

# INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Newsletter Vol. 86

| 航空会社 | 航空券番号 | 出発時刻  | 行き先     | 航空会社 | 航空券番号 | 出発時刻  | 行き先     |
|------|-------|-------|---------|------|-------|-------|---------|
| CI   | 161   | 12:35 | 台北      | KE   | 907   | 13:35 | 東京/成田   |
| DL   | 4250  | 12:35 | 名古屋     | AA   | 5850  | 13:35 | 東京/成田   |
| LH   | 719   | 12:40 | ミュンヘン   | KE   | 901   | 13:40 | パリ      |
| QZ   | 359   | 12:40 | 杭州      | LH   | 713   | 13:45 | フランクフルト |
| UA   | 082   | 12:40 | シカゴ     | MU   | 2018  | 13:50 | 威海      |
| CA   | 172   | 12:45 | 天津      | OZ   | 521   | 13:50 | ロンドン    |
| CZ   | 082   | 12:45 | 瀋陽      | KE   | 905   | 13:55 | プラハ     |
| MU   | 5042  | 12:55 | 上海/浦东   | SC   | 128   | 14:00 | 青島      |
| KE   | 069   | 13:00 | 大連      | OZ   | 365   | 14:00 | 上海/浦东   |
| CA   | 124   | 13:05 | 北京      | OZ   | 114   | 14:10 | 大阪/関西   |
| CA   | 140   | 13:05 | 杭州      | AI   | 317   | 14:15 | デリー     |
| KE   | 041   | 13:05 | 青島      | CZ   | 338   | 14:15 | 広州      |
| KE   | 033   | 13:05 | チューリップ  | KE   | 789   | 14:15 | 福岡      |
| KE   | 905   | 13:15 | フランクフルト | MH   | 908   | 14:15 | 東京/成田   |
| MU   | 2034  | 13:15 | 青島      | OZ   | 307   | 14:20 | 烟台      |
| CZ   | 088   | 13:20 | 長春      | KL   | 066   | 14:30 | アムステルダム |
| KE   | 047   | 13:20 | 済南      | OZ   | 317   | 14:30 | 青島      |
| KE   | 063   | 13:20 | 天津      | KE   | 809   | 14:55 | 威海      |
| UA   | 066   | 13:20 | 大阪/関西   | OZ   | 124   | 15:00 | 名古屋     |
| OZ   | 305   | 13:20 | 北京      | OZ   | 000   | 15:00 | 福岡      |



# Study Tour to China

[Aug. 30 - Sep. 24 @ Harbin Engineering University]

The second study tour that we are going to report on, following the trip to Canada in the previous issue, is the trip to China. The group went to Harbin Engineering University after a year's absence. The participants were all 1st year students who were very eager to learn. They learned and grew a lot through the program as they studied the language, experienced the different culture, visited many places and made friends with local students.

## ↓ Essays of the Attendants (excerpts)

*Shingo Kubota (1st year in Computer Science, Electrical and Electronic Engineering)*

I was shocked when I saw Chinese towns for the first time. People spitting on the street, drivers totally ignoring traffic rules, blaring car horns, trash and its smell everywhere. At school, however, I enjoyed the classes. My classmates were all very eager to learn. I had never seen such eager students in Japan, so it was very stimulating. We went to various places for sightseeing, too, and tried different kinds of food: meat dumplings, steamed bread, fried rice, noodles in soup, fried tofu, pig's legs, grilled lamb, bird's heads and so on - everything was delicious.

The best memory for me was making friends with students from other countries. The nationalities included Korea, Russia, Thailand, Pakistan, Mongolia, America, Great Britain, Kazakhstan, and Arab states. It made me want to study not only Chinese but also English to communicate with such students, which was another byproduct of this study tour.

*Koki Iwayama (1st year in Mechanical Engineering)*

I was quite impressed at how effective I was able to learn the language in China. Since the teachers taught exclusively in Chinese, I tried to listen very hard, which improved my listening ability. The class was small so I got to speak out frequently, which improved my pronunciation. I was also impressed at how fluently my international classmates spoke English. We Japanese students have studied English for 6 years since junior high school, but we can speak very little. I wonder if it is partly because of the quality of foreign language education in Japan. Realizing that I had to improve my English and Chinese to have better and deeper communication with others, now I am studying both languages. Next time I study abroad, I want to be able to speak better and gain more.



*Takeru Hotta (1st year in Biotechnology, Environmental Chemistry and Materials)*

I was motivated to go because I wanted to broaden my perspective by going abroad for the first time in my life and also because I was interested in China, which has been getting a lot of attention from other nations recently. Before I went, to be honest, my impression of the country was not very positive due to certain media reports. When I stayed there, however, I was impressed by how kind and warm-hearted Chinese people were, and what a nice country China was.

During our stay we studied till late afternoon every day. We were all beginning learners so at first we were quite nervous and afraid of not being able to make ourselves understood. It was not easy to talk to other international students but as we tried by using gestures and writing, we got to understand each other little by little and we felt more comfortable in the classroom.

After class and on weekends we explored the town and often ate out with our classmates. Communication with the locals was difficult because they did not understand English. Sometimes we got something totally different from what we ordered. It was a lot of fun, though, since we can never experience something like that in Japan!



*Yukiniko Homma (1st year in Mechanical Engineering)*

Thanks to this study tour, I had a chance to study Chinese in China, where the language is spoken. It was more intensive and meaningful. The focus was on communication, so my spoken Chinese improved a lot during the 3 weeks. It was great to use in the real life what we had just learned in class - it was a great incentive to further build up my skills. Also, I got to know the country of China a little better through this program. In Japan we tend to look at the country from a single viewpoint, but in China I learned to see it from different viewpoints. At the same time, I learned to look at my country from a Chinese viewpoint, too, and realized that it looked quite different from what I had thought of.

I think such study tour gives us a great opportunity to not only study languages but also get first-hand knowledge about the culture of the country and sense of value of its people. It is significant experience to grow the circle of friendship by talking with the people and fellow students who study the same language. I believe that the friendship that I nurtured through this program will be of great value in my future.

### For Your Information:

- 1) Class hours: 22 hours per week (Mon - Fri)
- 2) Extracurricular activities: Field trip around the city of Dalian, Russian show, Central Street, St. Sophia Church, Sun Island, Northeastern Tiger Park
- 3) Partnership & friendship: HEU students who are planning to study in Japan, HEU students who are taking Japanese classes, and students at Northeast Forestry University
- 4) Total costs: 162,879 yen per student (only 50,000 yen was students' out-of-pocket costs; 110,000 yen was covered by a grant)

*Shingo Kubota (1st year in Computer Science, Electrical and Electronic Engineering)*

I was shocked when I saw Chinese towns for the first time. People spitting on the street, drivers totally ignoring traffic rules, blaring car horns, trash and its smell everywhere. At school, however, I enjoyed the classes. My classmates were all very eager to learn. I had never seen such eager students in Japan, so it was very stimulating. We went to various places for sightseeing, too, and tried different kinds of food: meat dumplings, steamed bread, fried rice, noodles in soup, fried tofu, pig's legs, grilled lamb, bird's heads and so on - everything was delicious.

The best memory for me was making friends with students from other countries. The nationalities included Korea, Russia, Thailand, Pakistan, Mongolia, America, Great Britain, Kazakhstan, and Arab states. It made me want to study not only Chinese but also English to communicate with such students, which was another byproduct of this study tour.

*Koki Iwayama (1st year in Mechanical Engineering)*

I was quite impressed at how effective I was able to learn the language in China. Since the teachers taught exclusively in Chinese, I tried to listen very hard, which improved my listening ability. The class was small so I got to speak out frequently, which improved my pronunciation. I was also impressed at how fluently my international classmates spoke English. We Japanese students have studied English for 6 years since junior high school, but we can speak very little. I wonder if it is partly because of the quality of foreign language education in Japan. Realizing that I had to improve my English and Chinese to have better and deeper communication with others, now I am studying both languages. Next time I study abroad, I want to be able to speak better and gain more.



*Satsuki Motohara (1st year in Mechanical Engineering)*

I benefitted from this program in mainly 3 ways. The first one is getting to know new people. I met so many new people, talked about so many things and learned so much. We all have different senses of value depending upon where we grew up, how we were raised, and so on. So our opinions sometimes come into conflict, which make us interested in other culture and broaden our understanding. That was a very good experience for me.

The second point is the attitude toward study. In Japan, all the education seems mandatory; many of us go to high school as a matter of course and are able to go to college if we want to. As I studied with students from other nations and saw how hungry they were toward learning, I became ashamed of my tepid attitude.

The third thing was that the program made me think about my future. While in China I had a chance to meet the local people and international students with various vocations. It was great to listen to opinions of such people since I had thought very little about what to do with my future.

Three weeks was very short, but very, very meaningful. Nothing begins itself unless I start it. Nor does it continue, develop, or complete itself. When I make important decisions in my future, I hope to make use of what I have learned through this study tour.





**【Saturday, November 19th at Tokoro Curling Hall】**

The annual curling day was held in November this year. The participants included local citizens and 21 KIT international students. They were divided into 8 groups (6 players in each), learned basic skills in the morning. For most of the students it was their very first time to curl, so it took some time for them to acquire the right posture, power and technique to control the stone. They all improved as they practiced, however, and were able to play games in the afternoon. Peng Jingrong, an exchange student from China, said that the most exciting moment was "when her team tossed out the stone of the opponent and prevented them from scoring." Everyone seemed to enjoy the games even while making bruise on their knees. In the end, one of the international students' team won the first place.

**【Tuesday, Nov. 29 at lecture hall】**

Briefing Session on Study Tours  
**— To broaden your horizon and become internationalized —**



This year again, the International Center had a briefing session on the three study tours held during the summer. The session was attended by President Ayuta and Director Takahashi. The president first greeted the audience and told us about the international partnership whose conclusion he was involved in. After that, Ms. Aratani gave a brief explanation on different opportunities for KIT students to study abroad. The main section of the session came next, where the participants of the summer study tours were interviewed by Dr. Konomi and talked about their impression. In the last part of the class, two students who had studied at our partner institutions and recently returned to KIT gave PowerPoint presentations on their experience. Junki Seta, who studied in Korea, strongly encouraged the audience to try different things while in college. "Study, club activities, volunteer activities - anything is fine; just follow your dreams and ambitions," Junki said. We hope that the voices of the students who studied overseas were powerful and persuasive for the peers.



**【Friday, January 6th at Northern Arc Resort】**

This year, a total of 42 international students participated in our annual ski trip and enjoyed skiing in a fine weather. The students were divided into 3 levels and taught by instructors. Those in the beginning level practiced the basic skills such as walking, stopping and making turns in the morning. Some students were afraid of speed and fell often but they all did well enough to get on the lift in the afternoon. Ji Guanghui, from China, skied down the mountain 10 times. "I did not feel tired - it was after I got home that I found myself exhausted," Ji said.

We would like to send our hearty thanks to the ski instructors. Even though some of the participants could not understand verbal instructions very well, they were able to follow because of the instructors' patience and kindness.



The Lions Club of Kitami kindly invited our international students to their new-year calligraphy meeting for children, and 5 Chinese students participated. The phrases that the students wrote are: "World Peace," "Hope for Spring," "New Year Scenery," "Bright Morning Sunshine," "China," and "Love". After they wrote the phrases once, the teachers gave advice and suggestions. Then the students practiced many times and did the final writing. Comparing the Japanese style calligraphy with the Chinese style counterpart, one student said, "Even in the printed style, the letters look a bit different." In spite of the difference, however, it seemed to be a very meaningful opportunity for them and others to share the occasion of traditional writing.



**"Takoyaki" Octopus fritters [Friday, November 8th]**

We invited Dr. Fuji of the Mechanical Engineering Department, a well-known takoyaki expert, to the program. After listening to his witty presentation on the food, the participants tried making it by themselves. It was not easy in the beginning but once they got used to it they did not seem to get tired of it and kept making delicious takoyaki, a famous Osaka cuisine.



**International Concert [Friday, December 16th]**

We had another exciting and well-attended international concert this year. The program had a variety of performance: dance, piano, band, Japanese flute and singing. The concert was performed by not only students but children of faculty and staff of the school. It was a great C hour to conclude the year.

International C Hour



2012 CALENDAR

| SAT                     | SUN  | MON  | TUE            | WED  | THU                        | FRI                 |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------------|------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1/21                    | 1/22 | 1/23 | 1/24           | 1/25 | 1/26                       | 1/27<br>Short Visit |
| 1/28                    | 1/29 | 1/30 | 1/31<br>C Hour | 2/1  | 2/2                        | 2/3                 |
| 2/4                     | 2/5  | 2/6  | 2/7            | 2/8  | 2/9<br>Completion Ceremony | 2/10                |
| 2/18                    | 2/19 | 2/20 | 2/21           | 2/22 | 2/23                       | 2/24                |
| "Okhotsk and Drift Ice" |      |      |                |      |                            |                     |

Coming Events

- 1/27 ~ 2/5 Short Visit by China Medical University (Taiwan)
- 1/31 International C Hour (Sushi rolls)
- 2/9 Completion Ceremony for Exchange Students
- 2/19 ~ 24 "Okhotsk and Drift Ice" Symposium at Mombetsu City Hall and Mombetsu Culture Center
- Mar 5 (Mon) 18:00 - 20:00 Graduation Party