

九州大学
KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

KYUDAI

News



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2000
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International Symposium on Universities' Present and Future

- World's 10 leading universities' presidents gather at Kyudai -

From May 13th to 14th 2000, Kyushu University will host a high-level international symposium on the challenges confronting higher education at the beginning of the 21st century.

Those present for the symposium will include:

- the Vice President of the University Council of Tsinghua University, China;
- the Vice-President of the Université Robert Schuman, France;
- the Rector of Ludwig Maximilians Universität München, Germany;
- the President of Pusan National University, Korea;
- the Dean of the Graduate School of Seoul National University, Korea;
- the Rector of Thammasat University, Thailand;
- the Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Glasgow, UK;
- and the Vice Provost for International Affairs from the University of Michigan, USA.

It is hoped that the symposium will provide an excellent opportunity for the formulation of globally relevant policy

proposals, as well as fostering closer links between the participating institutions.

The symposium will be held at the Sea Hawk Hotel, Fukuoka. May 13th will be given over to two official meetings, 'Education and Research' and the 'Management of the University'. A formal reception, hosted by President Sugioka, will be held that evening. On the morning of the 14th we will hold a session with high school students from the Fukuoka area. It is hoped that such an event will provide students with the opportunity to sample the atmosphere of some of the world's leading universities, as well as highlighting the intellectual and cultural significance of the university as an institution.

In 2011, Kyushu University will celebrate its 100th anniversary. This symposium represents the opening of a series of events that will be held to commemorate this most important occasion in the history of the university.

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PHOTO

Front : Administration Bureau of Kyudai
Back : Sun Wen's Calligraphy

This calligraphy is 34.5 by 113.5 centimeters and is hung on the wall of the President's office. It means "Seek the path of virtue and love people" in Chinese characters. It was written by Sun Wen (Sun Zhongshan 1866-1925), a Chinese revolutionary, when he visited his Japanese friends in Fukuoka in 1913 to inform them of the success of the revolution in China. During his stay in Fukuoka, he gave a lecture at the College of Medicine of Kyushu Imperial University, the forerunner of Kyushu University.



A tablet with calligraphy of Minister Kim and ribbon cutting ceremony. (The Research Center for Korean Studies.)

The Research Center for Korean Studies - OPEN!

Since its foundation, Kyushu University has played a leading role as an academic institute in Asia, and has always placed special significance on its relationships with other countries in the Asian region. Of particular importance has been our relationship with Korea. On the 30th of November 1998, the then Korean Prime Minister, Kim Jong-Pil, gave a lecture at Kyushu University expressing his determination to forge a new relationship between Korea and Japan, and emphasizing the importance of young people in this process. He impressed the audience of over 1500 students and faculty members, and was awarded the degree of Doctor Emeritus from Kyushu University.

The success of Prime Minister Kim's visit to Kyushu University contributed enormously to the conclusion of an agreement with the Korea Foundation on July 1st 1999. The agreement established a range of research projects promoting Korean studies at Kyushu University, and involves grants of approximately \$1,000,000 over five years.

To further promote Korean Studies at Kyushu University and cultural exchange between Korea and Japan, the Research Center for Korean Studies was established and on the 19th of January 2000, the opening ceremony took place. About 120 people attended the ceremony including the Fukuoka City Mayor, the Vice-Governor of the Fukuoka Prefecture, a selection of Kyushu University's faculty members, Korean students, and Japanese students who received scholarship from the Korea Foundation and visited Korea to participate in Intensive Korean language courses. To open the Center, a ribbon-cutting was held by six representatives:

Vice-President Jae-Kyu Kim of the Korea Foundation;

the Korean Consulate General in Fukuoka, Mr. Hyun-Seop So;
President Hochin Choi of the Alumni Association of Kyushu University in Korea;
Mr. Mikihiko Kato of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture;
President Yoichi Sugioka of Kyushu University; and Director Shoji Ishikawa of the Research Center for Korean Studies.

The Research Center is a two-story building with a total floor space of 217 square meters. The first floor is a communal place equipped with various Korean magazines and the second floor is available as offices for visiting researchers from Korea, as well as for hosting conferences and seminars.



The Center is partly painted red and blue, the color of Korean national flag.

Transfer to the New Campus

Kyushu University is to relocate two of its four major campuses and the university farm to the western outskirts of Fukuoka City. Plans are now well underway.

Applications from construction consultants both at home and abroad were invited under the provisions of the WTO agreement, and applications were received from twenty-six groups or individuals. These were narrowed down to a short list of five contenders who were each given six themes to develop in their plans for the new campus. The winner finally selected on the strength of their answers is a team consisting of three companies, Mitsubishi Estate, Architectural & Engineering Office, Cesar Pelli and Associates Inc, and Mishima Architects Inc.

This team is now preparing a master plan for the new campus in cooperation with Kyushu University to be finalized during the course of this academic year.



an imaginary sketch

A Symbolic Corner of Hakozaki Campus

The Fukuoka City government gives the "Fukuoka Urban Beautification Award" to works of architecture that contribute to the cityscape. This year, the building of the Administration



Bureau of Kyudai received the 13th Award.

The building (photo) is a two-story brick house completed in 1925. It was built using stones and bricks from the main building of the College of Engineering, which had been built in 1914 and burnt down in 1924. At present, the Finance Department is situated on the first floor, and the office of the President and the General Affairs Department are situated on the second floor. The distinguished guest room which has the portraits of successive presidents on the wall is used for signing ceremonies, receiving the President's guests and so on.

The Administration Bureau, and the College of Engineering built in 1930 are together regarded as a symbol of Kyudai and loved by the graduates and citizens of Fukuoka.

photo

(left) Red bricks beautify the Administration Bureau.

(top) Director-General Watanabe receives the award from the Mayor of Fukuoka Yamasaki.



Coffee Break



You can find a cafeteria in front of the International Student Center on Hakozaki Campus. This is run by about forty students including international students in the Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies for recreation and relaxation of everyone on the campus. It will soon be refurbished and made available as a community place for interaction between Japanese and international students.

Christmas Concert at University Hospital

On the 1st of December 1999, a Christmas tree was lit up in the lobby of the University Hospital, and shone everyday until the 25th of December, delighting patients and their families.

A Christmas concert was held in the lobby on the 20th of December and everyone enjoyed listening to the music. There were staff dressed up as Santa Claus and reindeers, too, contributed to the festive atmosphere.



Great Summer in Fukuoka!

Dr. Holger Butenschön

Professor of Organic Chemistry
University of Hannover, Germany

Today is my last day here at Kyushu University. Tomorrow I will leave Japan and soon return to my home university in Hannover, Germany. This is the end of a bit more than three months which I spent as a foreign visiting professor at the Institute of Advanced Material Study in the research group of Professor Shuntaro Mataka, and these three months were really a great time for me.

Japan was not completely new for my wife and for me. In fact, my wife and I met for the first time in Japan, when as early as 1972 and for really lucky circumstances, we participated in the German-Japanese youth exchange program. At that time we travelled through Japan in a group of 20 young people for four weeks, visiting schools and companies, looking into universities and living in Japanese families for some days, and this unique trip of our youth had some consequences: We married, and today we have four daughters. You will understand, that Japan has a huge emotional meaning to my family and me!

When I arrived at Fukuoka in June I immediately experienced the warm hospitality of many people I was supposed to work with in the months to come. In particular, Professor Dr. Shuntaro Mataka and Associate Professor Dr. Thies Thiemann were of invaluable help in organizing everything which was needed at the beginning, starting from buying household goods to getting settled in the nice guest house at Maidashi campus and to explain how to get from there to Kasuga campus by train not being able to read Japanese timetables of JR (Japan Railways).

In my room at the Institute of Advanced Material Study I found very good working conditions. Far away from Hannover I was not interrupted by the usual administrative duties or phone calls, but concentrated on certain projects. One of these was to finish writing a rather big review article on some organometallic chemistry. I gave an introductory course on organometallic chemistry and was very much pleased about the interest this enjoyed among the graduate students of the institute. I had the opportunity to visit a number of Japanese universities giving lectures about our chemistry and learning a lot about the recent developments of organometallic chemistry in Japan, which clearly belongs to a small group of leading countries in this field. Here in Fukuoka I enjoyed fruitful discussions with many people. There are many common interests in the field I work in, which is organometallic chemistry, specifically the area of chromium complexes and the organic chemistry taking place at their ligands.

Of course, these visits were interesting and most enjoyable not only to discuss science, but also, because Japan has a spectacular countryside with many scenic spots. I particularly

like the contrast between mountains and the sea, and Japan has a lot of this! In addition to this, and a point of special importance to me, Japan has a very interesting, tasty and unique cuisine. Food like sushi, sashimi, tempura and much, much more can be found only in Japan. And it is not only the taste and the kind of food which attracts, it is also the way by which it is arranged: First, one enjoys with the eye, then with the tongue.

During the German summer school holidays my family came here from Germany, and immediately after they arrived here, they also enjoyed Japanese hospitality. As usual, at the end of July a number of chemistry research groups from Kyushu and southern Honshu met Mt. Kuju in Oita prefecture for some days to have a joint seminar. We also were there, and my family was very happy to have been included in all the side activities which, in addition to scientific discussions, made the seminar a success. In addition to this, we did some traveling in the southern part of Japan, which was really interesting. You must know that there are no active volcanoes like Mt. Aso or Mt. Unzen in central Europe. Especially my daughters (5 to 12 years old) enjoyed wild monkeys in Beppu! And all of us became friends of the hot Japanese bath, which I regard as the optimum way to completely relax. These are just a few examples for many wonderful things we saw and enjoyed here.

All this would not have been possible without much help and support, which I received from Kyushu University in general and Professor Mataka and his research group in particular. I would therefore like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of these three great months in Fukuoka. It was a pleasure for me to participate a little bit in the by now

10 years old cooperation agreement between Kyushu University and the University of Hannover, and I would be most pleased to welcome professors or students from Kyushu in Hannover, either as short term visitors or within larger projects. Why not go for a doctor's degree in Hannover?



Dr. Butenschön (far right) with his family and friends



In 1879, the college moved into the Welfenschloß, the former royal palace.

A Short Trip to the Former Kyushu University Forests in Sakhalin

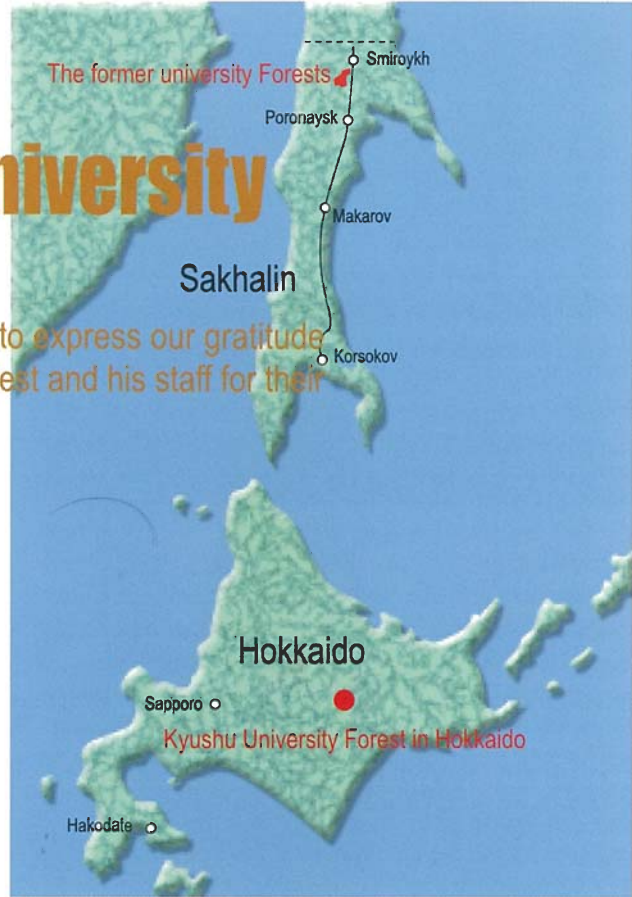
First and foremost, the authors wish to express our gratitude to the director of the Sakhalin District Forest and his staff for their kindness and hospitality during our visit.

History of the University Forests

In the nineteenth century, income derived from forests was an important source of capital for the nation's modernization efforts. Some of the groups that benefitted from forest-derived income included the then Imperial universities and the nobility. The Imperial household, for example, held approximately 1.4 million hectares (14,000 km²) of forest land.

Prior to the start of World War II, the national universities held a total of approximately 420,000 hectares [4,200km²] of forest land. Most of the forests were not located in Japan, however, but rather in the then Japanese colonies such as Sakhalin, Korean and Taiwan. Kyushu University possessed about 110,000 hectares in Japan itself and another 310,000 hectares in the colonies. In total, Kyushu University's amount of forest holdings equalled nearly one-tenth of that of national universities in Japan.

With the start of the twentieth century, however, the role of the university forests changed from mere income production to being a major source of income for education and the development of the forestry and wood industries. With the end of the war in 1945, ownership of overseas forests reverted to the governments of the respective countries in which they were located. Since the 1970's, the profitability of domestic forests has declined dramatically due to competition from imported timber. The result was that the forests were no longer a major source of income to the universities and the popularity of forestry studies declined correspondingly. Recently, however, the role of the remaining university forests has grown to that of facilitating the study of environmental issues, bio-diversity, and the multi-purpose use of forests.



The Former Kyushu University Forests in Sakhalin

Kyushu University established its forests consisting of approximately 20,000 hectares in Sakhalin in 1912. Records indicate the forest was dense. At that time, the forest administrators settled on a policy that would permit the cutting of trees older than 150 years, and the forest was very profitable and contributed heavily to the development of the medical and the engineering departments of Kyushu University.

Upon arrival at the former University Forests in Sakhalin, we became the first University officials to see forests for more than fifty years. We were surprised that the forests no longer existed as they had been described in the records.

The old administration office had been washed away during a



flood and could not be found. In addition, almost 1,500 hectares in the center forest had been transformed into a farm (PHOTO - 1). Sometime after the economic reforms enacted by former Soviet President Gorbachev, the farm had gone bankrupt and now there was not only no livestock but also farmers. The trees that now grew in that area were different and small.

Appreciation for the director of the Sakhalin District Forest

The Russian economy is presently in very bad shape, especially in Sakhalin. Many factories have closed down and many ethnic Russians have subsequently returned to Europe or even the Asian portion of Russia in search of stability and employment. Many buildings were in bad repair and had broken windows. The infrastructure, including transportation facilities, electricity and water equipment were also in poor condition.

Despite the difficulty of securing an automobile, the Director of the Sakhalin District Forest arranged for us to

tour the forest by car. The Director also had a penchant for toasting the economic development of our two countries with vodka, which, while appreciated and generous, became one of the most interesting memories of our trip.

Building a New Bridge

It is said that the extraordinary weather on the sea of Okhotsk, which borders Sakhalin, is like the earth's natural refrigerator. This weather is one of the things that makes the study of Russian forest managerial techniques on Sakhalin unique and useful. Those issues of importance there, 2,000 kilometers away, also have meaning for issues of importance nearer to Kyushu. At present, we will continue to work toward bridging the gap between and our two nations with art and science.

PHOTO - 2

PHOTO - 3

PHOTO - 4

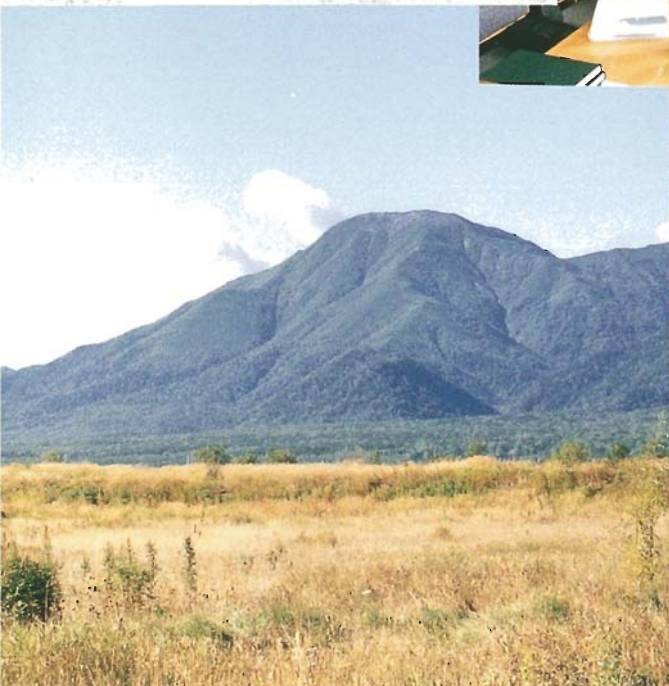


PHOTO - 2

Workshop at the former Kyushu University Forests in Sakhalin.

PHOTO - 3

Hakata Doll - a gift for the Director of the Sakhalin District Forest.

PHOTO - 4

Japan - Russia joint investigation into the former Kyushu University Forests.

PHOTO - 1 The forests no longer exist



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Kyushu University is affectionately called "Kyudai". Kyu is from Kyushu, Dai is from Daigaku, the Japanese word for University.