

UNIVERSITY OF THE RYUKYUS

International Student Center Newsletter

2003 March vol.2

Message from the New Director Relationship to International Students

HIGA, Tatsuo
Director, International Student Center

One year has passed since I became the director of the International Student Center. There were a lot of events this year, some of which I couldn't attend because of my schedule. First, I want to apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused to faculty members, staff of the International Student Affairs Section, or international students. Previously, I was not involved in university administration, and when I assumed this position, I did not have any knowledge of the role of the International Student Center, the number of international students, the countries from which they came, or the kinds of program we provided. Owing to people's help, I now have an understanding of the entire program.



In 1989, our laboratory accepted international students for the first time when the Graduate School of Science started the Special Graduate Program in Marine Sciences. This program, beginning in October, offers course in English and it takes two years to complete the master's program. The Japanese Government supports the program with scholarships. Our program is now in its fifteenth year. In the first year, we began with one international student from India. Since then, I have taught almost 30 students from more than ten countries, mainly from Asia. In the beginning, I tried to interact with the students in a way that would not give them a bad impression of Japanese, as the result of introspection regarding Japan's actions in Asian countries during the war. Unfortunately, some students took advantage of my attitude, and it made me realize the difficulty of intercultural communications. Since I also had an experience of studying in the United State of America, I tried to treat international students as kindly as possible. Of course, I scold students when necessary. I lead students with the attitude that good should be rewarded and bad should be punished, and with the motto, "Do not be extravagant, do not spoil, and do not discriminate."

At the University of the Ryukyus, 263 international students from 45 countries are now studying. Although I have few chances to interact with those students, judging from the stories I hear from the faculty and as the result of questionnaires, most of the students are more or less satisfied with studying here. Some students who completed the Short-Term Student Exchange Program last year sent letters to our teaching staff saying that they wanted to come back to Okinawa. I also received a message from a student who missed Okinawa. It is delightful. Even though it is difficult to satisfy all the international students, we should do our best to make them happy to study at the University of the Ryukyus, to leave them with wonderful memories of studying here, and to instill in them the idea that we all live in the same global village. In order to accomplish this, all the staff members of the International Student Center and I will do our best.

Introduction of the New Faculty Member

SOEJIMA, Kensaku
Instructor, International Student Center

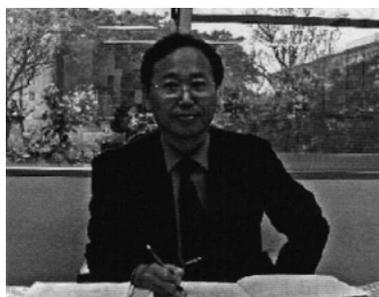
My name is Kensaku Soejima, and I came to the International Student Center at the University of the Ryukyus this academic year. Before I came here, I was teaching Japanese at the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Institute of Economics, Law, and Information. I will do my best to utilize my experience in Russia. Since I believe that my experience in a foreign country helps me understand the situation of international students who are studying Japanese in Japan, I hope that I can guide them better by imagining myself in their place.



The International Student Center is also a place where people who live in a different society and culture can meet. We can say that it is a place where both learners and teachers can grow together by responding positively to each other's background culture and incorporating our differences to make us all better people. I intend to make every effort, through activity inside and outside of class, to strive for a way to improve humanity, to improve myself, and to contribute to the further prosperity of the International Student Center of this university.

Introduction of the New Members (International Student Affairs Section)

MURASE, Takahiko
Director, International Student Affairs Section



My name is Takahiko Murase, and I have been working as the director of the International Student Affairs Section since last April. The other day I was asked, "Do you have any foreign friends?" and I could answer proudly, "I have a Korean friend," Mr. Yi Chang Yeob, a young man who lives in Pusan, Korea, and has a job related to sports (soccer).

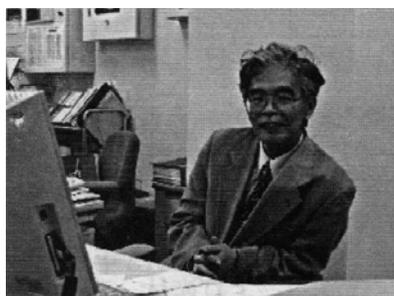
When I was engaged in international student affairs at the National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya a few years ago, Mr. Yi was enrolled in the master's program in physical education. He awakened me, someone who did not know about "international exchange" or "international students," to a world that I did not know much about. I remembered those days as if they were yesterday when we drank beer together and he talked about the World Cup passionately this January in cold Seoul. I am sure he was very happy that the Korean team got into the final four.

I think the business of international student affairs is to help develop friendship between people. There are a lot of times I am at a loss because of problems that crop up one after another. But when the troubles are resolved, we can see the smiles of people from many countries, and wonderful friendship might begin. I want to do my job looking forward to the prospect of new contacts, like my meeting Mr. Yi.

Now, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I come from Nagoya. After working in Kyoto, Osaka, Shiga, Kyoto, Kagoshima, Chiba, and Kagoshima, I transferred to my post (without my family) in Okinawa last April. My hobbies are tennis and horse racing, but I cannot enjoy either of them in Okinawa, so I am a little bit disappointed. Instead, I am thinking of taking up the *sanshin* (the Okinawa *shamisen*). I am looking forward to working with you all.

HIGA, Shuki

Chief, Short-Term Student Exchange Program Subsection



My name is Shuki Higa, and I took charge of the Short-Term Student Exchange Program last April. The Short-term Student Exchange Program sends students to other universities and accepts students at this university for terms of less than one year based on student exchange agreements. I do office work supporting the acceptance, educational affairs, and student life of exchange students. We have currently accepted 24 students from universities with which we have student-exchange agreements. The Short-Term Student Exchange Program is managed with the full support of entire university. I appreciate each faculty and department

offering classes, guiding students, and helping with administration.

OSHIRO, Kazuko

Special Staff

I have been working in the International Student Affairs Section since April 2002. I am in charge of office work for Japanese Government Scholarship students, tutorial services, and examinations for Japanese university admission.

Japanese Government Scholarship students are divided into graduate students in special programs, teacher-training students, Japanese studies students, graduate students, and undergraduate students. There are now 92 scholarship students from 31 countries studying in our university. I am doing my best to help make their studies and experiences in Okinawa meaningful.

Finally, I enjoy hearing stories about the home countries of students who come to the counter at the office. As I listen to the stories, I look at the globe on the counter and imagine the places they are talking about.



The International Student Affairs Section is located on the first floor of the Glocal Hall. To all international students, if you have anything you want to ask or anything you do not understand, please feel free to come to us and ask questions at any time. Even if you do not speak Japanese, it will be no problem because there are staff members who can speak English. On the first floor of the Center, there is the director's office, classrooms, and a study room. On the second floor, there are professors' offices and a part-time lecturers' office. The CAI (computer assisted instruction) Room and the language lab are located on the second floor, too.



FACULTY & STAFF MEMBERS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CENTER

(as of March 2003)

Status	Name
Director (Professor, Faculty of Sciences)	HIGA, Tatsuo

Status	Name	Coordination of programs	Note
Professors	HARASE, Jirou	Short-term Student Exchange Program Academic advising (for students in science and engineering)	
	KINJO, Naomi	Japanese Language and Culture Program Japanese for undergraduate students Japanese for the Graduate School of Engineering and Sciences Non-credit Japanese Language Program for graduate and research students Survival Japanese	
Associate Professors	SASAKI, Kayoko	Survival Japanese Academic advising Exchange activities for international students (activities with local communities)	(on leave from February 2003)
	ISHIHARA, Yoshihito	Short-term Student Exchange Program (Japanese language and culture) Japanese for Korean students in the Faculty of Engineering	
Assistant Professors	KINJO, Kaori	Short-term Student Exchange Program (coordinating with universities overseas) Advising (academic and everyday life)	
	SHIBUKAWA, Aki	Japanese Language Intensive Program Japanese for Korean students in the Faculty of Engineering Non-credit Japanese Language Program for graduate and research students	(on leave from September 2002)
	SOEJIMA, Kensaku	Japanese Language and Culture Program (for undergraduate) Japanese Language Intensive Program Non-credit Japanese Language Program for graduate and research students Survival Japanese	

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AFFAIRS SECTION

(as of March 2003)

Sub-section	Position	Name	Duties
	Director	MURASE, Takahiko	All major functions of international student affairs
International Student Center	Chief	NOHARA, Shigeo	Administration of International Student Center Japanese Language Intensive Program Japanese language and culture classes Non-credit Japanese Language Program
	Assistant	SHIMOJO, Minako	
Planning	Chief	NAKAMOTO, Morihiro	International House Survival Japanese
	Staff	OSHIRO, Ayako	Exchange activities with local communities
	Assistant	SHINZATO, Yoko	International affairs Publicity
Short-Term Student Exchange Program	Chief	HIGA, Shuki	Short-Term Student Exchange Program (inbound)
	Special Staff	ISA, Shin'ichi	Short-Term Student Exchange Program (outgoing) Scholarship & certificates of scholarship Medical fee reimbursement program Application for permission for part-time jobs
	Special Staff	OSHIRO, Kazuko	Japanese government scholarship students Foreign government scholarship students Okinawa Prefecture scholarship students Assignment of tutors

2003 Spring Semester: Japanese Language Programs

Japanese Language and Culture Program

The Japanese Language and Culture Program consists of general education courses which are offered by the University Education Center and special courses which are offered by the Faculty of Law and Letters. All are credit-bearing courses.

Eligible Students: Auditors, Special auditors, Undergraduate students (except Japanese students)

Period: April 11 (Fri.) ~ August 7 (Thu.)

Courses: Beginning, intermediate, and advanced Japanese; other subjects include Japanese Culture A, and Japanese Culture B (Okinawan Culture)

Coordinators: KINJO, Naomi (knao@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)
SOEJIMA, Kensaku (kensaku@lab.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)
KINJO, Katsuya [Faculty of Law and Letters] (kinkats@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)

Japanese for Undergraduate Students

The Faculty of Law and Letters offers Japanese courses for undergraduate students (Japanese culture & international affairs courses). All are credit-bearing courses.

Eligible Students: Undergraduate students (except Japanese students), Auditors, Special auditors,

Period: April 11 (Fri.) ~ August 7 (Thu.)

Courses: Japanese Literature I, Japanese Written Expression I, Japanese Culture I, Basic Seminar I (All advanced level)

Coordinators: KINJO, Katsuya [Faculty of Law and Letters] (kinkats@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)
KINJO, Naomi (knao@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)

Japanese Language Intensive Program (Preparatory Japanese program for graduate students)

This is a half-year intensive Japanese program designed mainly for Japanese government scholarship students, such as research students who will conduct research in a graduate school after this program and teacher-training students. When there are fewer students than the capacity, privately-funded research and graduate students are allowed to participate in the program. Although classes offered in this program are for non-credit, a certificate of completion will be issued.

Eligible Students: Japanese Government Scholarship students (research students, teacher-training students),
other research and graduate students

Period: April 9 (Wed.) ~ August 8 (Fri.)

Level: Beginner

Class Schedule: Monday through Friday, periods 1 ~ 4

Coordinator: SOEJIMA, Kensaku (kensaku@lab.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)

University of the Ryukyus Short-term Student Exchange Program (URSEP)

URSEP, the short-term program for exchange students from overseas, offers Japanese classes. All are credit-bearing courses.

Eligible students: Exchange students in URSEP

Period: April 11 (Fri.) ~ August 7 (Thu.)

Courses: Beginner II Japanese, intermediate Japanese

Coordinators: ISHIHARA, Yoshihito (y-ishi@lab.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)

Non-Credit Japanese Language Program for Graduate and Research Students

This program is designed for graduate and research students. All classes are for non-credit.

- Eligible Students:** Graduate students and research students
Period: April 21 (Mon.) ~ August 7 (Thu.)
Level: Beginning Japanese to intermediate Japanese
Coordinators: KINJO, Naomi (knao@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)
SOEJIMA, Kensaku (kensaku@lab.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)

Special Class for Japanese Studies Students

This class is designed for Japanese studies students.

- Eligible Students:** Japanese studies students (Japanese Government Scholarship students)
Period: April 11 (Fri.) ~ August 7 (Thu.)
Level: Advanced

Survival Japanese

These courses are intended mainly for family members of international students (adults only). Classes are offered in the International House.

- Eligible Students:** Family members of international students at the University of the Ryukyus (adults only).
Period: May 19 (Mon.) ~ July 24 (Thu.) Total: 20 lessons
Level: Absolute beginners
Coordinators: KINJO, Naomi (knao@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)
SOEJIMA, Kensaku (kensaku@lab.u-ryukyu.ac.jp)

2003 Activities for International Students

- April:** Orientation for new students, Orientation for tutors, Annual medical examination
May: Sports Festival
June: Friendship party for international students of the University of the Ryukyus
July: International student festival
(Beginning of August ~ End of September: Summer vacation)
October: Orientation for new students, Orientation for tutors,
Medical examination for new international students
November: Friendship party for international students in Okinawa (hosted by the Conference for Promotion of International Students in Okinawa)
University Festival
December: Field trip for international students
(Late December ~ Beginning of January: Winter vacation)
February: Japanese speech contest for international students
(Late February ~ End of March: Spring vacation)

Consultation Room

During your stay in Japan, you may have difficulties because of differences in language, culture, customs, climates, and so on. Counseling and consultation services are available for international students studying on our campus. If you need any help regarding your academic or everyday life, or wish to talk about any problems, please feel free to visit advisors as listed below.

Counseling	Ms. Maxine Randall	Consultation room (International House 1F)	Tuesdays 15:00-17:00 Fridays 15:00-17:00	098-895-1157 (for an appointment or telephone consultation) [weekends or after hours emergency: 098-877-7529]
Study consultation (for students in science and engineering)	Prof. Jirou Harase International Student Center	International Student Center 2F 205-2	Tuesdays 16:00 ~ 18:00	098-895-8094 harase@lab.u-ryukyu.ac.jp
Study consultation regarding everyday life	Ms. Kaori Kinjo International Student Center	International Student Center 2F 205-1	Mondays 15:00 ~ 17:00 Tuesdays 15:00 ~ 17:00	098-895-8116 kaori@lab.u-ryukyu.ac.jp

◆ Outside the consultation hours mentioned above, or if you have any other questions or need any assistance with anything, please contact the International Student Affairs Section [*Ryugakusei-ka*]:

International Student Affairs Section Glocal Hall 1F (098) 895-8131

※ In the Faculty of Law and Letters and the Faculty of Science, the faculty members in charge of international student affairs are available:

Law & Letters: KINJO, Katsuya [General Education Bldg. #4 Rm. 4-402] 098-895-8300 E-mail: kinkats@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp

Science: YAMAMOTO, Satoshi [Science Bldg., Rm. 205A] 098-895-8573 E-mail: syama@sci.u-ryukyu.ac.jp

2002 Academic-Year Event Report

Friendship Party for University of the Ryukyus International Students

June 7 (Fri.), 18:00 ~ 20:00, at the University Hall

On the evening of Friday, June 7, there was a friendship party with international students, local people, and university faculty and staff. International students demonstrated Ryukyu dancing and singing, the guest, Yaeyama Geino Kenkyukai, provided a lively performance, and the party was a great success.



International Student Festival

July 6 (Sat.), 16:00 ~ 20:00, at the International Student Center

On the evening of Saturday, July 6, the 3rd international student festival was held. This year, students from eleven countries were joined by local residents at the festival. In addition to dishes from many countries, there were lots of events, such as singing, dancing, games on the stage, introduction of home countries and home schools, a kimono-wearing exhibition, and an exhibition of international students' works.



2002 Japanese Speech Contest for International Students

Feb. 13 (Thu.) ~ 14 (Fri.), at the University Hall

On Thursday and Friday, February 13 and 14, the 14th annual Japanese Speech Contest for International Students was held at the University Hall. Among those studying Japanese at this university, about 70 students participated in the contest. During the contest, various works by international students were displayed in the hall, introducing part of students' daily activities. International students who received awards are listed below. The *Minna de eranda de sho* awards were given to those who were chosen by the audience.



Beginner level

Outstanding Performance Award:	Ans Hedwig Caballa (Philippines) " <i>Karaoke ga sekai-o kaeru</i> " Noel Perez Nakandakara (Mexico) " <i>Gehin'na Shuukan</i> "
<i>Omoshiroi de sho</i> Award:	Ngunjiri Muthumbi (Kenya) " <i>Watashi-no itoko</i> "
<i>Hatsun ga kirei de sho</i> Award:	Yoo Jung Keun (Korea) " <i>Yuujuo-no kakehashi</i> "
<i>Kokoro ni hana ga saita de sho</i> Award:	Zhang Lin (China) " <i>Utsukushii hana, karenai hana</i> "
<i>Gengono tensai ni narima sho</i> Award:	Ng Chuan Seng (Malaysia) " <i>Gengo-no tensai-ni narimashoo</i> "
<i>Minna de eranda de sho</i> Award:	Fa-Um Phengsri (Thailand) " <i>Kokusai ren'ai</i> " Noel Perez Nakandakara (Mexico) " <i>Gehin'na Shuukan</i> "

Intermediate, Advanced level

Outstanding Performance Award:	Ariestyani Wahyu (Indonesia) " <i>Sanshin-ni horeta watashi</i> " Yih Seung Hoon (Korea) " <i>Okinawa tanboo</i> " Kim Shin Ae (Korea) " <i>Sofu to Okinawa</i> "
<i>Kotoba ijoo ni tsutawaru de sho</i> Award:	Urbanova Jana (Slovakia) " <i>Kotoba to imi</i> "
<i>Junsei wa marathon de sho</i> Award:	Siriphatthanunthakun Wanlapa (Thailand) " <i>Kaze-ni notte tobu tori</i> "
<i>Kokoro ni nokoru de sho</i> Award:	Fresnoza Asuncion (Philippines) " <i>Philippine imin-ni natta watashi-no sofu</i> "
<i>Shoojiki ni ikima sho</i> Award:	Guo Yanwen (China) " <i>Shoojiki-ni ikiru</i> "
<i>Anata no kachi wa mugen de sho</i> Award:	Jang Kyong Hwa (Korea) " <i>Watashi-no sonzai-kachi</i> "
<i>Minna de eranda de sho</i> Award:	Ariestyani Wahyu (Indonesia) " <i>Sanshin-ni horeta watashi</i> "

Information from the International Student Center

The CAI Room and LL Room are open three days per week!

Location: International Student Center 2F CAI Room - Rm.203, LL Room – Rm. 204

Open hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs. 16: 30 ~ 18: 30

Feel free to come by and use it.

The Study Room is available!

Location: International Student Center 1F Rm. 102

Open hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 ~ 17:00

The room contains Japanese textbooks, books concerning the Japanese Language Proficiency Test and study-abroad books, too. Please use this room not only for individual study but also to study with your tutor and to relax between classes. (No food and no drinks!)

My Remarks

★A Message from an Academic Advisor for International Students

Assoc. Prof., CHEN, Yen-Wei

Faculty of Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Although Prof. Sasaki of the International Student Center requested that I write something for the International Student Center Newsletter at the end of February last year, I was preoccupied with a hearing for a research grant at that time, so my message comes in this newsletter instead. As there is no set topic on which I should write, I am going to give some observations on ordinary life.

As a result of the “100,000 Foreign Student Plan” issued by the Japanese government, the number of international student in Japanese universities is increasing sharply. I think that some international students come to Japan with a purpose, some without a specific one. My advice to international students is to have an interesting study-abroad life, but as an adviser, I also want to encourage you to study.

In Japan, international students are a symbol of international exchange, and international students are sometimes treated like guests. In recent years, the information-oriented society has diffused rapidly, and the degree of borderlessness has expanded. International competition among enterprises and among countries is getting severe. It is said that the 21st century is the century of competition for talented individuals. The United States of America has long sought people of talent, and recently, European countries and Japan have started to hire talented people irrespective of their nationality. “*Daigakuin daigaku*” (graduate university), which has been on the news recently, is part of that.

I believe that most international students are the elite of your countries. In China, some people call study abroad “*tokin*”. This means that when you go abroad, bring your gilt covering, and you will be promoted. Even so, as I said before, severe competition

will appear all over the world. Simply studying abroad will not ensure that you to get a good job or promotion. It is just one step in your carrier. To survive in this competitive age, you need ability and achievement. Please do not waste your important study-abroad time. I hope you will develop ability and achievement, more than just gilt, with which you can play a conspicuous part in the world.

Finally, I want to mention one thing to the University regarding admission to International House. Now, Japanese government scholarship students have priority to move in there over all others. Because of the limited number of rooms, privately-funded students have little chance to move in. I do not know why Japanese government scholarship students have to be first, but I heard somewhere that they are first because they were invited by the Japanese government. The status of national universities as part of the government will soon change, and getting private students who pay tuition will be a concern. We have to improve the educational environment with that in mind. As part of that, I think that we should give an equal chance for both private students and Japanese government scholarship students to move into International House.

※ Your comment and/or opinion regarding the International Student Center Newsletter will be appreciated!

Please contact: International Student Center subsection, International Student Affairs Section

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English translation: Kaori Kinjo, Ayako Kelly

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