

Kitami Institute of Technology

NEWSLETTER

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Kimono experience from Campus Festival

The Campus Festival was held on the last weekend of June. There were many international events, too. On the first day, 12 international students tried Flower Arrangement (*Ikebana*). They could make their own arrangements supported by *Ikebana* teacher. We did the contest after making the arrangements. They all were displayed in campus during the festival.



Taiwanese, Chinese and Mongolian students sold their own traditional food at the booths. Ms. Lai Chun-Yi from Taiwan said, "It was not easy to cook all the food but people enjoyed our food. It made me so happy!" Chinese students sold hand-made dumplings and simmered eggs. The simmered eggs were very popular and they sold out soon.



At the festival, Mongolian students sold 5 different kinds of traditional Mongolian food. They also displayed Mongolian toys and pictures at their food booth. There were always many people at that booth. Mongolian students won the 1st prize in the Festival Booth Contest. International Club called OFIC were sold small pizzas and frappes. They won the 3rd prize in the contest. The international students seemed to have a good time, even though it was cloudy and sometimes raining on both days of the festival.

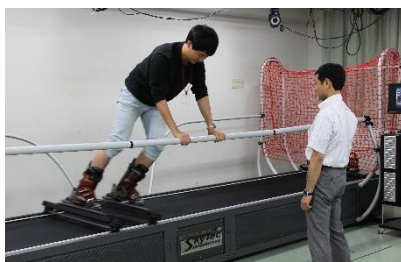


The tea-ceremony was held by Kitami Fuji High School Tea-Ceremony Club. Tea-ceremony club has just restarted this April at Kitami Institute of Technology. Some of the members helped support this event. More than 100 people came to enjoy the tea-ceremony.



There was a *KIMONO* experience event for international students on the second day of the festival. 18 international students joined this event. Ms. Lin Yutong(China) said, "I was so surprised to be wrapped around with the long *OBI* sash belt. I enjoyed wearing *Kimono* because it is so beautiful." Mr. Pawel Lempa from Poland said, "I would like to have my own *KIMONO*!" It was the first time for them to wear *Kimono* and they all enjoyed themselves.

10 students and 4 faculty members from Gyeongsang National University came to visit us. Gyeongsang National University in Korea is one of our cooperative universities. We have had this exchange program since 1999. We visited their university last year and they came to visit our campus this year.



July 16: Each student stayed with a Japanese homestay family. Each family took them to various places, such as *Shiretoko*, the aquarium in *Rubeshibe*, hot springs, sushi-go-round and so on.

July 17, 18: We went on a 2-day trip to visit famous sightseeing spots around Okhotsk area. 11 Japanese students joined this trip. We went to *Bihoro* mountain pass, lake *Mashu*, Mr. *Iou*, museums in *Abashiri*. This trip made Korean students touch of wonderful Okhotsk nature and promote friendship between Gyeongsang students and KIT students.



July 14: We had an opening ceremony. The Korean students and faculty members at KIT were translators. After the ceremony, we had a welcome party. Some KIT students who visited Korea last year joined this party and they were excited to meet them again.

July 15: They studied useful Japanese in "Basic Japanese" class. They had lunch at the school cafeteria. *Ra-men*, Curry rice with fried pork, and rice bowl with fried pork were popular with them. They visited some labs in the afternoon, such as Winter Sports Research Promoting Center that has just established this April. On that night, they joined the dancing parade at *Bonchi*-Festival in *Yukata*.

July 19: They had "Basic Japanese" and "Japanese Culture" classes in the morning. After that, they visited mayor. Gyeongsang National University is in Jinju in Korea. Jinju and Kitami has been sister cities for 30 years this year. Kitami city has planned a trip to visit Jinju this October. We had a farewell BBQ party in the evening. Their Homestay families, KIT Japanese students, Korean faculty members at KIT joined the farewell party.

July 20: They left Kitami early in the morning. Some KIT Japanese students and Homestay families came to see them off.

It was wonderful to spend time with them together and try to understand each other, even though we have different language and culture. We hope to continue this program and keep improving our friendship. I thank all the people who supported this program.

Field Trip to *Tokoro*: Observing Native Grass and Wild Flowers Thursday, June 24

We went to *Tokoro* to observe native grass and wild flowers. Dr. Yamagishi was our guide and 22 international students participated in this trip. We enjoyed walking in the forest and looking at the beautiful Okhotsk Sea. We thank the Soroptimist International of Kitami for their support of this trip.



International “C” Hour: “Let’s draw postcards!” Wednesday, June 29

We challenged drawing pictures on postcards in “C” Hour. The teacher was Ms. Takahashi from *Kitami “Mint-Takuhai”* program. More than 40 people enjoyed this program, including KIT international students, Japanese students and Kitami citizens. At first, we learned how to use a brush, then we draw pictures on postcards, following the teacher’s advice.

Ms. Lai Chun-Yi draw bananas and said, “I am sending this postcard to my mother in Taiwan because she loves bananas!” After they finished drawing, they showed their own postcards each other and took pictures. They also enjoyed drinking and eating snacks together.



International “C” Hour: “Flowing Noodles” Thursday, July 28



We enjoyed “Flowing Noodles (*Nabashi Somen*)” at the outside yard space next to the international lounge. Though, it was cloudy and raining, 72 people joined this event. They caught noodles flowing in water, running in the bamboo tube with their chopsticks. After the noodles, cherries and jellies flowed, too. Mr. Zhao Xiaolei from China said, “I had thought that every family has this bamboo. So I was surprised to know that it is so special and Japanese families don’t do this at home. I am happy to experience this in Japan!” Mr. Kang Heongyu from Korea said, “It is great that I can experience this on campus. I was planning to go to an expensive Japanese restaurant for this.” We also enjoyed “Watermelon Smashing”. After the smashing game, we ate all 3 of the watermelons. They were delicious! Because of the rain, OFIC members were busy preparing this event, such as putting up a tent and setting bamboo one day before. Thank their all supports and people who joined this event.

Future Schedule

- ◆ Graduation Ceremony for Short-term
International Students: Aug. 2, 4:30pm
- ◆ Language Studying Tours
August: Australia, China
September: Germany

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