

KENGURO

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Techno Hall will become "Mirai AIO Hall" from April 2024 by the naming rights project!

Featured

Promoting Exchange with Vietnam !!

Iwate University has been promoting international student and academic exchanges by concluding inter-university or interdepartmental agreements with overseas universities and research facilities. In Asia, student and researcher exchange with Thailand, South Korea, China, Mongolia, and Taiwan are particularly active, but exchange with Vietnam is extremely limited. As seen in the increase of technical trainees from Vietnam, the number of Vietnamese students studying in Japan has also been increasing in recent years, and it is said that the number of students coming to Japan will double in four to five years as the population in the middle class rapidly grows. We introduce the Japan Study Abroad Fair held in Vietnam in November 2023 and the voices of Vietnamese students studying in the Faculty of Science and Engineering at our university in this featured section.

Promoting Iwate University at the Japan Study Abroad Fair !

The Japan Study Abroad Fair is an event held annually in several Asian countries and provides information of studying in Japan, especially targeting high school and university students in Asia who want to study in Japan. In the academic year 2023, four representatives from our university, Mr. Yamashita and Mr. Nakamura from the International Affairs Office, Professor Masahiro Daibo from Electrical, Electronic, and Communication Engineering Course in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, and a Vietnamese student, Ut, in the same Faculty, participated in the Japan Study Abroad Fair held in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam on November 25 and 26 to promote the university. The total number of visitors to both venues was 1,995, with 54 visiting our university's booth. Most visitors were proficient in English or Japanese, but Ut gave detailed explanations in Vietnamese as well.

According to the survey results (34 respondents), 60% of them showed an interest in undergraduate school and 40% of them did in graduate school respectively, and approximately 70% of them showed an interest in science, engineering, and agriculture fields. In particular, in the field of science and engineering, strong interest was confirmed in mechanical engineering and digital media. Whereas numerous inquiries about the availability of undergraduate and master's programs taught in English or possibility of graduation by using English were asked. For the Faculty of Science and Engineering that has not established curricula in English, this appears to be a future challenge.

In the academic year 2023, there are 5 Vietnamese exchange students at our university, 2 of whom are studying in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. Although the number of exchange students from Vietnam is typically low, they are likely highly capable students. In addition, recently many of them tend to find a job in Japan (particularly in Iwate!) after graduation. We aim to promote strengths of Iwate and our university to Vietnamese while actively working towards establishing inter-university and interdepartmental agreements to enhance mutual exchanges.

(Right) Giving explanations to visitors in the Iwate University booth at the Japan Study Abroad Fair. The admission system of the Faculty of Science and Engineering (that does not require individual exams and is based solely on document screening) received positive feedback. There were also several inquiries about exchange program.



(Left) The day before the Japan Study Abroad Fair in Ho Chi Minh City, our school paid a courtesy visit to Vice Dean Nghia from the Faculty of Applied Sciences at Ho Chi Minh University of Technology. Discussions were held regarding collaborative research and acquiring doctoral program exchange students. Agreement will be signed in the future.

(Right) After the Japan Study Abroad Fair in Hanoi, we paid a courtesy visit to Hanoi University of Science and Technology. Discussions were held with professors from MICA International Research Institute and staff from the International Affairs Office regarding short-term training, exchange programs, and agreements. There are also staff members in charge of Japan at their International Affairs Office.



Comment from an International Student: Vo Van Ut, Electrical, Electronic, and Communication Engineering Course B4

I arrived in Japan from Vietnam on March 28, 2018. In order to pass the university entrance exam, I diligently studied not only Japanese but also mathematics, physics, and chemistry for about two years at the Japanese Language Department of Morioka Business College. The hard work helped me to pass the entrance exams for three universities including Electrical, Electronic, and Communication Engineering Course at Iwate University's Faculty of Science and Engineering. Having lived in Morioka for two years made me somewhat accustomed to life there, I decided to study at Iwate University since the people in Iwate are kind and warm-hearted, plus there was no need to move and find a new part-time job.

In April 2020, I enrolled at Iwate University. I was looking forward to attending school, but unfortunately, all classes were held online due to the impact of Covid-19. There were many things I didn't understand and know what to do. After consulting with my teacher, they told me about the tutoring program. I applied for it, and when I encountered what I didn't understand, the senior tutors helped me until I understood. I found the program was truly helpful.

From 2018 until now, I have been delivering newspapers every morning from 4 a.m., going to school at 8:30 a.m., and working at a convenience store from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. a few times per week. It has been six years passed since I came to Japan, and I am now a fourth-year student. I have been assigned to the Daibo Lab, where I am studying the internal electric field distribution of shielded spherical vector potential coils. Under the guidance of Professor Masahiro Daibo, I have acquired a variety of knowledge about vector potentials, circuits, electromagnetism, and approaches to research.

In March 2023, I was assigned to the Daisho Denshi Iwate Plant in Iwate Prefecture, and I am joining the company in April 2024. I hope to contribute to the economic development of Iwate Prefecture. I am determined to work harder for my dream being an electrical engineer.



(Above) A group photo at the laboratory. Ut is in the middle of the front row.

Research Internship at National Chiayi University in Taiwan !!

The Global Researcher Development Division of the Engineering Education Research Center at the Faculty of Science and Engineering provides support for research internships and participation in international conferences to students considering pursuing a doctoral program in the Global Researcher Development Program. This article shares the experience of a participant of the program, Kasumi Suzuki, who joined a research internship at National Chiayi University in Taiwan for about one month in the summer of 2023.

Kasumi Suzuki, Graduate Course in Biological Sciences M2

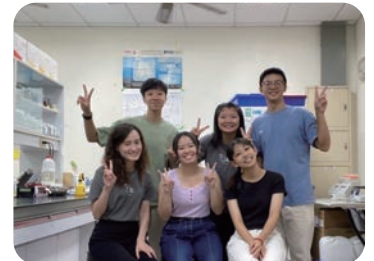
In order to acquire new knowledge and skills necessary for conducting cancer research, I participated in a one-month internship at National Chiayi University in Taiwan. I am currently researching the formation process of exosomes, one of the extracellular vesicles, in the Laboratory of Intracellular Traffic (Associate Professor Yoko Shiba). Exosomes are vesicles secreted by cells that are gaining attention as biomarkers of cancer. I plan to conduct further research to elucidate how two recently identified proteins in this laboratory function biologically in exosome formation and to investigate their involvement in the malignancy of cancer cells. Accordingly, I decided to learn advanced techniques in cancer research from the laboratory of Yun-Wei Lin in the Department of Biochemical Science and Technology at the College of Life Sciences at National Chiayi University, a partner institution of the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Lin's lab conducts research on non-small cell lung cancer, attempting to induce remission of lung cancer by combining multiple anticancer drugs. During the internship, I learned experiments that require specialized techniques, such as the evaluation of survival rates of non-small cell lung cancer treated with anticancer drugs, starting from the basic management of laboratory equipment. Everyday life and research activities were communicated entirely in English. Since English is not the native language for me nor for the people of Taiwan, conveying everything perfectly was difficult, and we were initially struggled. However, by valuing daily interactions and persistently continuing to engage in communication, we were able to communicate smoothly.

I've been highly curious about biological organisms since childhood, so working as a researcher is the ideal way to constantly explore questions. To become a researcher, one must demonstrate that they have acquired specialized knowledge and skills. Therefore, I plan to pursue a doctoral program starting next year to further refine my knowledge and skills. I believe that by interacting with various people, rather than only acting individually, I can conduct better research activities. Through this internship, I was able to discover research outside my specialty by interacting with people at National Chiayi University, including Professor Lin, and observing and learning about research conducted on site firsthand. I aim to utilize this experience to my future research activities and career as a



(Above) An experiment on the seeding of non-small cell lung cancer used for evaluating anticancer drugs.



(Above) Group photo with Prof. Yun-Wei Lin (front row, left) and laboratory students (upper row). Suzuki is in the middle of the front row.

Participation in Thailand's international training program !!

The Faculty of Science and Engineering offers various short-term international training programs in Thailand, South Korea, Canada, and other locations to undergraduate students. The training program in Thailand especially led by the Business School Graduate School offers an opportunity to learn the basics of supply chain, logistics, and sustainability while learning the activities of global companies by visiting various factories. This article features the experience of Yumeka Hashimoto, who participated in the training program held in Thailand from August 27 to September 9, 2023.

Yumeka Hashimoto, Electrical, Electronic, and Communication Engineering Course B3

Since the beginning of my studies, I have been deeply interested in improving my English skills and learning about foreign cultures, eagerly desiring to participate in overseas programs. During the pandemic, I participated in online English training offering interactions with foreign individuals. However, I always felt something was missing. Then I found out this program and headed to Thailand with the hope of finally fulfilling my desire to directly communicate with locals in a foreign country.

As soon as I arrived, the two-week program began, including factory tours, lectures from business experts, and visits to research labs. Through the factory tours, we visited various types of factories such as those belonging to Ajinomoto and packaging companies, allowing me to directly see Japanese companies making a successful business in a foreign country. Not only did I listen to explanations in English, but I also surprised myself by asking numerous questions in English. The lectures were different from the typical passive listening style in Japan, providing ample opportunities to actively present my ideas and enjoy the thrill of expressing myself in English. One of the distinctive features of this program is the casual communication in English among non-native speakers, which adds to its allure.

At King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), I visited laboratories in various fields such as biology, physics, and electrical engineering. I learned cutting-edge research and facilities in Thailand, which provided new inspiration to me majoring in an electrical engineering. I also deepened my connections with Thai students through short trips to the Historic City of Ayutthaya, floating markets and temples.

Not only did I practice English, but I also unexpectedly gained other valuable insights. This program included students from the University of Tokyo and Showa Women's University. By interacting with Japanese people having different backgrounds, I was able to discover various perspectives and ways of thinking. After each day's program activities, I went out to Chinatown and night markets with Thai and Japanese students, creating unforgettable memories together.

Through this program, I not only improved my English communication skills but also had the opportunity to experience different cultures and values that I could not have encountered in Japan. That gave me the significant opportunity for personal growth.



(Above) Factory tour at KRUGER Company Limited, an air conditioning equipment manufacturing company.



(Above) At the Historic City of Ayutthaya.

Notice ★ Renovation of the International Exchange Public Relations Corner !

Do you know that there is an International Exchange Public Relations Corner on the 1st floor lounge of Building 1 in the Faculty of Science and Engineering? It exhibits the information about overseas exchange partner universities associated with the Faculty of Science and Engineering, as well as souvenirs we have received in the past. The area will be renovated in the coming year, featuring introduction of newly established exchange agreements with universities. It's located right in front of the main entrance, so please feel free to drop by. We hope that seeing world maps and photos of various universities will spark your interest in studying abroad.

Editor's Office:

Special Committee on Globalization of Education and Research

Email: kenguro@iwate-u.ac.jp

TEL: 019-621-6405

<http://www.kenguro.iwate-u.ac.jp/>



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