

Volume 101  
October & November  
2014

# International Center Newsletter

Kitami Institute of Technology



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## Welcome Party for International Students [Wed, 22 October]

### Welcome to KIT!

The 2014 2<sup>nd</sup> semester Welcome Party for the newly arrived 20 international students was held at the student cafeteria. This year, for the first time, our university has welcomed one international student each from Thailand and Algeria. The KIT campus is becoming more and more cosmopolitan every year. The evening started with a welcome speech and a toast by the University President, Professor Takahashi, wishing the new international students all the best and success for their studies at KIT. He also said it's important to be capable of loving your country and wants you to get to know many good places in Japan. The students enjoyed the Japanese style hors d'oeuvre. In between, each new international student gave a brief self-introduction in Japanese. This semester KIT accepted three short-term students from Beijing University of Chemical Technology, China in many years. Mr. Gao is one of them. He said that he wants to study Japanese very hard and also wants to learn about Japanese culture.



SUKHBOLD ENKHTSETSEG

(Doctoral Program)

My name is Enkhee. I'm from Mongolia. I came to Japan for the first time. I really like Kitami and people living in Kitami and I really want to study Japanese culture.



SANITIN MR. DITTAPON

(Master's Program)

My name is Dittapon Sanitin. I'm from Thailand. Now I'm studying computer science at KIT. I'm looking forward to having snow, because I have never seen snow before.



BOURAGBA SAADIA

(Research Student)

My name is Saadia. I'm from Algeria. I hope I will improve my Japanese and I want to make a lot of Japanese friends.

## Okhotsk International Festival 2014 [Sat, 15 November]

The Okhotsk International Festival 2014 took place at Parabo. Many foreigners living in the Okhotsk region and local citizens joined the event. It is a chance to get to know each other and learn about each other's culture, promoting a deeper understanding between them. Our ten international students surprised everybody in there with their great performances. Mongolian students showed a dance with cups and sang Mongolian songs, a Saudi Arabian student showed a traditional dance with a stick. A Korean student performed magic. A Chinese student sang an English song, and a Taiwanese student played the flute. Every performance was wonderful. In addition to these performances, there were activities such as "Sobauchi" (making soba noodles) and a game where the international guests had to grab as many potatoes and onions as they could with their hands. Everyone engaged in that activity very seriously. Just before the closing of the event, the participants got the chance to pound rice to make traditional rice cakes, and enjoyed eating it afterwards. Time flies when you're having fun.



## Field Trip to Kushiro [Fri, 28 November-Sat, 29 November]

This year's field trip took place at Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd. Kushiro Mill, Doshin Sogo Printing, Kushiro Factory and Shibetsu Salmon Park. On the first day, the participants visited Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd. Kushiro Mill and Doshin Sogo Printing, Kushiro Factory. These two places were one combined course and the students first saw how new paper was produced from old paper and then experienced the printing process of a newspaper. On the second day, the students visited the Shibetsu Salmon Park where they learned about the life of salmon from its birth to egg-laying from the Park's staff. The museum exhibited many different kind of fish, not only Salmonidae living in the Nemuro Channel in water tanks. After the field trip, Mr. Li Tiankuo (China) said it he had a good time with the international students, Japanese students and staff. He said that he was especially interested in Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd. Kushiro Mill, because it was very similar to his major field of study. Factory visits like these are rare for the students, so it provides them a great opportunity to learn about engineering from a different point of view.



### Study Abroad Experience in the USA & Halloween [Thu, 30 October]

#### UAF (Alaska) × Ryoko Shiratori

Ms. Ryoko Shiratori, a third year student, gave a presentation about her study abroad experience in Fairbanks, Alaska. She had studied as an exchange student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, a partner university of KIT, for one year and got back to Japan in August. She said she took subjects in her major and English language classes at UAF and also was able to make many friends even in other majors and from other departments. But sometimes she had quarrels with her roommates, which however, only meant, that she was making progress with her English. During the winter holidays, she travelled to Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. She had a great time in the USA and gained lots of valuable experience during this time.



#### Q&A

Q What are the differences between US and Japanese courses at university?

A I got the impression that all students study very hard and very active at UAF.



#### Halloween × Trick or Treat!

Many people came to this year's Halloween Party in costumes and the decoration gave the room a special atmosphere again. All staff was prepared for this event and Dr. Natalie Konomi, Director of the International Center even dressed like Mario from Super Mario Brothers. The party started with a game of charades and continued with a drawing game. When one Chinese student, who was dressed like a feudal lord, made easy to understand gestures, everybody found an answer straight away. In one drawing game, a Taiwanese student drew a werewolf, but no one was able to identify it, and when one student said “Is it an alligator?”, it left the whole room in stitches. It was a lot of fun and an unforgettable day for everyone.

#### University Calendar (December – January)

Tue, 2 December International C Hour“ORIGAMI”(Meeting Room 2)

Tue, 16 December Lecture & Presentation on Study Abroad Programs (KIT Lecture Hall)

Wed, 17 December International Students Evening (KIT Atrium)

→ moved to Wed, 4 February 2015 due to a heavy snowstorm on 17 December 2014

Sat, 20 December – Sun, 4 January Winter Holidays

Sun, 21 December –Tue, 23 December Youth of World 2014

(National Hidaka Youth Outdoor Learning Center)

Thu, 1 January–Fri, 9 January 7<sup>th</sup> International Collegiate Snow Sculpture Contest 2015 (Harbin Engineering University, China)

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