

# KENGURO

## Quarterly Newsletter vol.26

Headlines

Featured !!

Student Exchange with  
South Korea's Hanbat National  
University this year again !



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## Student exchange with Hanbat National University this year again !!

Following the last year's exchange, we once again held a mutual student exchange with South Korea's Hanbat National University (HBNU). From Sunday 25th to Thursday 29th August 2024, 10 students and 5 faculty members from HBNU visited our school for the exchange program, and from Sunday 22nd to Thursday 26th September, 10 students and 5 faculty members from our school visited HBNU in Daejeon, South Korea. Through various events such as the joint PBL (problem-based learning) activities by mixed student teams from our school and HBNU, laboratory tours, and cultural experiences, the students from both universities participated in a fulfilling exchange.

### Exchange start at Iwate University!

In the morning of the first day of the program, following an opening address by Dean Osada of the Faculty of Engineering, mini-lectures were given by three faculty members from HBNU and one faculty member from our university. In the afternoon, firstly we did self-introduction by students from both universities and HBNU students introduced the PBL themes, and secondly the joint PBL sessions with mixed teams from Japan and Korea began promptly. This time, we discussed the five PBL themes: (1) prevention of low birth rates and support for aging population, (2) utilization of increasing vacant houses, (3) sustainable urban agriculture, (4) ideas for improving information literacy, and (5) solutions to energy poverty. Discussions were held for each theme by a team of 4, consisting of 2 students from HBNU and 2 from our university. On the second day, the joint PBL sessions were continued and each team had a mid-term presentation session reporting their ideas. Based on questions and feedback from the faculty, each team refined their ideas in preparation for the joint PBL at HBNU. After the program completion ceremony, HBNU students visited research labs in 5 areas: chemistry, electronic engineering, mechanical engineering, social environment, and design information.

On the next day, we took a chartered bus trip to the Iwaizumi and Miyako areas for them to be familiar with Iwate. After enjoying the blue and transparent underground lake at Ryusendo Cave, we visited Jodogahama Beach in Miyako. For lunch, we enjoyed a seafood rice bowl, and then we also boarded a sightseeing boat and fed seagulls. Upon returning to Morioka, we bid farewell to the members from HBNU, looking forward to meeting again in Korea.

(Right) A scene of the joint PBL on the first day. The students from both universities quickly got along with each other, facilitating smooth discussions.



(Left) The mid-term presentation of the joint PBL. The team for theme (1) presented their ideas on prevention of low birth rates and support for aging population.



(Right)  
A commemorative photo taken after the completion ceremony. The students looked at ease after the successful mid-term presentations



(Above) In front of the entrance to Ryusendo Cave. Despite being affected by flooding from heavy rains due to Typhoon Maria, the cave successfully reopened, allowing us to bring the members from HBNU.



(Left) The second day's dinner event featured wanko soba at Azumaya. Five out of the 10 HBNU students had over 100 bowls.



## Visit Hanbat National University!

On the first day of the program at HBNU, we had mini-lectures conducted by 2 faculty members from our university and one from HBNU and the joint PBL sessions. The joint PBL was continued until midday on the second day, and then the afternoon was dedicated to 20-minute result presentation per team. The professors evaluated each team's ideas, and the best presentation team was awarded the Gold Prize. In the morning of the third day, the students visited HBNU's Solar Cube, semiconductor measurement and manufacturing rooms, and the mechanical engineering lab to experience cutting-edge science and technology firsthand. In the afternoon, we created coasters using 3D printers and toured Daejeon City. On the fourth day, the day before returning home, the group traveled to Seoul with the members from HBNU to visit Gyeongbokgung Palace, a royal palace from the Joseon Dynasty, and Hongdae, known for its youth culture and subculture hub before heading home.



(Above) In front of the statue of King Sejong at Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul.



(Left) A scene of the first day of the joint PBL at HBNU. Everyone was diligently working.



(Right) The Japan-Korea team for theme (3) won the Gold Prize at the joint PBL results presentation.



(Above) A group photo taken after the completion ceremony.

### Student Comments

#### Naoki Takahashi, Regional and Community Design M1



Through this exchange program, I was able to learn a lot from the PBL and laboratory visits. During the PBL, Japanese and Korean students sometimes had different opinions, but discussions among different viewpoints were highly stimulating. Winning the Gold Prize at the PBL presentation made all the hard work worthwhile and resulted in a satisfying outcome. Additionally, since English was used throughout the program, it was a great opportunity for me to assess my English proficiency. Although I initially felt nervous about using English, I realized through conversations that the willingness to communicate is important. Overall, I felt that this program boosted my confidence.

#### Kim Gahyeon, Industrial Design B4



Participating in this project has allowed us to significantly enhance our personal capabilities. Approaching problems in new way that I had not previously considered through debates became a catalyst for my growth. We attempted to tackle the capstone topic using the knowledge from each student's major. It was a challenging endeavor, but we explored various methods and examined their practical applicability. With this experience, I aspire to merge it with my major and become someone who creates designs that are both realistic and essential for users.

#### Mio Matsukawa, Regional and Community Design M1



This exchange program was an invaluable experience, allowing me to grow significantly in many aspects. I initially struggled with English, speaking only in single words, but after listening to conversations there, I naturally became able to form sentences and hold conversations. I felt that communicating in English improves through engaging in conversations with many people and realized the importance of such interactions. Additionally, participating in the PBL with HBNU students expanded my perspectives. The six days in Korea were enjoyable and fulfilling, inspiring me to visit various other countries in the future.

#### Lee Wonseop, Creative Convergence Engineering B4



Attending this program has been a valuable experience. In my major, we typically study engineering fields such as 3D printing and semiconductors, but we rarely have the chance to explore areas like industrial management or urban environments. Thus this project provided me with broader inspiration. Since none of us spoke each other's native language, it was a great opportunity to improve my English communication skills. Through this project, I made many new friends, gained valuable knowledge, and even developed stronger communication skills.

### 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 introduction of overseas exchange partner universities associated with the Faculty of Science and Engineering, as well as souvenirs we have received in the past. We have plans to improve there this year including the information about new exchange partner universities. It is located just in front of the main entrance, so please feel free to drop by. We hope that you will have interest in study abroad by seeing the world map and photos of the universities.

Editor's Office:

Special Committee on Globalization  
of Education and Research

Email: [kenguro@iwate-u.ac.jp](mailto:kenguro@iwate-u.ac.jp)

TEL: 019-621-6405

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



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