

n e w s l e t t e r



Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University

京都大学工学部国際交流ニュースレター

April 1996 No.6

Higher Education as a New Export Industry



Michihiko MANNAMI

Professor
Dept. of Engineering
Physics and Mechanics

According to a recent survey on 'student life' at Kyoto University, 23% of all undergraduates have traveled abroad. Of these, some 6% went overseas for the specific purpose of studying a foreign language. Amongst graduate students the proportion is somewhat higher, so it is probably fair to say that of all students at the University at least one in every hundred has a desire to spend some time studying in a foreign country. Some private universities in Japan have met this need by creating specific and systematic arrangements which enable students to study abroad. This is not the case, however, in Japan's national universities.

In Europe, to take just one overseas example, the ERASMUS program (The European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) looked after the exchange of more than 100,000 students in 1993/94 alone. The aim of this program is to accelerate the realization of a "People's Europe" by encouraging the exchange of people, especially the younger generations, between European countries. Elsewhere, in the US for example, a lot of students have had the chance to travel to foreign countries for study under the famous "Junior Year Abroad Program" since its inception in 1947. In addition to these programs, many individual universities, or university consortiums, have set up their own schemes to enable students to study abroad.

The merits of studying in foreign countries are well documented and need not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that, even if the prime motive for students traveling overseas is tourism, there is still a great deal of worth in encouraging Japanese students to spend time abroad. Fortunately, the Japanese government has initiated the "Short Term Student Exchange Program", so it seems to me that the core difficulties relating to student exchange can now be solved.

At Kyoto University we have a special one-year course for Japanese Studies. The foreign students enrolled in this course are expected to be proficient in Japanese

language but the fact is, even for these students, understanding the ordinary lectures given to Japanese undergraduates is difficult. What we need to recognize is the fact that English is the main tool of international communication, so some lectures need to be taught in English for the benefit of overseas short-term exchange students.

The US ambassador to Japan recently made a point of the imbalance in student exchanges between the two countries. I believe this reflects certain weaknesses in the system of higher education in Japan. In the US, the system is said to be the best in the world, and so it is no surprise that it attracts students from all over the globe. In this sense it is clear that higher education is an important hidden export industry of the United States. In Japan, a considerable amount of taxpayers money is spent inviting foreign students to Japanese universities. In order to achieve an appropriate environment for foreign exchange students, however, we have to modify our system of university education, which currently does not enjoy a good international reputation. Although the current system has contributed to Japan's economic success in the past, the higher education system in Japan still needs to be refined in order to make it a new export industry for the future.

Japan Education Fair '95



Takeshi TAMURA

Associate Professor
Dept. of Transportation Engineering

The 1995 Japan Education Fair in ASEAN countries was held in the early summer for two days each at Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok. This fair, organized by the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ), was begun in 1989 to offer necessary information and advice to students in foreign countries who plan to study in Japan. The fair is held every year in the USA and in ASEAN countries, and held occasionally in China, Taiwan, and Korea, where most of the foreign students to Japan come from.

The delegation to ASEAN countries this year comprised more than 80 persons representing 16 national and 28 private universities, as well as representatives from Mon-

busho and the AIEJ. Most of the big universities sent two or three members, including both teaching and administrative staff, whose job was to answer questions offered by visitors to each university booth. The alumni associations in the three countries which co-sponsored the fair assisted us by providing interpreters. The numbers of visitors to the Kyoto University booth made ours one of the more popular, with 150 (out of a total of 2,100 attending the fair) in Jakarta, 80 (out of 1,400) in Kuala Lumpur, and 50 (out of 1,200) in Bangkok. Students seemed to come one after another all day long! Having to answer so many questions covering the whole 'A to Z' of Kyoto University was difficult, especially when I cannot even keep up with the documents piled up on my own desk.

The most common questions related to the nature of research carried out by professors at Kyoto University; entrance exam requirements; whether or not any classes are taught in English; and "does Kyoto University offer an MBA?". I did the best I could, of course, but invariably ended up advising students to consult the University Catalogue where they would find listed the names of all the professors, who could be written to individually for more specific information. I really do think that the time has come to prepare a brochure which explains all the procedures for foreign students wishing to apply to study at Kyoto University.

Of course, the matter of utmost concern to students was how to get a good scholarship to cover the expense of living in Japan. Without this, there would be simply no hope in applying for a place at a Japanese university. In response to many questions on this topic, it was with great regret that I had to inform potential applicants that Kyoto University has no funds to provide scholarships for foreign students. Surely there must be a number of non-governmental scholarships available to overseas students, but unfortunately there appears to be no coordinated information about them. The best we could advise students was to visit their nearest Japanese Embassy or Consulate for information and, of course, to apply for a Monbusho Scholarship, although we know that competition for this is extremely tight. Perhaps, in future, it would be a good idea if some number of recipients of the Monbusho scholarship could be selected at the fair, to give some encouragement to both potential students and to ourselves.

I was really moved to know that there are a lot of pro-

mising young people who are eager to study exclusively at Kyoto University. Some of them can already speak almost perfect Japanese. I felt that, through studying abroad, they earnestly desire to make a contribution to the development of their own countries. We have to do something more for them.

I also met many older people who had already spent time studying at Kyoto University. They came to our booth and told in Japanese their memories of life on Kyoto University campus all the time treating me just like old friends. This was my first visit to ASEAN countries, and it was easy to notice slight differences in the traditions and cultures between the places we went to, but this indescribable feeling of fellowship I experienced was common to all of them. By attending the fair, I learned a great deal about the true meaning of international exchange between universities.

工学部協定校巡り

テキサス大学オースチン校



松井三郎

工学部附属環境質制御研究センター長
教授

合衆国テキサス大学オースチン校工学部と本学部との学術資料・情報の交換、研究者・学生の相互交流についての国際協定が締結されたのは、1991年のことである。テキサン（アメリカ合衆国ではテキサスに住む人のことをこう呼ぶ）は、何に関しても一番であることへの強いこだわりを持っている。これは人間に共通の一種の欲求とも思えるが、テキサスのこの一番への執着は尋常ではない。テキサス大学オースチン校があるオースチン市は、テキサス州の州都であり、その中心には大学の建物と州会議事堂がある。この州会議事堂は、実はワシントンDCにある国会議事堂を真似て建造されたものであり、外観はそっくりである。しかし、この州会議事堂の一番上には、一体の自由の女神像が設置されている。このことによって州会議事堂の高さは国会議事堂のそれよりもほんの少しだけ高い。テキサンは、このことを「一番」として自慢するのである。

“A University of the First Class.” 1883年にテキサス州議会がテキサス大学オースチン校を設立するに当たって掲げたスローガンである。設立当時の大学は、僅か40エーカー（約16ヘクタール）の土地と、1つの建物、2つの学科、8人の教官、221人の学生から始まった。しかし現在では、357エーカー（約144ヘクタール）の土地に120ものビルが林立し、2,334人の教官、15,000人以上の職員、48,000人以上の学生から構成される全米屈指の First Class University へと発展を遂げている。テキサスの面目躍如である。U.S. News & World Report によって毎年発表される調査（1995年）によれば、テキサス大学オースチン校は、大学全体の総合評価としては全米の20位以内にランクされており、特に工学部は全米8位に、中でも土木工学プログラムは全米4位、環境工学プログラムは全米3位にそれぞれランクされている。また、680万冊以上の蔵書を誇る附属図書館は、全米で5番目に大きい学術図書館となってい



Japan Education Fair '95 at Jakarta, Indonesia



テキサス大学オースチン校のシンボル：メインビルディング

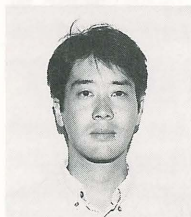
る。

工学部は、Aerospace, Engineering Mechanics, Architectural, Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Environmental Health, Manufacturing Systems, Materials Science & Engineering, Mechanical, Operations Research & Industrial, Petroleum, Energy & Mineral Resources の14のプログラムから構成されている。1994年度における学部卒業生は808名、修士課程修了生は442名、博士課程修了生は171名を数え、特にこの博士号取得者数はアメリカ合衆国の南部に位置する大学で最も多い数となっている。

テキサスと言うと、西部劇に登場する牧場やカウボーイのイメージが浮かぶ人も多いことと思う。また、その州都はオースチン市ではなく、ダラス市か或いはヒューストン市だろうと勘違いしている人も多いのではないと思う。テキサス州のほぼ中央に位置し、人口約45万人を有する州都オースチン市の年平均気温は 20℃ と比較的温暖で、一年の内で約300日以上が晴天となる。また、ヒルカントリーと呼ばれる風光明媚な土地に位置し、市内には150以上の公園、7つの自然・人口の湖も存在する。

テキサス大学オースチン校は学術・研究活動においても生活面においても、これ以上は望めないような素晴らしい環境を与えてくれている大学の一つであると言える。

海外留学体験談



曾 我 健 一

ケンブリッジ大学講師

1989年に土木工学科修士課程を終了後、5年をかけてアメリカのカリフォルニア大学バークレー校 (UCB) で博士号を取得、1年半ほど前からイギリスのケンブリッジ大学に Lecturer として勤務している。今回は、学生の方々に海外留学の経験談の一つとして参考にしていただければ幸いです。私のこの7年間の経緯をごく簡単に紹介させていただくことになった。

留学までの1年半は、修士研究の傍ら、TOEFL と GRE を何回か受け、奨学金を探した。アメリカでは博士課程の学生は教授のアシスタントを務めながら研究するというのを聞いていたので、その可能性を問うための手紙を UCB のある教授に書いたところ、1年目の成績次第という返事であった。しかし、幸いにもアメリカに発つ半年前に、ある財団から2年間の奨学金をいただくことが決まり、最初の2年余りは、博士課程必修単位を取得するための授業の受講に集中することができた。この時期はレポートの連続で、自分の英語の作文力に随分悩んだ。博士研究を開始したのは3年目になってからのことである。また、このころ、ある教授の校正中の論文の間違いを指摘したところ、気に入ってくれて、それがきっかけで卒業まで3年間アシスタントとして雇ってもらうことになった。その間、自分の研究以外のことも数多くしなければならなかったが、そのおかげでアメリカの研究事情等を学ぶことができた。

アメリカでの就職は原則として学生が自分で見つけなければならない、卒業間近になってから、専門雑誌等で教職の公募を見つけては応募した。たまたまケンブリッジ大学に採用が決まったのが卒業後1か月経った頃である。

海外留学を決心した理由はいいろいろある。まず多くの人からアメリカの大学院教育の良さについてよく聞いたこと。幼いころ過ごしたアメリカでの思い出とそれに付随するアメリカ生活に対するあこがれもあった。アメリカに発つ前に、ある方にアメリカ生活から学んで日本に戻ってくると言ったら、「戻ってくる計画では行く必要がない」と叱咤された。この時の私の発想は自分は日本人の代表であるという滑稽なもので、以後もよく外国人との会話の中で自分イコール日本人という発言をしてしまったり、会話の内容が国民論的になってしまうという傾向を伴っていた。私の場合、海外留学はその発想を捨てさるという体験であった。

*

Preservation of Old Kyoto and Improvement of Its Environment



Fabrizio FUCELLO

Ph. D. Student
Dept. of Architecture

Everybody knows the film "Room with a view", which was partly made in the rooms of the 19th century Villa Corsini situated on the gentle hills surrounding Florence. Before entering Kyoto University three years ago, I was lucky to be able to rent two rooms in that very same Villa. Looking from the window of my room, I was able to admire the same view of Florence that was enjoyed more than one hundred years ago, when the city became the capital of the newly born Kingdom of Italy.

Florence and Kyoto have many aspects in common, including the geographic position and the incredibly important cultural role they played in their respective countries. Both of them retain a unique cultural heritage particularly rich in architecture and gardens. Anyway, in

these years spent in Kyoto I have realized what a big difference there is in the way people think about their historical and cultural heritage in these two cities. The Kyoto I visited for the first time ten years ago is very much changed : these years alone have seen the destruction of forty thousand traditional wooden homes and the flight of over 100,000 residents from the downtown area. Some days ago, passing along Higashi-ichijo street, a few hundred meters from Kyoto University, I suddenly realized that an old sake factory, one of the oldest and most famous in the Sakyo-ku ward had been destroyed. It was a huge wooden building with white walls and Kuras in the compound ; it was not only the sake's factory itself that was gone but also a landmark and the traditional atmosphere of the area. I couldn't believe my eyes and I wondered how it was possible to destroy such a building.

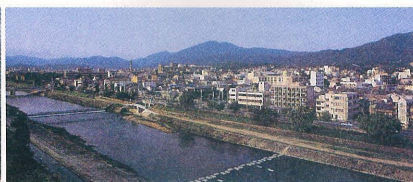
As a member of ISSK (The International Society to Save Kyoto's Historic Environment), a group of about 70 people concerned that Kyoto is losing its distinctive beauty for the sake of "development", I was involved in organizing a photographic exhibition of "Kyoto in the Fifties", with 55 works from a vast collection of Fosco Maraini's photos. The aim of the exhibition, which centered around three themes—architecture and landscape, festivals and traditional practices, and the everyday life of Kyoto's

residents, was to show what the city has lost. In conjunction with the exhibition a symposium was held on "The future of Historic Cities". We had speakers from four European countries, whose Cultural Institutes are represented in Kyoto : the director for Florence's Environmental and Architectural Properties (Italy), the director for Protection of Historical Monuments at Cologne City Hall (Germany), the executive director of Edinburgh's Old Town Renewal Trust (Great Britain), and the director of Patrimony at the Paris City Office of Cultural Affairs (France). I was surprised to see that, from the Japanese side, there is no such equivalent post, in fact the person who represented Kyoto was simply an official from the City Planning Development Office. All the European experts criticized the Kyoto Municipal Government for its lack of action on the preservation of Kyoto.

According to my experience of life in an old city such as Florence, I can say that generally, in Europe, if a person lives in an old house in a very historic area, the person will be proud of that. Because these old houses can be restored very well it is not at all inconvenient or uncomfortable to live there any more. After our symposium I realized that the most important thing we can do to help preserve historic cities is the education of citizens about the value of their old houses and the character of their city.



Florence



Kyoto

国際交流日誌 (平成7年9月1日～平成8年1月31日)

平成7年

- 9月27日(水) 工学部国際交流委員会
- 10月3日(火) 欧州委員会・産業総局産業政策部産業協力課
Mr. Julien Guerrier 他2名来訪
- 18日(水) 工学部国際交流委員会
- 23日(月) 中国科学技術大学学長 湯洪高教授他3名来訪
- 24日(火) 平成7年度特別コース研究留学生入学式
- 11月2日(木) ハルビン工業大学代表団副校長 強文義教授
他4名来訪
オーストリア技術教育教官団 Prof. Franz
Reichel 他10名来訪
- 15日(水) 国立シンガポール大学行政官 Dr. Lee Soo Ying
来訪
- 22日(水) 工学部国際交流委員会

- 12月22日(金) University of Architecture and Building of
Weimar 学長 Prof. Dr. Gerd Zimmermann 来訪

- 26日(火) 工学部国際交流委員会

平成8年

- 1月9日(火)～10日(水)
総合工学学術交流・UM-KU コーディネーター・
ミーティング
- 12日(金) レンスラー工科大学工学部副工学部長 Prof. R.
Block 来訪
- 23日(火) 工学部国際交流委員会
- 25日(木) Yeung Nam University Prof. In-Kee Chung
他1名来訪

The Committee for International Academic Exchange, Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-01, Japan

Phone 075 753 5038 / Fax 075 753 5065

606-01 京都市左京区吉田本町 京都大学工学部国際交流委員会