated at the same table with the president and vice presidents and enjoyed conversation and food, which included sweets from the quake-hit area to help the recovery of their economy.

## Study Tour @Toronto

This summer, the International Center offered study tours in three languages: Chinese, German, and English. It was our first time to offer 3 tours at the same time and also to offer a trip to Europe. In this and the following two issues of our newsletter, we will be reporting the trips through the eyes of the participants. In this issue, please find out about the program in Toronto!

### Classes



In the second week, I started to get used to the speed of the language and I was able to understand quite a bit of what the teacher was saying in class. We Japanese students are strong in grammar, probably because we have to study grammar for college entrance exams. Conversation, however, is a problem; we just cannot find words to say when we want to communicate. Maybe we do not speak much in our own language, either... (Shunsuke Sasayama)

Both students and teacher in Humber College were really enjoying themselves in the classes. The discussion classes had the strongest impact on me. When we discussed the topic "whether developed countries should cancel debts of developing countries," a student from Mexico said, "the United States would never do so for Mexico." I felt, from the tone of her voice, that although we were both 20 years old, our positions were quite different: she had come to Canada to contribute to the development of her country. Another difference that I noticed is that my classmates expressed their opinions as soon as they disagree with someone else. They were so open and uninhibited. (Haruka Minami)



### Classmates



The age range of my classmates was from 17 to 50's. Some had a job and some were married, attending Humber as a couple. They all had dreams and goals in their lives. To study English was not a goal itself but a means to accomplish something else, such as to study in the field of their interest. In Japan, we seniors in college all follow the same steps: hunt for a job, graduate, and start working. The diversity of my classmates' lifestyle, however, made me realize that there can be many alternatives. I do not have to be uneasy if I do not choose to do the same thing with others; I do not have to follow the fixed lifestyle. Those who were leading a life of their choice were all shining and full of energy. (Nana Kajihara)



### Sightseeing



Among the many places that we went, the CN Tower and the Niagara Falls were especially impressive. The view of the city of Toronto and Lake Ontario seen from the tower was very beautiful. The Niagara Falls were so powerful that we all got wet even though we were on the boat, wearing a coat. I enjoyed the major league baseball, too, although I am not particularly interested in baseball. The game was exciting and fun. (Masato Tanabe)





List of Participants

- Nana Kajihara (4th year in Materials Science)
- Haruka Minami (3rd year in Mechanical Engineering)
- Kenji Takagi (2nd year in Mechanical Engineering)
- Yuta Yoshida (2nd year in Electrical Engineering)
- Masato Tanabe (1st year in Mechanical and Environmental Study)
- Shunsuke Sasayama (1st year in Computer Science)



#### Growth and Change



The biggest change that occurred to me was my concept of English. Before I went, English was, after all, one of the subjects that I had to study. During this study tour, it finally became a tool for communication. I felt the strong desire to communicate more in English. My host family was very nice and their smiles never failed during the 3 weeks that I stayed with them in spite of my poor English skills. (Yoshimi Sato)

I was able to get rid of my fixed ideas and prejudices toward other countries. Judging from what is being said on the Internet, it seems to me that Japanese people tend to have a sense of superiority toward other nations. As I spoke to people from different countries, however, I felt to the contrary; I felt inferior! My classmates from other countries all had their opinions on different things and were able to convey them to other people. I could not, and I want to learn to be able to do that. (Yuta Yoshida)

This program turned out much more wonderful than I had expected. It made me reflect on my way of studying English but also my life itself. Before I went, I felt as if my life was made up with routines. Now I consider my former self dead! While at Humber, I was so alive I feel as if I experienced in 3 weeks what I should experience in my entire life. No days are the same in our lives. Now I do not want to waste even a single day. This program gave me a desire to get the most from each and every day of my life. (Kenji Takagi)



## International C Hour

On August 10, the last day of the final exam, about 30 students and people from the community got together in a courtyard of the International Center faculty office and enjoyed eating cold noodles. Does it not sound exciting? Well, it is not an ordinary style of eating noodles. The noodles flow down in the running water in a half-cut bamboo pipe and you have to pick them up with your chopsticks! Only a few restaurants in Japan offer this summertime specialty. The OFIC members have wanted international students to try this unique tradition but have not been able to do so because of the difficulty of obtaining bamboos to make the stream. This summer, however, an OFIC graduate who lives in the west part of Japan sent us a package of bamboos and the members' dream finally came true.

The day, with the highest temperature of 34°C, turned out to be a perfect day for cold noodles. Thirty-some students and people from the community, including several children dressed in summer kimono, gathered around the bamboo pipe. Lidiana Roslan, from Malaysia, became a southpaw for the event. "Most of the people are right-handed so the right side of the stream was very crowded because it is easier for them to pick up the noodles from that side," Lidiana said. As a matter of fact, it was during Ramadan and she gave away all the noodles that she picked up. "Still it was a lot of fun - I did quite well with my left hand," Lidiana said with big smiles.



The first International C Hour of the new semester was held on October 7 to welcome new international students. The program featured origami, Japanese traditional paper craft, on which OFIC members gave a brief presentation to at the opening of the event. Then the participants, including almost all the new international students, enjoyed meeting new people while making things of their choice.

Haruka Minami, who gave the presentation, is among those who had just come back from a study tour to Canada. "I gave a presentation in Canada and found out how difficult to make myself understood in English. But it motivated me all the more to practice pronunciation and intonation. I am very happy if the international students learned a little bit about our traditional culture," Haruka said.

## November Calendar

- 16 (Wed) Physical check-up for international students @ Health Center, 11:00 - 12:30
- 19 (Sat) Curling Day @ Tokoro Curling Hall, 9:00 - 17:00
- 25 (Fri) International C Hour @ Meeting Room, 16:30 - 18:00  
Come and try delicious takoyaki (octopus dumpling) made by a KIT takoyaki lover professor!
- 29 (Tue) Briefing Session on the overseas study tours and study-abroad experience @ Lecture Hall, 16:20 - 17:50