

# Kitami Institute of Technology

## International Center

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 119  
October & November  
2017



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# Welcome to New International Students

22 new international students started studying at KIT this October. The number of short-term exchange students from cooperative universities is 12, 7 graduate students and 3 research students from 9 countries, such as Tanzania, Bhutan, Finland and many Asian countries.



**Victor Alex SILAA**  
**(United Republic of Tanzania)**

Please call me Alex. I am here as a research student. My hobbies are soccer and playing the bass guitar. I am so impressed to see the snow falling here in Kitami. It was my first time. I appreciate all the efforts made by everyone supporting me in order to adapt to the life in Kitami. Thank you!!



**Tuovinen Miiikka Santeri**  
**(Finland)**

I am 24 and a senior year student at Oulu University in Finland. I am an exchange student for a half year. Kitami's nature reminds me of my hometown Oulu. We also have a long and dark winter. I can enjoy more of the sun light here, though. My favorite Finnish food is Rossypotta. I miss it but now I enjoy delicious sushi here in Kitami!



**Chen Yu-Ting**  
**(Taiwan)**

This is my first time to visit Hokkaido in my life. Kitami is much colder than Taiwan. However, I like snow and I am excited about seeing the snow falling. My new life in Kitami is fun. I have many things to do, such as going to hot springs, skiing, eating KITAMI-BBQ and more!!

## International "C" Hour

### Welcome Party for New International Students!

Halloween Party!! October 31

We had a welcome party for new international students. 132 people participated in Halloween costumes including international students, Japanese students and people in Kitami. First the new international students introduced themselves in Japanese.



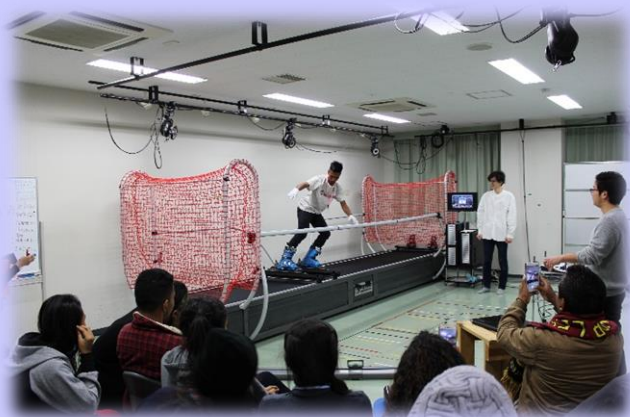
After that, we enjoyed some Halloween games and dance. The "mummy game" was so much fun! Teemu Karppinen from Finland said, "I had a good time and it was lots of fun! I made lots of new friends and enjoyed taking pictures with them!!"



# Exchanging Culture: Film Festival

November 24

The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian International Children's Film Festival in Kitami was held and some high school students from East Timor and Vietnam and visited KIT as part of an exchange culture program during the festival. They visited some labs at KIT, such as “the Environmental and Energy Resources Research Center”, “the Winter Sports Research Center”, QVIC and so on.



At the Budo Gym, we had a culture exchange event. An Iaido performance was done by Professor Tamaki's group. Then they enjoyed singing songs in Japanese with Japanese traditional musical instruments. Some KIT Japanese students dressed guests in yukata. Finally, we danced the “Kitami Samba Dance” together!



## Performances at “Okhotsk International Festival “

November 25

Some international students showed their talent and introduced their culture at the annual festival that Kitami city holds.

Lin Jia-Yi from Taiwan danced the tap-dance. Since she has taken lessons for many years, she danced professionally. Then Ghosh Kumar from Bangladesh sang songs and showed a traditional wedding dance with other some international students in beautiful costumes.





# Presentations at “Cross-Cultural Exchange Meeting”

October 28

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was held by Kitami Women's Domestic Studying Group. Khalifah Mujahid Jamal from Saudi Arabia and Pawel Cezary Lempa from Poland talked and had presentations there. They were talking about what made them shocked or surprised in Japan and things that they enjoy here in Kitami. It was a great chance to understand cultural differences.



## Presents!! Hand-knitted Sweaters



Ms. Ichiyama in Kitami gives hand-knitted sweaters to international students every year. She says, “International students are the symbol of world peace!” Many students applied and the lottery was done for the 3 sweaters. These sweaters are so special for international students.



## Visiting Koizumi Elementary School

November 6

11 international students visited. They ate a school lunch, had a lunch break and studied together. They will visit again in December and introduce their culture.



## Visiting Kitami Hokuto High School

November 13

Short-term international students visited and enjoyed Kendo with high school students.



It was their first time to see and try kendo. It was a great experience for them to understand Japanese culture and spirit.

### Future Schedule

- ◆ International “C” Hour December 7 (Thu)  
18:00 ~
- ◆ International Party December 13 (Wed)  
18:00 ~

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