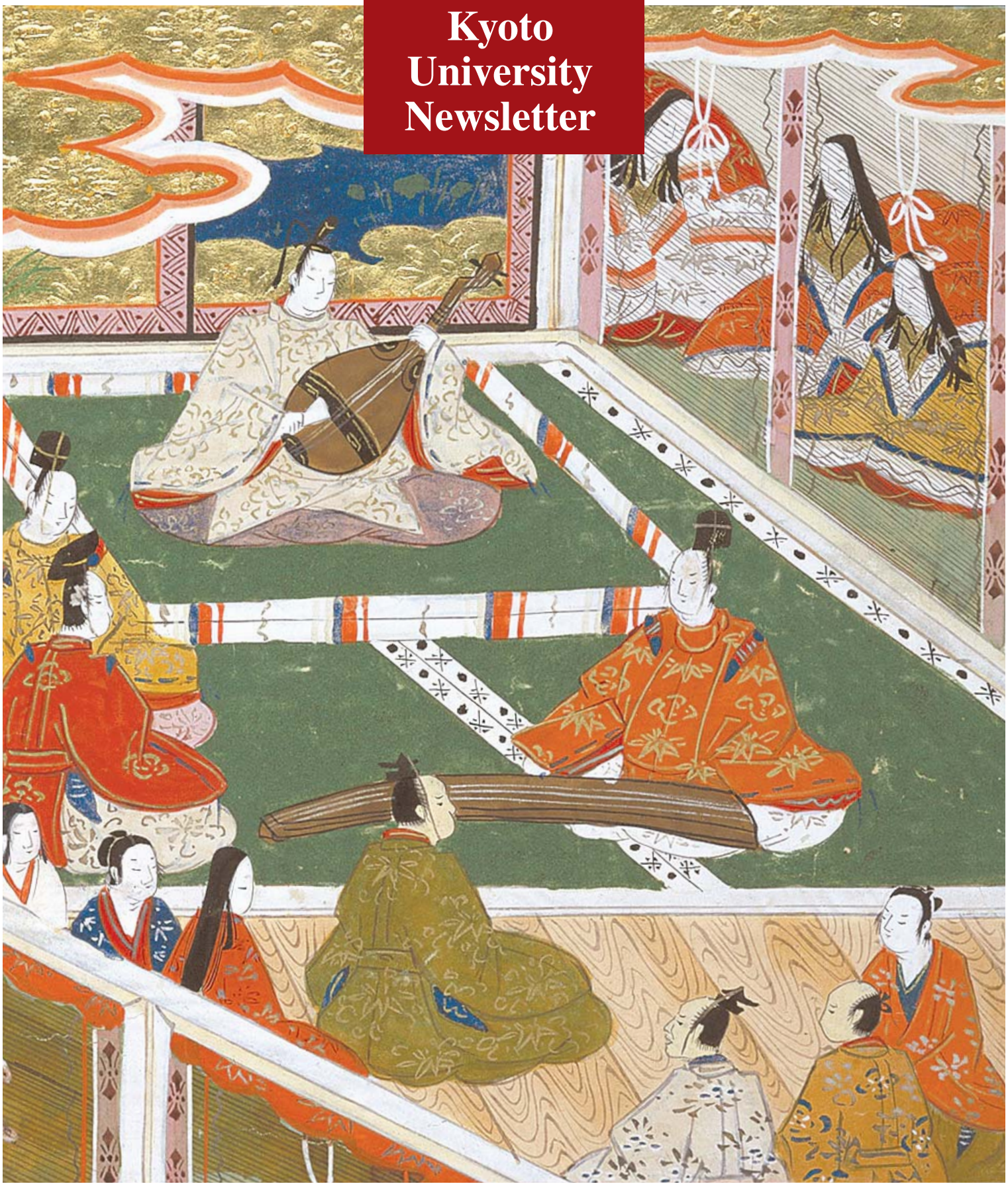
Greetings from Kyoto-U

楽友 Raku-Yu

Kyoto University Newsletter

SPRING 2012
Issue **21**



CONTENTS

Editor in Chief
Kengo AKIZUKI

Associate Editor
Naoko SAITO

Senior Editors
Martin CIESKO
Takumi FURUTA
Masaru KOBAYASHI
Satoshi MATSUSHITA
Kazuya NAKAMURA
Ayako NISHIBORI
Hiroshi OKUYAMA
Timothy William STEWART

Editorial Collaborator
KOSOSHA CO.,LTD.

Printed by
KOSAIDO CO.,LTD.

A Note on Order of Names
As a general rule, names appearing in *Raku-Yu* are written in given name/family name order.

楽
Raku-Yu means to respect, treasure, and enjoy one's friendship.
友

This name was taken from the assembly hall called "*Raku-Yu Kaikan*" that commemorated the 25th anniversary of the founding of Kyoto University.

Editor's Notes

Raku-Yu is an English booklet designed to introduce international activities at Kyoto University. There are many international activities taking place at Kyoto University, and they contribute to facilitating cross-cultural and interdisciplinary dialogue with top rank universities around the world. International conferences are often formal occasions, but what is most important and productive in mutual exchange is often the rediscovery of oneself and one's own culture through dialogue with people from different backgrounds, especially in the field of humanities. One possible way to realize such exchange is through the construction of official international conferences as places for education. Courses can be designed, for example, in such a way as to make a bridge between the occasion of teaching and the international conference. Young people can be trained to express their ideas in a foreign language and encouraged to risk their voices in the course of the difficult experience of translation. Most importantly they may rediscover their desire to speak out in acknowledgement of the fact that it is their own voice that matters. Involving young students and researchers will be a key to developing a sound platform for collaboration in the future. It will also be a way to enrich and substantiate the formal agreement that has been established between Kyoto University and universities around the world, with effects in terms of academic collaboration and productivity.

Cover Photo: A scene from *Shioyaki Bunsho* in the *Otogi Bunko*

From the Muromachi to the Edo period (ca. 14th ~ 17th century), short stories with illustrations became popular among common folk in Japan. It is believed that there were more than 300 such stories circulating during that period. Of those, 23 were compiled in a book titled *Otogi Bunko*, which was published by Seiemon Shibukawa (a resident of Osaka) during the 18th century. Hence the stories are called the *Otogi Zoshi*. Most of the stories contained in the *Otogi Zoshi* originated in ancient bedtime stories, some of which are well known even today. Though the stories themselves are interesting, adding greatly to that interest is the fact that the allegories reveal social conditions at the time the stories were created.

Shioyaki Bunsho (Story of the Salt Maker), the first story in the *Otogi Bunko*, is a story of social climbing. The hero of the tale, born into a low-class family, makes a great fortune in the salt business. His daughter's marriage to an influential court noble leads to his own appointment as a high-ranking official. Because of this happy ending, many wealthy families prepared colorful and gorgeous books or painting scrolls of this story as part of a marital package for their daughters. The scene on the cover of this issue depicts the court noble who later marries the hero's daughter. The noble, disguising himself as a vendor of fancy goods, is playing a musical instrument to attract the attention of the daughter.

Junichi MORI Professor Junichi Mori, Director-General of the Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR), was born in 1951. While he was in senior high school, he began to embrace an ambition to develop his career on the global stage. As a step toward realizing that vision, he joined the Bank of Tokyo (now the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ) in 1973 upon graduation from the Faculty of Economics, Hitotsubashi University. Three years later, he was given an opportunity to study at the University of Münster, Germany. From then on, he stayed overseas for more than 10 years, developing his career at various overseas branches of the bank. In 2000, he became the director of the Institute for International Monetary Affairs, established by the bank. While engaged in studies of Asian monetary systems, he supported the formation of the monetary market and the building of appropriate systems in Vietnam. In recognition of his achievements in many overseas countries, in 2004, Kyoto University invited him as a professor at its International Center. Assuming the office of Director in 2007, and the titles of the Vice-President of Kyoto University and the Director-General of the OPIR in 2009, Professor Mori has been exerting his leadership in the University's internationalization. While working toward receiving many international students at the University, Professor Mori is also eager to internationalize Japanese students. He is enthusiastic about increasing the number of classes given in English. "Language skills will be an essential tool for developing lifelong careers," he believes. "By fostering students' language skills, I want to lay the foundations for their future development." With this belief, he is devoted to nurturing future leaders of the world.

Globalization and Kyoto University's International Education

When I was about 10 years old, during the early 1960s, my father made his first round-the-world trip. It was very rare at that time for a Japanese businessman to make such a trip, and I still clearly remember that he came home with a souvenir from Alaska. Today it seems that the world has become so small – in a way that was unimaginable 50 years ago.

The globalization process demands great changes in every country's social system. One indication of Japan's increasing awareness of globalization is the frequent appearance in the media of the recently coined Japanese term *gurobaru jinzai*, meaning "global human resources" (GHRs).

A major reason for the growing awareness of the importance of GHRs is Japanese industry's increasing shift in focus toward international markets. Japanese corporations are putting a great deal of effort into recruiting talented international employees. On the other hand, the number of Japanese students studying abroad has been declining since 2002. There are concretely identifiable reasons for this trend: the aging society and the decreasing number of young people, as well as a general lack of confidence regarding foreign language skills.

The Japanese government has adopted policies to cope with these changes. It launched the Project for Establishing Core Universities for Internationalization (Global 30, G30) in 2009, to significantly increase the number of international students at Japanese universities. Kyoto University's initiative under the G30 Project is called Kyoto University Programs for Future International Leaders (K.U.PROFILE). K.U.PROFILE comprises 12 new degree courses for international students that are taught and administrated entirely in English.

Last year, the government added one factor to the G30 Project: it is encouraging universities to work more closely with the industrial sector to educate GHRs, including Japanese students. Kyoto University has long sought to educate GHRs, and we are working closely with our international partner universities to develop new programs in this regard. We are currently increasing our number of exchange students, and are establishing more short-term courses for language and intercultural skills.

Kyoto University also has another major project starting this year: the Graduate School for World Leaders. This will be a new style of innovative residential graduate school, which will operate a 5-year doctoral course with the aim of cultivating the next generation of global leaders. We expect this latest initiative to reaffirm Kyoto University's position as one of East Asia's most recognized producers of talented GHRs.

Junichi MORI
Vice-President for International Relations
Director-General,
Organization for the Promotion of International Relations, Kyoto University

On the 10th Anniversary of Student Lounge 'KI-ZU-NA'

Student Lounge 'KI-ZU-NA' is housed in a small brick building, located behind the International Center. Since the building cannot be seen from the front yard where the Clock Tower stands, many international students, not to mention Japanese students, are unlikely to locate the facility easily when they first visit the campus. Shortly after their enrollment, however, many international students learn of its location, a fact attested to by its popularity among such students. Adjacent to KI-ZU-NA, there is a small square faced by the International Center and the International Seminar House (j-Pod). In this small space, which is ideal for holding outdoor gatherings, one can find a great gingko and a chinaberry tree. In the early winter, their golden fallen leaves form a soft and brilliant carpet. Although this area is not well known, it is indeed one of the few great spots of the university.

This coming spring will mark the 10th anniversary of KI-ZU-NA, which opened in the spring of 2002 with the aim of promoting friendly exchanges between international and Japanese students. When KI-ZU-NA opened, there were less than 1,200 international students at Kyoto University. Since then, their numbers have continued to increase; as of October 2011, the university hosted about 1,800 international students. Along with the increase in numbers, the students' home countries and objectives for studying in Japan have grown increasingly diversified. Underlying the increase in international students is the growing number of student exchange agreements with various universities worldwide. As a result, short-term student exchange programs have now become a matter of common practice. In this environment, the role of the International Center has changed from simply providing international students with support in their research and academic activities to offering various services to meet their diverse needs in their daily lives. Since this is coincident with the initial purpose of the establishment of the Student Lounge KI-ZU-NA, the facility has been playing a leading role in the Center's programs to support international students.

I would now like to introduce some services available at KI-ZU-NA.

In the Reading Room, the largest room in the building, Japanese language textbooks and books about Japan and Japanese culture are available. In addition to textbooks and the latest workbooks for Japanese language classes used by the International Center, the Reading Room has other study materials and DVDs, all of which students can borrow. The Reading Room is constantly filled with students, some using it as a place for their studies, while others use it as a library.

Moreover, KI-ZU-NA offers opportunities for international students to foster friendships with Japanese students. Among the wide variety of events held there, I would first like to introduce the events planned and organized by the staff of KI-ZU-NA. Since its opening in 2002, staff of the Foreign Student Division (FSD) responsible for the operation of KI-ZU-NA, together with student tutors, have been organizing various types of events, seeking instruction from faculty members. The number and variety of such events has been increasing year by year. At present, events are held monthly, with their program constantly changing: they include flower arrangement classes, Japanese dishes cooking classes, practice of *kyogen* (Japanese traditional comedy), and calligraphy classes. In addition to introducing traditional

Japanese culture, tours to sightseeing spots in Kyoto are held, which are very popular among international students. At the end of the year, a Japanese rice cake making party is held in the square adjacent to KI-ZU-NA. At this party, staff and participants make a fire, steam rice, and make rice cakes by hands.

In addition to the events basically organized by the staff of KI-ZU-NA, some students and their circles voluntarily plan and create many new events. They include iAT (international Afternoon Tea), a tea party held every Thursday evening and the KIXS (Kyoto university International eXchange Society) welcome party for incoming students. Many students also participate in these gatherings. Through lively communication held at these events, international and Japanese students are able to foster mutual understanding and good friendships.

As part of the Project for Establishing University Network for Internationalization (Global 30), launched in 2009, Kyoto University intends to increase both the number of international students studying at the university and that of Japanese students enrolling at overseas universities. In 2011, the number of Japanese students planning to study abroad increased from the previous year. Their number, however, is much smaller than the number of international students enrolled at Kyoto University. Through friendly exchanges between Japanese and international students, KI-ZU-NA offers excellent opportunities to learn diverse cultures firsthand. I truly hope that the activities of KI-ZU-NA will inspire more and more Japanese students to study abroad.

In addition to students, local residents voluntarily visit KI-ZU-NA to participate in study meetings and cultural exchange programs with international students.

KI-ZU-NA plays yet another important role in support of international students. Given the recent sharp increase in the number of international students, it is urgent to reinforce the advising system for international students covering a wide variety of issues, ranging from challenges involved in research activities to daily-life problems. University staff members engaged in such services recognize that students' concerns have been diversified and become increasingly complex. Even though the number of students desiring to access advising services is rapidly increasing, there are not many places where they can seek advice in order to resolve the various problems they face. KI-ZU-NA adopts a peer-support system to identify students' problems—whether they concern research activities, daily life, or other matters—at the earliest possible occasion, and to find solutions. Since advisers are stationed there every day, international students may consult with them at any time. The advisers maintain contact with faculty members at the International Center, and if necessary, access the campus-wide network to support international students.

Over the past 10 years, KI-ZU-NA has developed a wide variety of activities. Today KI-ZU-NA plays an essential role in supporting international students with academic activities, promoting friendships, and offering advising services. The facility has become a key player in the International Center's support system for international students.

On its 10th anniversary, I sincerely hope that KI-ZU-NA will further build its activities to foster friendships among students, laying down its roots firmly like the two giant trees in the small square adjacent to KI-ZU-NA. In the coming spring, the two great trees—the gingko and the chinaberry—will surely welcome new students from around the world under the shade of their fresh green foliage.

Director, International Center, Kyoto University
Mariko MORI

A Symposium Jointly Held with Kyokyo-Kai (Kyoto University Alumni Association in Beijing, China) on the Theme: Lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake—Building a Japan-China Disaster Cooperation Network

As introduced in Autumn 2011 Issue of the *Raku-Yu* (Features), after the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, Kyoto University held a series of 19 symposia under the theme "Contemplating a Post-Disaster Society—Toward Building a Safe and Secure Nation". Moreover, the University is offering disaster-related data and information, based on the latest findings and discoveries of the University.

Kyoto University's alumni associations, whose number is rapidly increasing worldwide, are also eager to disseminate related information supplied by the University. Among such alumni associations is Kyokyo-Kai (Beijing, China; chaired by Mr. Yutaka Matsuno, Residential Director of Nomura Research Institute-Tsinghua University China Research Center; graduated from the Faculty of Engineering in 1979), comprising alumni living in the suburbs of Beijing as well as Chinese students who previously studied at Kyoto University. On October 19, 2011, Kyokyo-Kai and Kyoto University jointly organized a symposium at Renmin University of China in Beijing under the theme "Lessons of the Great East Japan Earthquake—Building a Japan-China Disaster Cooperation Network".

The idea of holding the symposium was set forth by members of Kyokyo-Kai when Executive Vice-President Yuzo Ohnishi visited the alumni association at the end of March 2011. While Kyokyo-Kai took the initiative in preparing for the event, it was sponsored by the Beijing Office of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Japanese Embassy in China, and the Association of Chinese Alumni in Japan (ACAJ). The Japan Foundation also supported the event, which gathered about 80 people.

From Kyoto University, Executive Vice-President Yuzo Ohnishi, Professor Eiichi Taniguchi from the Graduate School of Engineering, and Professor Hirokazu Tatano from the Disaster Prevention Research Institute delivered lectures on initiatives taken in Japan towards post-disaster reconstruction. Representing the Chinese academia, Associate Professor Zhou Yangping from Tsinghua University (who completed the doctoral program at the Graduate School of Energy Science in 2005) and Mr. Jin Zhiyan, a reporter of China Central Television (CCTV) (who completed the master program at the Graduate School of Economics in 2009), discussed Chinese people's responses to the Great East Japan Earthquake. Moreover, specialists from Renmin University of China and the Chinese Academy of Governance commented on the disaster. In the Q&A session held after the lectures, audience members exhibited their keen interest in the subject of the symposium, which contributed to its great success.

At the party held after the symposium, Executive Vice-President Ohnishi offered greetings to the participants. Following the Executive Vice-President, Mr. Akira Kanzawa (who graduated from the Faculty of Engineering in 1972) and Mr. Li Deheng (who completed the doctoral program at the Graduate School of Energy Science in 1999) delivered speeches on behalf of the Japanese and Chinese alumni, respectively. Amid the cordial atmosphere, party participants were able to enjoy pleasant reunions, rekindling old friendships.

At the symposium


A party was held following the symposium

The 10th Anniversary of the Equatorial Atmosphere Radar of the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (September 22 – 23, 2011)

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the completion of the Equatorial Atmosphere Radar (EAR) facility, the Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH) held a ceremony, commemorative party and international symposium in Jakarta, Indonesia in September 2011.

The EAR facility, highlighted by a large atmosphere radar, was completed at the end of fiscal 2000 on the equator in West Sumatra, Republic of Indonesia. EAR has almost the same functionality as a Middle and Upper Atmosphere (MU) radar except that EAR's output power accounts for one tenth of that of an MU radar. Since 2005, EAR has been used in various collaboration programs in and outside Japan.

At the ceremony to celebrate the 10th anniversary, Professor Toshitaka Tsuda, the Director of RISH, delivered an opening address. Following his speech, Dr. Bambang Tejasukmana, Chairman of the Indonesian National Institute for Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), and Executive Vice-President Kohei Shiota of Kyoto University delivered greetings, in which they expressed their deep gratitude to both Japan and Indonesia for their support that enabled continuous observation with EAR throughout the past 10 years. The speakers also expressed their expectations for the future development of related programs. Their addresses were followed by congratulatory speeches by distinguished guests: Mr. Suharna Surapranata, the Indonesian Minister of Research and Technology (RISTEK), Mr. Yoshinori Katori, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Indonesia (his message was read by Minister Junji Shimada), and Mr. Kazuhiro Sawakawa, Manager of the Scientific Research Institutes Division, Research Promotion Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan. In their speeches, they expressed expectation for the planned project to expand the EAR facility. On behalf of the Agam District, where the EAR is located, Ir. Eldi Zen also delivered a congratulatory speech, which was followed by the presentation of a certificate of appreciation and gift to him from Professor Tsuda and Dr. Tejasukmana. After the introduction of research outcomes by Professor Mamoru Yamamoto at RISH, dances of the Minangkabau region, home to EAR, were performed, right before the closing of the ceremony. About 200 people participated in the ceremony, including Dr. Marzan Aziz Iskandar, the Director of the Indonesian Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT), and Ms. Sriworo B. Harijono, the Director of the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics (BMKG). Their presence indicated the magnitude of expectation for EAR in Indonesia.

At the party held after the ceremony, Mr. Mahdi Kartasasmita, the former Director of the National Institute for Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), Professor Iain Reid from the University of Adelaide, and Professor Emeritus Shoichiro Fukao from Kyoto University offered their congratulations on EAR's 10th anniversary, recalling various incidents related to EAR over the past 10 years. The party was highlighted by an extremely cordial atmosphere.

The subsequent two-day international symposium featured 16 oral presentations and 34 poster presentations. In these presentations, in addition to reviews of previous research outcomes, researchers revealed the latest outcomes of their projects and discussed future research plans. Among the presenters were many Indonesian researchers. This fact indicates that RISH's efforts to foster young Southeast Asian researchers have been rewarded.

Group photo taken at the tour of the EAR facility (Manager Sawakawa from the MEXT; back row, sixth from left; and Executive-Vice President Shiota, back row, fourth from left)

Search for New Functional Transition Metal Oxide Materials

Development of New Functional Oxide Materials

At our laboratory, we are working to develop innovative functional materials using oxide materials containing manganese (Mn), iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), nickel (Ni), copper (Cu) and other transition metal elements. Since transition metal oxides change their color and properties widely depending on their transition-metal ion valence and crystal structure, as well as their coordination with oxygen, they are widely used as pigments, cosmetics, and gemstones. Their electrical and magnetic properties are also controlled for use as consumer electronics parts. Finding their undiscovered ionic state and oxygen coordination structure may help us clarify their new functional properties. How can we obtain their ionic state and oxygen coordination structure different from those we usually observe?

Search for Functional Oxide Materials by High-Pressure Synthesis

High-pressure synthesis is one of several promising methods for synthesizing new materials. Different from other conventional synthesis methods, high-pressure synthesis can produce a particular crystal structure and stabilize the ionic state. Recently we successfully employed high-pressure synthesis to produce an A-site-ordered perovskite-structure oxide ($LaCu_3Fe_4O_{12}$) containing iron and copper. To synthesize the new material, we pressurized the raw materials to approximately 10 GPa (approx. $1x10^5$ atm) at 1200°C. The crystal structure of the new material is shown in Figure 1. As the figure shows, a copper ion (Cu^{3+}) exhibited a particular state where the oxygen ion was in a square-planar coordination. When heated to approximately 120°C, the new material showed a new phenomenon called "temperature-induced intersite charge transfer," in which electric charge transferred from copper ions to iron ions. As a result, the iron ion state changed from Fe^{3+} to an unusually high valence state of $Fe^{3.75+}$. Further, it was noteworthy that the volume decreased by approximately 1% during the above transition. In other words, the new material had a "negative thermal expansion."

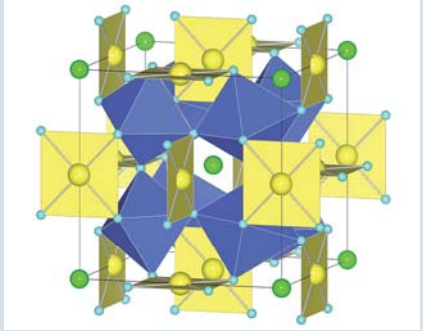


Figure 1 Crystal structure of new A-site-ordered perovskite-structure oxide ($LaCu_3Fe_4O_{12}$)

At present, many electronic devices consume vast amounts of electric power and produce heat, causing their components to expand thermally and adversely affect device performance. Using composite material made of materials having positive and negative thermal expansion coefficients is expected to achieve low thermal expansion or ideally substantially zero thermal expansion, thus avoiding the above unfavorable problem. The newly synthesized material remarkably changed its electrical and magnetic properties when heated to the negative thermal expansion temperature, as shown in Figure 2. Because the negative thermal expansion characteristics of the new material can be controlled by applying a controlled electric current or magnetic field, this suggests that the new material will develop new application fields different from those of conventional materials.

Search for Functional Oxide Materials by Artificial Superlattice Thin Film Growth

The reason that high-pressure synthesis can produce unusually high-valent Cu^{3+} and $Fe^{3.75+}$ is that such unusual states have comparatively low energies and therefore are stable in a high-pressure environment. Is there a method of designing and producing new materials against the laws of nature? One approach to answering this question is the use of an "artificial superlattice." Pulsed laser deposition enables the production of a material by growing atom layers and thereby artificially controlling the periodic structure. In pulsed laser deposition, a target ceramic material is ablated with a high-energy pulse laser and the sublimated material is deposited on a substrate. Alternate growth of two types of target material films of a given thickness would produce an

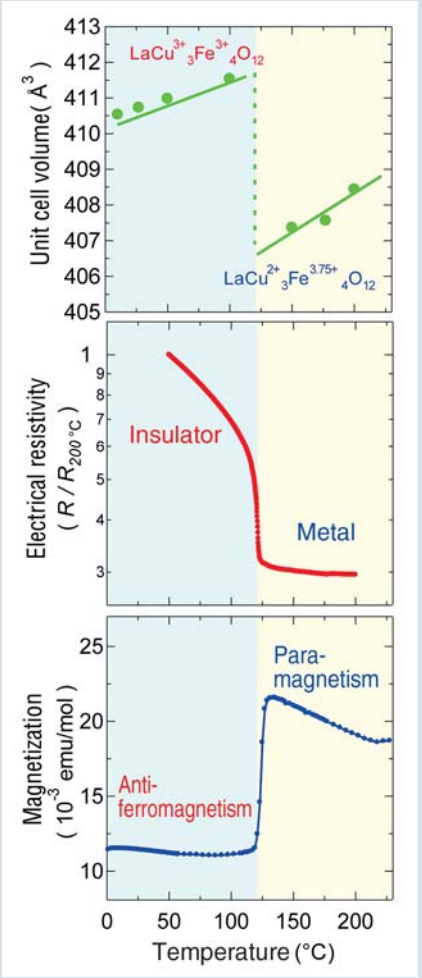


Figure 2 Negative thermal expansion and property changes of $LaCu_3Fe_4O_{12}$

innovative material completely different from natural materials.

One of the thin film materials synthesized using an artificial superlattice consists of a brownmillerite-structure calcium iron oxide ($CaFeO_{2.5}$) and perovskite-structure strontium titanate ($SrTiO_3$). The iron ion in the brownmillerite-structure was in the form of Fe^{3+}, which provided relatively stable ionic valence and coordination. In the strontium titanate, the Ti^{4+} ion also provided a stable structure. Figure 3 shows an artificial superlattice model in which four layers of brownmillerite-structure iron oxide were alternately deposited on a single layer of perovskite-structure material. Comprising several atomic layers, each layer was only a few nanometers thick.

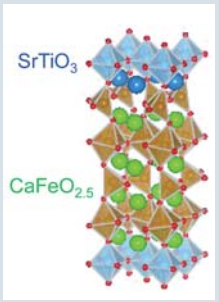


Figure 3 Artificial superlattice model

It is worthy to note that when this artificial superlattice is heat-treated together with an alkali halide reducing agent, the brownmillerite-structure iron oxide was reduced to an infinite layer iron oxide ($CaFeO_2$), while the perovskite-structure strontium titanate remained unchanged. In addition, the iron ion in the infinite layer iron oxide thin film was reduced and changed to Fe^{2+}. From an atomic-level point of view, the loss of oxygen from only the brownmillerite-structure iron oxide consisting of sandwiched artificial superlattices means that oxygen moves only within the two-dimensional layer of a few nanometer thin iron oxide film sandwiched between the strontium titanate layers (Figure 4). This suggests that the production of an artificial superlattice will make it possible to control the direction of oxygen movement.

Fuel cells are believed to be a technology essential for solving future energy problems. For solid-oxide fuel cells, in particular, 700°C or higher operating temperature interferes with widespread use of the fuel cell technology. If an artificial superlattice can be used to control the movement of oxygen ions at a reduction reaction temperature of approximately 280°C, then development of a new solid-oxide fuel cell will be possible.

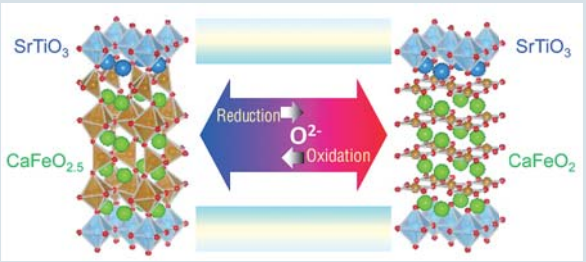


Figure 4 Oxidation/reduction reactions in artificial superlattice thin film

Yuichi SHIMAKAWA

- Born in 1962
- Field of specialization: Solid State Chemistry
- Completed master program, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University
- Ph.D., Kyoto University
- Professor, the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University
- URL http://www.scl.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~shimakgr/

"I want to create an exciting research environment that makes lab staff so enthusiastic about conducting experiments that they even forget to sleep."

Upon completing the master's program at the Graduate School of Science in 1986, Professor Shimakawa joined the Materials Research Division of Fundamental Research Laboratories, NEC Corporation. At that time, boosted by the so-called bubble economy, research activities were extremely vigorous at many laboratories of private companies in Japan. Accordingly, he expected that he would be able to conduct experiments to his heart's content. Recalling those days at Fundamental Research Laboratories, which he regards as the starting point of his research career, he said, "After I joined NEC I studied even harder than in my college days. It was so exciting to study and conduct experiments that I did not mind staying awake night after night. It was also thrilling to engage in the most cutting-edge research programs in the world." Professor Shimakawa is proud that during his days at NEC he joined a team to develop materials for *Hayabusa*, the Japanese asteroid mission.

In 2003, however, he quit NEC in order to join the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University, as a professor. By that time Professor Shimakawa had begun to be involved in various management tasks, which in turn deprived him of time to conduct experiments. "I had thought that at the university I would be released from management tasks," he said. "Subsequently, however, I found that that was not the case," he added with a smile. "Even so," he continued, "I can select my own research themes, and what is more, at universities, we don't have to be afraid of failure when conducting experiments. I found that even a failure is valued in the academic world, since it regards a failure as a stepping stone to success." Despite this statement, during 2011 the Shimakawa Lab successfully developed a series of innovative functional materials. To a question concerning his guiding policy for students, which has no doubt led the lab's members to such outstanding achievements, Professor Shimakawa, who remained cheerful throughout the interview, said with sparkling eyes, "I repeatedly encourage students to test their ideas through experiments, and discuss them with other members. In this way, I believe that they can accumulate practical knowledge and a wealth of experience. At the same time, this approach helps nourish their creativity and inventive power."

Two Faces: Characteristics of the East Asian Cultural Sphere

Being consistent in one's attitude is generally considered to be a good thing. Having two different faces, i.e. *omote* (outer face) and *ura* (inner face) according to Japanese tradition, is therefore regarded as undesirable. However, all people have both outer and inner faces and strategically use them depending on specific situations. While the *omote*, or outer face, represents the ideal, principles, or states that things are supposed to be, the *ura*, or inner face, represents the actuality that we must accept even if it is undesirable. In this sense, our daily life comprises constant struggles between the two aspects, and efforts to seek optimal balance between them. If we hold this view, we can reasonably infer that the relationships between the two aspects differ from person to person, and from culture to culture. People in different cultural spheres take different approaches to the two aspects and adopt different ways of coordinating them. This explains why conflicts or misunderstanding tend to occur when people from different cultural spheres meet.

In this article, I would like to discuss the inner and outer faces recognized in the East Asian cultural sphere, with which I am most familiar. Encompassing China, the Korean peninsula, Japan and Vietnam, East Asia comprises one of the world's oldest cultural spheres, along with the Christian and Islamic cultural spheres. While the latter two are under the strong influence of a single religion—Christianity and Islam, respectively—the East Asian cultural sphere features diverse values and multiple layers of religions and ethics, including Confucianism; Buddhism, which was introduced from India; Taoism, a Chinese folk belief; and Shintoism, a Japanese indigenous religion. Of these, Confucianism has had a particularly great and persisting influence on people in East Asia. Confucianism emphasizes the importance of formality rather than substance. Confucius, the founder of Confucianism, was once asked: What is most essential for politics? In response, he replied that "correcting names" was the most essential. This philosophy that prioritizes "correcting names" to reforming actual situations has had a lingering influence on East Asian elites.

Even today, Confucian philosophy has a tremendous impact on East Asian people's views of nation and of the world. If you examine the region on a world map issued in Japan, you will find that the People's Republic of China covers the largest part of the region. On the Korean peninsula located to the east of China, you will notice two countries: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) in the north and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) in the south. Japan is located farther east. To the south of China lies the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. You are likely to take this for granted, and assume that maps are issued the same way all over the world. But this would not be true.

If you look at a map published in South Korea, for instance, you will find only the Republic of Korea on the Korean peninsula; the map does not mention the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at all. On the map, the capital of Korea, for all of Korea, is Seoul, with Pyongyang merely labeled as a local city. By contrast, if you look at a map issued in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, you will notice that that country's territory covers the entire Korean peninsula; the map does not show any trace of the Republic of Korea in the south. This is because both North and South Korea proclaim that they are the only legitimate nation on the Korean peninsula, and mutually deny the existence of the other. The Constitution of the Republic of Korea stipulates: "The territory of the Republic of Korea shall consist of the Korean peninsula and its adjacent islands" (Chapter 1, Article 3). On the other hand, the Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stipulates: "the Democratic People's Republic of Korea shall strive to achieve the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of Korea by strengthening the people's power and vigorously performing the three revolutions—ideological, cultural and technical—and reunify the country on the principle of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity" (Chapter 1, Article 9). In this context, the term "the northern half of Korea" implies that the southern half of Korea also belongs to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Over the past decades, new administrative areas were formed and new place names were invented in both North and South Korea, but their maps ignore these new names if their locations lie in the other half of the peninsula. Although maps are supposed to indicate the names of all existing countries and major places accurately, the maps issued in North and South Korea do not meet this requirement and are therefore meaningless.

You may probably assume that this is an exceptional case since South and North Korea are strongly opposed to each other. However, this is not an exceptional case. After the end of World War II, divided countries were born in three regions in East Asia: the Korean peninsula, Vietnam, and

China. Before reunifying in 1976, Vietnam was divided into North and South Vietnam. Until 1976, the maps and constitutions of these two countries resembled their counterparts in North and South Korea. China presents still another case. In line with the One China policy, the Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates that Taiwan is a territory of the People's Republic of China. On the other hand, the Constitution of Taiwan (the Republic of China) maintains the provision that the Republic of China shall be the only legitimate state that rules all of China, even though in 1987 the government of Taiwan virtually abandoned the policy to counterattack Beijing. The divided-state situation in Japan dates back to the Period of the Northern and Southern Dynasties (1336–92). Even though the Northern Dynasty won the conflict, many Japanese people had long embraced the belief that the Southern Dynasty should be legitimate. This belief functioned as a driving force for the Meiji Restoration.

In this way, East Asian countries have common characteristics: they tend to strongly proclaim the legitimacy of their respective governments and stipulate in their constitutions that their territories cover the entire area including parts that they do not rule in actuality. This is evident if you compare another case of a divided country born after the end of World War II: West and East Germany. The tendency to place priority on the principle (what should be), rather than the actuality (what really is), characterizes the East Asian region. Such great discrepancy between the "outer face" and the "inner face" also has a significant influence on current international affairs in the East Asian region.

Moonkyong KIM

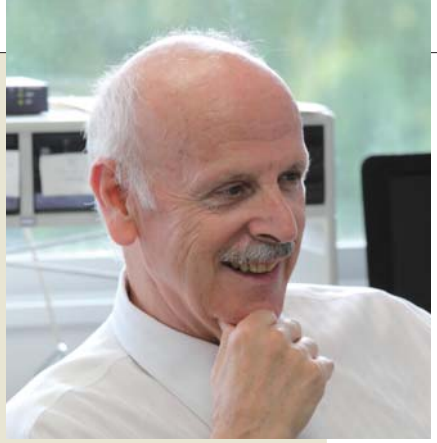
- Born in 1952
- Field of specialization: Chinese Literature
- Completed doctoral program, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University
- Received a master's degree in letters from Kyoto University
- Professor, the Institute for Research in Humanities

"The Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, owns an unparalleled collection of historical materials in Oriental studies. The size of its collection overwhelms any other in Japan and the world. Using these materials, researchers can conduct comprehensive studies in humanities. For this issue, the editor of *Raku-Yu* had the pleasure of interviewing Professor Moonkyong Kim, who works at the Institute."

"As a schoolchild, I was average, not outstanding at all," Professor Kim said in explaining about his childhood. Since he loved reading, he read books in a wide variety of genres. Gradually, however, he began to read Chinese literature intensively. Having been born in Japan to a family of South Korean origin, he probably developed special interest in Chinese literature, which represents East Asian culture, highlighted by the use of Chinese characters. Upon graduating from the Department of Chinese Literature (Faculty of Letters) at Keio University, he entered graduate school at Kyoto University, partly because Keio University did not have any graduate school with Chinese literature courses. He was also inspired to study in Kyoto when he attended a lecture by Professor Kojiro Yoshikawa of Kyoto University, an authority of Chinese literature. "Kyoto was also a familiar place for me since my father lived in Kyoto before World War II and I had relatives living in Kyoto," added the professor. Subsequently, he was influenced by Professor Yoshikawa's method of empirical research.

Professor Kim's major research theme concerns Chinese novels of the early modern period and the history of Chinese dramas and reciting literature. Although these three genres have been studied separately, in a unifying approach Professor Kim intends to analyze organic connections among the three and the process of their mutual influence by referring to specific literary works and social backgrounds of their creation. Professor Kim also loves Wuxia, Chinese fiction concerning adventures of martial artists, having actually translated some works of Wuxia. With a smile, he told the editor that when he was about 30 years old, he practiced kung fu a little in Taiwan. "I believe that there are two types of researchers: those who are dedicated to research of one specific theme, and those who try to study a wide variety of subjects. Definitely, I belong to the latter. Even when I am engaged in a certain program, I often begin studying something else if I feel it's interesting. Other times, I find myself collaborating with other researchers. Currently, I am part of four collaborative programs, while at the same time leading yet another collaborative program concerning Zaju (musical plays) of the Yuan dynasty (1279–1368)."

The editor believes that the Institute for Research in Humanities is an ideal place for Professor Kim since the Institute hosts many collaborative programs on a wide variety of themes, by bringing together many researchers from diverse academic fields.



Malcolm FITZ-EARLE
- Born in 1943
- Field of specialization: Genetics and Ecology
- Completed M.Sc. degree at the University of Toronto
- Ph.D., University of Toronto
- Emeritus Professor, Capilano University, Canada
- Visiting Professor, Kyoto University

"I want to help preserve Japan's beautiful natural environment, which retains even greater biodiversity than that of Canada."

Professor Malcolm Fitz-Earle first encountered Japanese culture over 40 years ago. At the time, he was a student at the University of Toronto. There he befriended a third-generation Japanese-Canadian man, who stimulated his interest in Japanese culture and language. Eventually, his friend introduced him to a Japanese-Canadian woman, whom he would later go on to marry. He first came to Japan, a country he had long wanted to visit, in 1968, to attend a meeting of the International Congress of Genetics. Since then, he has come to Japan many times.

Professor Fitz-Earle studied ecology and genetics at university and graduate school. He was particularly interested in the dynamics of the human population. Since its increase has direct impacts on environments and ecosystems, naturally, he began paying attention to environmental problems. To date, he has been involved in the establishment of a network of 20 NGOs dedicated to environmental preservation. Currently, his efforts focus on the protection of bears. He believes that large mammals serve as ways to evaluate environmental soundness. Bears are particularly useful since they inhabit many regions in the world and therefore can be used as an ideal indicator to compare environmental soundness in different regions. In both Japan and Canada, he is engaged in studies of bears and activities to protect them. He is deeply concerned about recent increases in the number of conflicts between bears and humans in Japan. This is attributable to forest destruction by humans, which deprives the bears of their habitat and forces them to approach human dwellings. Professor Fitz-Earle laments that it is not easy to find solutions to environmental problems since various complex problems, such as climate change, population dynamics, industrial activities, and political affairs, are intricately interwoven. He also pays keen attention to the potential of social media spreading rapidly all over the world, as an exciting new means to help resolve environmental problems.

Professor Fitz-Earle's deep fascination with Japan's nature has made him traverse the archipelago from Hokkaido to Iriomote Island in Okinawa. With a smile he stated that during the few months of his most recent visit to Japan, he went on field trips so often that he was unable to rest at all.

Two Great Life Influences: The Environment and Japan

In 1968, when I was a young graduate student, I was involved in a major conference on human population, entitled 'The Crisis of Numbers', held in Toronto, Canada. My interest in human population and environmental issues continues to this day, because human population expansion and density continue their exponential growth. As I write this, the world population has just passed the 7 billion mark and is predicted to approach 10 billion later this century. Such numbers are unsustainable and exceed the carrying capacity of this planet. Many of our global problems such as climate change, food insecurity, resource consumption, economic shocks and loss of biodiversity are attributable to excessive population.

Also in 1968, the International Congress of Genetics was held in Asia for the first time. Based in Tokyo, with field trips to research stations, the congress was attended by all the 'big name' geneticists of the era and was opened by Emperor Hirohito. It was a grandiose affair, with crowded symposia and workshops, and elaborate social events. It was also my first time in Japan, and I still remember the sights, sounds and smells as we stepped off the DC8 plane in Haneda. My fondness for Japan was born during that initial visit. After the congress, I had the pleasure of being shown around Kansai. I'll never forget my first visit to Kyoto, with its timeless gardens, temples, shrines and beautiful old wooden homes. Kyoto with its surrounding hills is so close to nature and continues to be my favourite place to live in Japan. Kansai in the late 1960s was a mix of the 'old Japan' as exemplified by Kyoto, and the industrial heartland of Osaka, with its polluted air and rivers. Canada, where I lived, and the United Kingdom, where I did my undergraduate degree, also had significant pollution problems at that time. Beginning in the 1970s and continuing to this day, pollution has been reduced in Japan and other industrial countries, but there is now concern about different environmental issues, such as global climate change and loss of biodiversity.

In Canada my research for many years was on the control of insect populations using genetic techniques. However as time passed my research in Canada and Japan moved towards environmental issues. I have been fortunate to return to Japan on several occasions, including three times to the Graduate School of Agriculture at Kyoto University. The view from my office is south towards Yoshida Shrine and east towards Daimonji and is very conducive to thinking about the environment. Earlier, I compared our two countries' approaches to environmental policy on conservation of wetlands and biodiversity conservation. Most recently I have been doing research on two rather different aspects of conservation: bears and social media (though sometimes they are linked!). The presence of large mammals, especially top predators such as tigers, in ecosystems is usually an indicator of environmental health. Bears are examples of such indicators in Japan and Canada; witness the polar bear that is losing much of its icy habitat because of climate change. The last decade has seen significant increases in bear – human encounters in Japan and many bears have been killed as so-called nuisances. There are various reasons for the conflicts, including the impact of climate events, such as record high summer temperatures, on the bears' natural food. With colleagues at Kyoto University I have been comparing climate and bear conflicts in different prefectures. I'm also examining the ways in which newer technologies, such as satellite tracking and geographical information systems, and new media, such as Facebook and YouTube, have contributed to environmental change. New media already have influenced social change and are poised to contribute to conservation of habitats and species, through research, education, advocacy, campaigns and fund raising. Iconic species such as bears, have already benefited from social media.

While at Kyoto University I have been privileged to work with faculty and students from Japan and many other countries and to help them with their research and their papers. My interest in editing and writing led me to develop a graduate course in scientific English writing, in which I give many examples and case studies from my interest in, and enthusiasm for, environmental issues.

Japanese Black Bear, Gifu, Japan

Photo: Rumiko Nakashita, Japan Bear Network

Hokkaido Brown Bear, Shiretoko National Park, Japan

"I want to improve my debating ability so that I may engage in business activities in the global market."

Shotaro KUGO
- Born in 1988
- Currently second-year student at the School of Government, Kyoto University

At the Inter-College Debate Contest 2010, held on September 26, 2010, by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), a team comprising Mr. Shotaro Kugo and Mr. Hidenori Tanaka, both students of the School of Government, won the final round and received the Foreign Minister's Award. The MoFA annually holds the inter-college debate contests on various themes pertaining to international affairs with the aims of deepening understanding of Japan's diplomatic policies and international issues among undergraduate and postgraduate students, and improving their debating ability, thereby fostering future leaders who will play essential roles in the international community. The proposition set for the 2010 contest was: "The Japanese government should take measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 25% from 1990 levels by 2020, even if other major countries do not agree on ambitious reduction targets or on building fair and effective international schemes." The editor of Raku-Yu had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Kugo, who was triumphant in the heated debating competition.

What made you decide to participate in the contest?

A senior student at the School of Government suggested that we should participate in the event. At the School of Government, we have a class to prepare policies to address various challenges we are confronted with. Regretfully, however, we have only a few opportunities to discuss or debate policies proposed by other students due to the limited class hours. So I thought the contest would be a great opportunity for me to hold in-depth discussions.

Please tell us about the screening method for the contest.

We submitted a written argument in favor of the proposition, which was provided in advance. Of the 20 entries, only four were selected in the preliminary round.

What issues did you pay particular attention to when you compiled the argument?

To make our argument persuasive, I tried to use numerical figures as much as possible. As a short to mid-range strategy, we thought that increasing nuclear power generation would be effective for cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 25%. So we sought concrete numerical values for the amount of greenhouse gas emissions to cut, the annual power output of a nuclear power reactor, and the cost of building a new nuclear power plant. When we were unable to find the data we wanted so we contacted related governmental offices and institutes. In this way, we spent considerable time gathering data.

Were you able to debate according to the strategy you had developed in advance?

We had to rebut an argument by the other team without pause by illustrating appropriate evidence. Since we were given virtually no time to consider what to say, it was difficult for us to respond accurately in such a short time. Before the contest, we had thought that we were thoroughly prepared, but in actuality, we were sometimes unable to respond well to unexpected questions.

The greenhouse gas problem cannot be resolved by the efforts of any single country. I assume that addressing the challenge entails commitments on a global basis.

To reply to that kind of argument, we considered the economic and diplomatic merits of cutting greenhouse gas emissions. I believe that if Japan achieves the ambitious reduction target, this should benefit our economic and diplomatic activities. With this in mind, we suggested the following merits: through successful efforts in cutting emissions, Japanese enterprises will be able to secure dominant positions in the global market, and revitalize the Japanese economy; in diplomacy, Japan can maintain and develop favorable relationships with other countries.

Did you learn anything from the experience of taking part in the contest?

To respond to unexpected questions promptly, and to convey your views correctly and thoroughly to a person who has totally different views or little knowledge about the topic, you need to accumulate considerable experience. I will need that sort of experience in preparing for my future career. I mean, after graduating from the university, I plan to join the business world. I believe that debating ability will be essential, particularly when I engage in business talks with people from other countries, who have different values and cultural backgrounds. By participating in the contest, I felt the vital importance of improving my debating ability.

I understand that you enrolled in the School of Government, Kyoto University, upon graduating from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. What made you select Kyoto University?

Well, I found the extracurricular activities at Kyoto University to be particularly attractive, even though I found the curricula were not very different from those of other universities. I thought that Kyoto University would provide me with an excellent environment to study practical policymaking. At the School of Government, I see students with diverse backgrounds: students from other universities, like myself; students who have specialized in various different academic disciplines; and international students. Holding discussions with such students who have different views and values is truly inspiring, and effective in planning innovative policies.

Finally, please tell me your future vision. I suppose that you have developed a vision through your experiences at the graduate school and through the debate contest.

I have begun to pay more attention to global affairs, and this in turn fostered my awareness of various challenges facing Japan. I have also begun to consider in what ways we should reform Japanese systems. To prepare diplomatic policies, I believe that we must first know Japan's problems and ways to resolve them. At present, I am studying Japan's monetary policies. Specifically, I am studying the impact of the policies taken in response to the collapse of Lehman Brothers on the present-day Japanese economy, and whether or not those policies have achieved the expected results. Next spring, I will join a think tank. I expect that my studies at Kyoto University will benefit my activities there.

"Kyoto University Day" held at Nanjing University and Nanjing Agricultural University December 2, 2011

A "Kyoto University Day" was held at Nanjing University and Nanjing Agricultural University on December 2, 2011. The event aimed to introduce Kyoto University and provide information about study abroad opportunities to prospective students, and facilitate academic exchange. A delegation of 28 faculty members from Kyoto University, headed by President Hiroshi Matsumoto, travelled to Nanjing to coordinate the event. The delegation consisted of faculty from the Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR) and the following seven graduate schools: the Graduate School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Engineering, the Graduate School of Agriculture, the Graduate School of Informatics, the Graduate School of Biostudies, the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies and the Graduate School of Management.

President Matsumoto's welcome address

"Kyoto University Day" began with welcome addresses by Dr. Yinxing Hong, chancellor of Nanjing University, Dr. Guanghong Zhou, president of Nanjing Agricultural University and President Matsumoto of Kyoto University. The program then continued with presentations by Professor Junfeng Zhang of Nanjing University and Professor Yingheng Zhou of Nanjing Agricultural University, who described their experiences of studying at Kyoto University. Those talks were followed by a presentation by Professor Junichi Mori, vice-president for international relations and director-general of the OPIR, and Dr. Liyou Han of the OPIR, who provided an overview of Kyoto University, including information on scholarships and English-taught degree programs. The morning presentations were attended by approximately 100 students.

The interval between the presentations gave the students an opportunity to meet and talk with President Matsumoto in an informal friendly atmosphere. The students had many questions about matters such as scholarships and application procedures, and a long line of students waited to consult with the Kyoto University representatives.

In the afternoon, the seven participating graduate schools operated individual sessions introducing their departments, admission procedures, and research and academic exchange activities. The event enabled Kyoto University to connect with over 300 prospective students, including 200 during the afternoon session.

Besides the meeting with Chancellor Hong of Nanjing University and President Zhou of Nanjing Agricultural University, President Matsumoto also had a meeting with Dr. Weixing Cao, vice-governor of Jiangsu Province, to discuss the enhancement of relations between Kyoto University and universities in Jiangsu Province.

In addition to "Kyoto University Day," a Kyoto University alumni meeting, supported by the Kyoto University Alumni Association of China, was held on December 3, 2011 in Nanjing City.

G30 International Education Symposium on Risk Management and Healthcare for International Students December 7, 2011

The G30 International Education Symposium on Risk Management and Healthcare for International Students was held at Kyoto University's Shiran Kaikan on December 7, 2011. The symposium was held by Kyoto University in collaboration with Osaka University, Doshisha University and Ritsumeikan University as part of the Japanese government's Project for Establishing University Network for Internationalization (Global 30). The symposium aimed to provide a platform for university faculty and staff members to share experiences and ideas to enhance risk management and healthcare in international relations and exchange operations.

Professor Akihiko Akamatsu, Kyoto University's Executive Vice-President for student affairs opened the symposium with a welcome address, which was followed by a keynote lecture by Associate Professor Yu Sakagami of the university's International Center. Associate Professor Sakagami's lecture was titled "Counseling and Mental Health Care for International Students and Researchers." In her lecture, Associate Professor Sakagami explained that, as the number of international students and researchers at Kyoto University increases, the counseling requirements for those students is also increasing. Associate Professor Sakagami also discussed her research on mental health issues among international researchers.

The symposium participants were then divided into four groups for individual discussion sessions, the conclusions of which were then reported at a plenary session. The topics of the group sessions were: "Issues Relating to Government-Sponsored International Students (Japanese government scholarship students)," "Education and Social Welfare Issues relating to Internship Programs for International Exchange Students," "The Establishment, Functions and Goals of the Kyoto University Admissions Assistance Office" and "How to Identify and Assist International Students with Problems."

Following the group session, invited

Group discussion session

speaker Dr. Woo Chun, director of the Health Service Station of the Panasonic Electronic Devices delivered a special lecture titled "Healthcare for Employees Overseas," which was followed by a question and answer session chaired by Dr. Takashi Kawamura, director of the Kyoto University Health Service. There then followed a panel discussion session in which delegates from several universities described and exchanged views on the risk management issues involved in both sending students abroad and receiving international students from the perspectives of their respective institutions. The participants of the session were as follows: Mr. Toru Nishioka, head of the Office of International Center, Doshisha University; Mr. Atsuo Hisashi, Associate director of the International Center, Ryukoku

University; Professor Tomoko Arikawa, Vice-Director of the Center for International Education and Exchange, Osaka University; Assistant Professor Mikako Nishikawa of the Organization for the Promotion of International Relations (OPIR), Kyoto University; Ms. Kanae Murayama, lecturer for the Global Gateway Program, Ritsumeikan University; Professor Naruo Kawai of the International Student Center, Kobe University.

After the panel discussion session, the proceedings were brought to a close with an address by Vice-President Junichi Mori, director-general of the OPIR of Kyoto University.

16th Kyoto University International Symposium held at Koç University, Turkey September 7–9, 2011

The 16th Kyoto University International Symposium (KUIS 16) was held at Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey on September 7–9, 2011. The theme of KUIS 16 was "Innovative and Sustainable Development." The symposium featured contributions by scholars in the fields of management, economics, engineering, informatics and medicine from both universities, as well as executive staff members and other officials. The two-and-a-half day event attracted approximately 170 participants, including students, researchers and delegates from the industrial sector. The Kyoto University delegation was led by President Hiroshi Matsumoto, and included Executive Vice-President Kiyoshi Yoshikawa; Vice-President Junichi Mori, director-general of the Organization for the Promotion of International Relations; Vice-President Michihiko Minoh, director of the Institute for Information Management and Communication; and Professor Kiyoshi Kobayashi, dean of the Graduate School of Management.

The symposium began with welcome addresses by both President Matsumoto and President Umran İnan of Koç University, which were followed by congratulatory speeches by Mr. Kiyoshi Araki, Japan's ambassador to the Republic of Turkey and Dr. Nüket Yetiş, former president of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK). Those addresses were followed by the first academic session, titled "Innovative and Sustainable Development: The Role of the University." The session included a presentation by President Matsumoto, in which he discussed his view that, in order to tackle current global issues, it is necessary for universities to move away from focusing only on limited specializations, and cultivate scholars with a flexible mindset and a broad range of knowledge.

The symposium comprised a total of nine academic sessions, which featured presentations and lectures by scholars from Koç University and leading executives from Turkey's industrial world, as well as scholars from Kyoto University, who presented the latest ideas and research regarding sustainable development. The presentations were followed by lively discussion sessions involving both presenters and audience.

Prior to the symposium, a reception was hosted by Mr. Katsuyoshi Hayashi, consul general of Japan in Istanbul, and a signing ceremony was held for the conclusion of both a Memorandum of Understanding for Academic Exchange and Cooperation and a Student Exchange Agreement between Koç University and Kyoto University. The symposium and the conclusion of the agreements are anticipated to greatly enhance cooperation between Koç University and Kyoto University, and make a significant contribution to good relations between Turkey and Japan.

The exchange agreement signing ceremony. President Umran İnan of Koç University (L) and President Hiroshi Matsumoto (R)

The 7th Japan–China University Presidents' Conference October 12–14, 2011

The 7th Japan–China University Presidents' Conference, co-hosted by Kyoto University and Ritsumeikan University, was held on October 12–14, 2011 at the Kyoto International Conference Hall. The conference, which was first held in Tokyo in October 2000, provides a platform for frank discussion among the presidents of leading universities in Japan and China. The theme of the seventh conference was "quality enhancement and internationalization of universities." It was attended by 150 delegates from 37 universities.

The conference began with welcome addresses by co-chairpersons President Hiroshi Matsumoto of Kyoto University and President Zhou Qifeng of Peking University. Those addresses were followed by greetings from the guests of honor, Mr. Takashi Kii, Vice-Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Mr. Bai Gang, Minister Counselor for Education Affairs of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Japan, and Mr. Yuan Zihuang, Director of the Education Office of the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Osaka. Those greetings were followed by an address by President Yuichiro Anzai of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The welcome addresses were followed by a keynote lecture by Mr. Fumio Isoda, Director-General of the Higher Education Bureau of MEXT, who discussed the future of higher education policy, new trends in Japanese higher education, and the background of scientific exchange between Japan and China.

The conference participants then divided into separate groups for breakout discussion sessions, the conclusions of which were reported at a plenary session. As co-chairperson, President Matsumoto, summarized the discussions and suggested ways in which the groups' ideas could be translated into concrete action. The conference ended with a closing summary by President Kiyofumi Kawaguchi of Ritsumeikan University.

The conference provided a valuable opportunity to deepen mutual understanding between university executives in China and Japan, and is expected to contribute to inter-university cooperation and ultimately enhance the contribution to international society by Japanese and Chinese universities. The 8th Japan–China University Presidents' Conference will be hosted by Xiamen University in 2013.

The plenary session of the 7th Japan-China University Presidents' Conference

For inquiries regarding *Raku-Yu*, contact:
Public Relations Division
KYOTO UNIVERSITY
Yoshida-Honmachi, Sakyo-ku,
Kyoto 606-8501, Japan
URL http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/issue/rakuyu/
PDF files of *Raku-Yu* may be downloaded from the above URL
E-mail kohho52@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp
TEL +81 75 753 2072 FAX +81 75 753 2094

PROMENADE 京都逍遥

Mimuroto-ji Temple—Flower Temple in Quiet Natural Setting

三室戸寺

Mimuroto-ji Temple, situated to the southeast of Kyoto University Uji Campus (about 30 minutes on foot from the campus), has a spacious garden stretching about 16,500 m^2, at the foot of a mountain. Since the garden is highlighted by flowers and blossoms of various plants throughout the year, the temple is known as Flower Temple. From season to season, it is also dubbed the temple of azaleas, the temple of hydrangeas, and the temple of lotus flowers, according to the garden's main character in each season.

In spring, for instance, pink and red azalea blossoms cover the temple's ground, overwhelming viewers with their dazzling beauty. In early summer, some 10,000 hydrangea stocks bloom, attracting many visitors to this "temple of hydrangeas." In summer, 250 stocks of some 100 different lotus varieties compete with each other in beauty, conjuring an image of the Buddhist paradise. It is believed that if you pour *sake* on a lotus leaf and sip it through the hollow stalk, the alcohol is conducive to health promotion and long life. Finally, in late autumn, maple foliage blazes into burning crimson, presenting an array for which the temple has been celebrated since ancient times.

According the temple's legend, it was erected in 770 by the order of Emperor Konin. Since the end of construction, the temple's main deity, the Thousand Armed Avalokitesvara, has been worshipped by a great many pilgrims, ranging from emperors and court nobles to the common people. Today, the temple's treasure house enshrines five statues of Buddha (including the Amitabha trinity), all having been produced during the Heian Period (794 –1192) and designated Important Cultural Properties. Although present-day visitors can view these five statues of Buddha, the main deity is withheld from public view.

As compared with temples within Kyoto City, Mimuroto-ji Temple features much more spacious precincts, nestled in the bosom of nature. It is truly refreshing to stroll in the precincts highlighted by various different species of flowers according to the season. Moreover, visitors can enjoy the historic atmosphere, while immersing themselves in the quiet natural setting. Since episodes from the last ten chapters of the *Tale of Genji* take place in this region, many enthusiastic readers visit the temple and its vicinity to follow the tracks of the tale's tragic heroines.

In June, various different varieties of hydrangeas bloom at the bases of Japanese cedar trees, enchanting viewers with the striking contrast of the cedars' dark green foliage and the hydrangeas' various light shades, ranging from white to pinks, purples, and blues.

The temple is also known for Yorakuen Garden, highlighted by a large pond in the center with a path along its shore, the *karesansui* (dry landscape rock garden), and the *hironiwa* (outer garden).

From the latter half of June to the first half of August, lotus flowers reach their full bloom in the pond located in front of the temple's main hall. The temple holds an annual party for enjoying sipping *sake* through lotus stalks.

A stone monument dedicated to Ukifune, a heroine from the *Tale of Genji*.

From the latter half of April to the first half of May, the temple's azalea garden overwhelms visitors with blossoms of some 20,000 stocks of azaleas and 1,000 stocks of rhododendrons.