



AC21 Newsletter

Contents:

| | |
|---|----|
| AC21 International Graduate Summer School – Messages from host universities – | 1 |
| ① Chulalongkorn University | |
| ② Kasetsart University | |
| ③ Nagoya University | |
| AC21 Special Project Fund 2012 Report | 5 |
| ① Kasetsart University | |
| ② Huazhong University of Science and Technology | |
| Green Miracle Youth Leadership Dialogue Student Reports | 8 |
| Announcement of the 5th AC21 Student World Forum | 11 |
| Staff Mobility between the University of Freiburg and Nagoya University | 12 |
| From the General Secretariat | 14 |
| Upcoming AC21 Activities and Events | 15 |
| AC21 General Secretariat Activities | 15 |
| AC21 Members | 16 |

AC21 International Graduate Summer School – Messages from host universities –

① Chulalongkorn University



M.R. Kalaya Tingsabadh
Vice President
Chulalongkorn University



Kriengkrai Boonlert-U-Thai
Assistant to the President for
International Affairs
Chulalongkorn University

It is an honour for Chulalongkorn University to be chosen to co-host the AC21 International Graduate Summer School 2013, from May 31st to June 4th, 2013, with Nagoya and Kasetsart Universities. This is the second such event and will enable Chulalongkorn University to welcome administrators, faculty members, staff and students from the AC21 member universities as well as other universities in the region. The opening ceremony, which is scheduled for May 31st, 2013, will be held in the auditorium of the Faculty of Engineering at Chulalongkorn University. From June 1st to 4th, Kasetsart University will be the venue for special lectures, educational tours and the closing ceremony.

As June 1st, 2013 marks the centenary of the establishment of Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Engineering, which is Thailand's first academic institution in engineering, the Faculty, in cooperation with Nagoya

University, is deeply honoured that Professor Dr. Ryoji Noyori, the Japanese Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, will deliver the keynote lecture at this joint event. The lecture will serve as an inspiration to improve both teaching and research in the Faculty to an international level, which is one of the main objectives of the Faculty of Engineering and the overall academic community.

In terms of lectures delivered at this academic event, Chulalongkorn University, fully aware of the University's Social Responsibility (USR), is proud to be taking part in the session entitled "Green Mobility and Energy". As society has become urbanized, communications and transportation have tended to become more convenient and there is now more enthusiasm for developing resources and facilities. This has resulted in over half the population that lives in urban areas in both developed and developing countries

needing the increased energy that is required by urbanized society. It is likely that this need will steadily increase and that this will result in a greater demand for facilities to make life easier and more comfortable. This has provided the opportunity for Smart or Green Mobility to have an increasingly important role in the future. For this reason, Chulalongkorn University has invited Professor Dr. Bundhit Eua-arporn, the Director of the Energy Research Institute and the Head of the Energy Research Cluster, to give a special lecture on this issue.

Chulalongkorn University hopes that the main theme of this meeting, “Green Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”, will enable its participants to exchange opinions and their experiences in the use of green technology to reduce environmental problems, which are becoming more serious

and which have significantly affected global society. The outcome of the meeting will be used as a mechanism to motivate our society in keeping our future world green, and this result will correspond with Chulalongkorn

University’s rationale to serve as the Pillar of the Kingdom, especially through implementing its policy concerning the University’s Social Responsibility.



AC21 International Graduate Summer School — Messages from host universities —

② Kasetsart University

Agricultural Science, Education and Food Security

Poonpipope Kasemsap

Vice President for International Relations

Kasetsart University



Over the last century agricultural research, development, and technology transfer efforts helped to increase agricultural production around the world and saved over a billion people from starvation. Now, although the world produces enough food for everyone, still not everyone has enough to eat. Some people go hungry even in countries that are net exporters of food.

The number of hungry people in the world increased significantly to more than 900 million during the food crisis in 2008 to 2010. Almost 30% of the world population has a micronutrient deficiency, and more than 60% of the world's undernourished people are in Asia. Many millions of malnourished people and families are simply too poor to buy sufficient nutritious food.

The world population is still increasing, although the rate of increase is not as high as it was. It is expected that the world population will exceed 9 billion in 2050, and that the world's agricultural systems will be challenged by several factors, including natural resource shortage, climate change, and the increasing risk of production losses.

There is an urgent need to transform agriculture to provide food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability and economic opportunity with fewer resources. Substantial increases in agricultural productivity and quality can be achieved through investment, innovation, policy and other improvements. However, realizing these gains will require an exceptional level of multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary, and especially multi-stakeholder collaborations in the agricultural value chain, including governments, companies, multilateral and civil-society organizations, farmers, consumers and entrepreneurs. Although several networks have started to address global and regional challenges by pooling and rationing limited resources and encouraging international partnerships to implement joint and collaborative research and education programs in Agricultural Science, more organized collaboration, investment and in-

novation among all stakeholders are greatly needed in Agriculture Education in order to effectively and efficiently address the massive need for high-quality human resources required by the approaching challenges.

Kasetsart University welcomes all University partners and student participants of the AC21 International Graduate Summer School. We are proud to co-host this main AC21 activity together with Chulalongkorn University and Nagoya University. We hope that this Graduate Summer School will help to increase the participants' understanding of the importance of Agricultural Science in food and nutrition securities, to raise awareness among participants of the particular value and the contribution of Agriculture Education, and to motivate them to learn to collaborate effectively in their future careers.



Kasetsart University Campus

AC21 International Graduate Summer School — Messages from host universities —



NAGOYA UNIVERSITY

③ Nagoya University

Yoshihito Watanabe
Trustee / AC21 Office Director
Nagoya University



Three years ago, in AC21 Newsletter No.7 (issued March 15, 2010), I made the following proposal:

“We must not forget that AC21’s activities are not simply for the promotion of international exchange, but also serve as activities to make Nagoya University more visible as a scene of international higher education. That aside, I think it is extremely difficult to gather outstanding international students from all over the world. The regular holding of an “AC21 International Graduate Summer School” has become a clear image in my mind. Whether it will be feasible is the next step for discussion...”

Two and a half years have passed since then. The Summer School will finally be held this year for 5 days from May 31, and will be co-hosted by Chulalongkorn University and Kasetsart University in Thailand. The main theme is “Green Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”, and the sub-themes are “Green Mobility and Energy” and “Agricultural Sciences and Food Production”. Many lecturers from AC21 participant universities will give lec-

tures on each theme. The keynote speeches are worthy of special mention, and will be given by speakers such as Nobel Prize in Chemistry winner Professor Ryoji Noyori and Vice Chairman of the board of the TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION Mr. Takeshi Uchiyamada. Being able to listen to these two speakers is a rare opportunity, and I think the participating students will be anticipating this highly.

The plan for this International Graduate Summer School has two aspects. The first is to encourage academic exchange between the participating universities. This time the participating universities have recommended “professors who are working actively at the top level on research related to the two sub-themes”, and we hope that, through listening to one another’s lectures, new research exchange will begin. The second is to encourage participation of students from the participating universities’ surrounding area (in this instance Thailand and its neighboring countries), so that students who would not normally have the chance to listen to talks on cutting-edge research will also be able to participate; this is one aspect of AC21’s international academic contributions. Of course, we also hope that students listening to lectures given by Nagoya University professors will consider coming to study at Nagoya University.

The essentials and general way of thinking about the Summer School were proposed in 2010, at the general meeting of the International Forum held in Shanghai; in

2012 the final plans, including budget, etc., were recognized at the General Assembly in Adelaide, and formalization began. However, in actual fact, consideration of the Summer School’s themes, details of implementation planning, budget, etc., was carried out throughout 2011. In particular, the formation of a mutual understanding (when and where the Summer School would be held, etc.) between Chulalongkorn University and Kasetsart University, who offered to provide the venue, was a most important matter.

Until now, AC21 activities have been supported by the annual fees of participating universities and financial assistance from Nagoya University. This Summer School is a new undertaking, and AC21’s activity expenses alone are not sufficient to cover the costs. Accordingly, we are making requests for support from businesses in the Tokai region and Japanese companies with factories in Thailand, etc. Professors from mainly Nagoya University’s Graduate School of Engineering, Graduate School of Economics and Graduate School of Mathematics are taking advantage of their networks to introduce companies, for which we are deeply grateful.

This document was written in January 2013. I hope that we will be able to make satisfactory preparations by the time the AC21 Newsletter is issued in March; and here I will close this letter.

(original text: Japanese)

AC21 Special Project Fund 2012 Report

Learning From Those Who Stayed Dry — Report from an international training program in Thailand

Dr. Bart Lambregts & Dr. Supaporn K. Leopairojna
Kasetsart University

On August 7, 2012, nine months after the biggest flood in Thailand's recent history had inundated and paralyzed Bangkok and its surrounding provinces for weeks and more, 18 students assembled in the Nakorn Srivijarana meeting room of Kasetsart's Faculty of Architecture. They had freshly arrived in Bangkok from places as far away as Oldenburg (Germany), Amsterdam, Shanghai, and Tokyo, and, together with a handful of Thai students, had bravely enrolled in the AC21-sponsored international training program "Learning From Those Who Stayed Dry" (aka PSDT2012). Representing disciplines as diverse as Environmental Management, Engineering, Development Studies, Architecture and Urban Planning, they made a knowledgeable and potentially powerful team.

The program's intent was to first let the students learn from the flood management experience of a community just outside Bangkok (Krathum Baen). Next, they were challenged to combine and enhance the insights they gained with knowledge acquired in their respective study programs, and after that they were asked to provide feedback to the community. The program's organizers would then take it upon themselves to produce a "community flood preparation manua" based upon the entire experience. With only two weeks in which to do this, there was little time to be lost.

During the first few days of the program the participants received a crash course on Central Thailand's 2011 flood. By way of lectures and a field trip to one of Bangkok's hardest-hit areas (Rangsit), the

flood's causes and impacts and peoples' responses were demonstrated and discussed. Participants were also familiarized at the same time with the key principles of disaster risk and integrated flood management, and were eventually set free for their weekend break only once fieldwork plans had been submitted and approved.

Monday saw the start of the fieldwork. The entire team moved from Bangkok to Krathum Baen, where they took up residence at a comfortable and welcoming homestay. In the afternoon, Mr. Apichat Todilokvech, the Deputy Governor of Samut Sakorn province, welcomed the group at the nearby Watergate Office (which had functioned as the command center during the 2011 flood crisis) and gave a detailed account of how the flood had affected the area and how the



Lecture: Flood resilience strategies in Thailand (bottom-up approaches) (Dr. Pakamas Thinphanga, Senior Researcher at the Thailand Environment Institute)



At the watergate

community at large had managed to control the situation and minimize losses to its best capacity.

In the next four days the students swarmed out across the area in small groups to interview as many community members and stakeholders as possible. Government agencies, entrepreneurs, shopkeepers, farmers, school directors, temple abbots, army officers, migrant labour representatives, people in the street: they were all asked to share their flood experiences and to name what – in their opinion – had gone right and

what had gone wrong in the management of the flood. The rich and varied findings were then analyzed and enhanced with principles of disaster risk and integrated flood management and the knowledge and tools that each of the participants had brought from their training.

After a great and well-deserved Sunday at the beach, feedback time had come. Tuesday morning saw the Watgate Office buzzing with people once more, who had all come to hear what this international team of junior flood management experts had to share. The

audience had not come in vain: the nicely presented feedback mattered and was well-received.

With this, an intense but rewarding training program had come to a close. The farewell dinner in Bangkok of course still carried weight, but the work had largely been done. Learning had been achieved for the 18 student participants, for the Krathum Baen community, and for the supervising faculty alike.



Group work at the homestay



Preparation for the Seminar at homestay



Group photo after the lecture

2012 Green Miracle Youth Leadership Dialogue International Conference

Responsible Leadership in Sustainable Development: Young People's Responsibility to Make a Green Miracle

Green Miracle Team Huazhong University of Science and Technology

After more than seven months' preparation, the 2012 Green Miracle Youth Leadership Dialogue International Conference was successfully held in Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan City, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China, from 26th to 30th October, 2012. The dialogue was hosted by Huazhong University of Science and Technology, organized by the Green Miracle Student Association and sponsored by the AC21 Special Project Fund.

The dialogue invited 20 delegates, among which 12 delegates were from guest universities, including Nagoya University, Taiwan Tsing Hua University, Beijing University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, and Tongji University, and 8 delegates were from the host university—Huazhong University of Science and Technology. The delegates, including undergraduates, master students and Ph.D candidates, had a diversity of backgrounds: engineering, business, management and economy, etc.



The dialogue was entitled “Responsible Leadership for Sustainable Development”, covering a variety of topics: energy efficiency, renewable energy, low carbon economy, environmental protection, business innovation, etc. During the five days' conference, all the delegates participated in various academic activities.

Lectures were presented by experts from

different disciplines. From China-U.S. dialogue and China-EU dialogue, the delegates gained a brief understanding of new directions for sustainability leadership in China, the United States and the European Union. From three invited lectures, they looked at the sustainable development from the perspective of energy technology, public administration and political legislation.



Apart from attending lectures, the delegates also had an opportunity to discuss a few issues regarding sustainable development and professional development with their peers of the same age. In the three seminars, they shared views with young talents from HUST multi-disciplinary club, Six-sigma Breakthrough Technology International (SBTI) entrepreneur camp and China-EU Institute for Clean and Renewable Energy (ICARE). At HUST Industrial Incubator, the delegates played a business game and practiced their teamwork and strategy planning abilities for a company's life cycle. They also visited Wuhan National High Magnetic Field Center and an environmentally-friendly smart house at Seetroll intelligence Ltd. Finally, delegates summarized their achievements via group work and delivered a final presentation of the topics, including energy, environment, management, economy and law.

The conference was not only an academic journey; it also included social and cultural activities. During their spare time, the delegates were guided to visit Optical Valley, Spanish Style Fashion Street and Canna Forest Old Street, etc. During the reception party and other social activities, the delegates developed a very strong connection and friendship, which they may cherish forever.



“My best activity was the debating session. After having the lectures, we could explain what we thought about each other. That style was very exciting.” said Yuki Tomita, a delegate majoring in aerospace engineering from Nagoya University. Similar comments also came from Ms. Jiang Yuanyuan, a local student from Huazhong University of Science and Tehcnology. She said, “This is an international platform for different thinking styles and a vivid and happy experience for me.”

“It is significant to nurture a sense of responsibility and teamwork for the young people in different backgrounds, cultures

and countries to work together for mankind's welfare. Indeed, it is this idea that inspired us to organize such a dialogue.” said Mr. Chen Fan, the founder and president of Green Miracle, a student-run non-profit organization in HUST.

He added, “As I attended and benefited from the AC21 3rd Student World Forum hosted by Chemnitz University of Technology in Germany, I hope more students can benefit from similar international communications. That's why we have this Green Miracle conference.”

Green Miracle Youth Leadership Dialogue Student Reports

Yuki Tomita
School of Engineering
Nagoya University

At the end of October 2012, I participated in the 1st Green Miracle Youth Leadership Forum. It was a program that gathered together Chinese-speaking students from

all over China, as well as several Japanese and Taiwanese students, making a total of 20 people to discuss sustainable society together and cultivate their leadership skills

through their activities. These activities lasted six days, and included mostly lectures and discussions, as well as some sightseeing in the Wuhan area where the Forum was



held. To finish, we split into groups based on the various knowledge we had acquired, and gave presentations on sustainability.

At first, because it was during a period of tension between the Japanese and Chinese governments, I felt a bit anxious about my stay. That day we had a welcome party, where the students participating in the program got together and introduced themselves. The first thing I felt was that they were excellent at expressing their opinions. I had heard before that Chinese people like to chat, but I realized for the first time that this meant they are very good at expressing themselves. All the students had lots of specific examples to illustrate whatever they were talking about, and managed to inject some humor, too.

After that, we had lectures and discussions on sustainability every day. The lectures were mainly in Chinese, and there were some parts I could not understand and some things that made me a little dejected; however, in each lecture I learned that, at the foundation, leadership is key. In a way that went beyond words, I came to understand that whether it is in the field of economics, politics, science or technology, leaders are those who can turn a mistake into a learning experience, and somehow use it to keep pushing forward. While there were only two Japanese people participating in these dialogues, including myself, and although it was very hard to state my opinions in a different language, I felt I should show pride as a Japanese person; and, on the third day, I was finally able to express myself in Chinese. The theme at the time was how



sustainable management could be carried out in business, and I explained some of the differences between Japanese and Chinese business, using Japanese mobile society as an example; once I had finished my explanation I felt a great sense of accomplishment. My Chinese friends also told me “you did well”, so I realized that this was the way to do it; expressing my own opinions became fun, and the nervousness and unease I had felt before disappeared.

Sightseeing in Wuhan, where I could make contact with the people living in the area, gave me a great chance to experience the real lifestyle of China. Wuhan is located in the East of Hubei, and is the largest city in the province. Because of this, there are a lot of wealthy people in the center of town, and you would assume it is a comparatively nice lifestyle; but if you go a bit further from the center the feeling of the lifestyle changes, and I think you can get a better understanding of what kind of country China is. The people of China are very helpful, and if you are a foreigner in a sightseeing area they will be kind to you. This was my first visit to China to practice Chinese. Because of this I was actually speaking the local language, which made me understand the feelings of the people I was talking to more deeply; we are all people from East Asia, and I felt confident that the time would soon come when we could be close friends. The question is how we can find a way to properly understand one another's countries.

To finish we did group work and group presentations, and here I felt my lack of language ability; it was a good opportunity



and made me realize once again that my language study is not over. However, that night I had fun playing Taiwanese games with my friends, and on the last day we enjoyed our party like companions who have been together a long time. Being accepted as their friend made an impression on me that still remains.

There was really a lot for me to learn as an undergraduate, and these were productive days for me. Through this international Forum, I came to understand the standard of leaders in East Asia. In addition, spending time talking about the leaders of the future and our own dreams gave us food for thought about becoming leaders who will aim for a sustainable society.

(original text: Japanese)

Guoxian Jing Graduate School of Engineering Nagoya University

I am honored to have attended the 1st ‘Green Miracle’ Youth leadership dialogue as a candidate from Nagoya University, Japan. This dialogue is also the 4th AC21 student world forum, hosted by HUST (Huazhong University of Science and Technology), organized by “Green Miracle”, and sponsored by AC21.

This dialogue, the theme of which is “Responsible Leadership in Sustainable Development”, aims to publicize the concept of “Sustainable Development”, promote academic and cultural communication among AC21 partner universities, and nurture tomorrow’s leaders in green technology and commerce.

To establish a basic understanding of “sustainable development”, we first listened to a lecture titled “China’s Energy and Sustainable Development”, given by professor Huang, the Dean of the School of Energy and Power Engineering, HUST, on the 1st day. We learned about energy production and consumption in China and all over the world, realizing that we are facing a severe energy crisis, environmental pollution and other existing problems. To relieve those problems, we have to look for a new approach to development. This is commonly called Sustainable Development.

On the 3rd day, we listened to two lectures, one on the dialogue between China and the U.S. and the other on the dialogue between China and the EU. The theme of the dialogue between China and the U.S. was “Complexity and The Modern Dilemma: New Directions for Sustainability Leadership”, given by Dr. Paul Wright from the U.S.. At the end of the lecture we had a deep discussion, and the most important point Dr. Wright made is that politics, economy, law, science and technology should and must coordinate perfectly to attain sustainable development, which is the heartfelt wish of experts from different fields. I think the concept of cooperation is basically what is needed in the cultivation of responsible leadership in sustainable development.

On the last day, in order to develop cooperation among members, we delegates from different majors and research fields were divided into five groups to prepare and give a presentation on sustainable development from the perspectives of Energy, Environment, Law, Economy and Management. Because of time limitations, we had to make our thesis statement clear quickly, and then provide materials to support it. To make our group presentation coherent and consistent in such a short time, we had to manage ourselves in different roles to give consistent evidence to support



the single theme, and at the same time to make sure the content of group members was clearly connected. The situation was dynamic and we members needed to understand each other, contribute actively and collaborate effectively. We did it and made an excellent group presentation. Moreover, we formed deep friendships from this cooperation.

As for responsible leadership, in my opinion we are too young to be leaders in a field. But we should be responsible citizens, studying hard, communicating actively and publicizing sustainable development with the enthusiasm and energy of youth.

To sum up, this dialogue pointed out the situation of energy problems, deepened my understanding of sustainable development, and developed a space for people who care about social development.

In the end, I would like to give thanks to AC21 for offering me this opportunity to participate in the dialogue. At the same time, please give my best wishes to AC21. May it become much more influential in academic and cultural communication in the world.



Announcement of the 5th AC21 Student World Forum

Jing Cao
 Ph.D., Vice Dean, School of Automotive Studies
 Tongji University



Dear AC21 colleagues and students,

Greetings from Tongji University, Shanghai, China. It is our honor to host the 5th AC21 Student World Forum. I would like to take this opportunity to make a brief introduction to the forum you will attend this October.

Today, cities are developing in an unprecedented model, which brings us many advantages, such as more efficiency, multiple choices, greater mobility, more convenience and better public facilities. However, every coin has two sides, and so does a city. We also face disadvantages like air pollution, traffic jams, energy waste, noise pollution and living pressure. Green energy mobility and the new concept automobile will have a big influence on the lives of future citizens, and will definitely change the city. Therefore, we will provide the students from all AC21 member universities and chief experts in associated fields with an overview of sustainable mobility and the city of the future to discuss.



The 5th Student World Forum will be held at Tongji University from Oct. 16–22, 2013. The theme of the forum is *Sustainable Mobility and the City of the Future*, with 6 sub-themes as follows: New Concept Automobile, Green Energy Mobility, Green Life Style and Mobility, Public Transport, Bicycles, and Policy & Others. Here students will be able to participate in workshops, lectures and discussions with representatives from associated fields, as well as students from around the world, to exchange ideas and experiences on these challenges and to develop a network for interchange and cooperation. Excursions to various high-tech production plants, such as Shanghai Automotive Wind Tunnel Center at Tongji University Jiading Campus, Shanghai Urban



Planning Exhibition Center, Shanghai Tunnel Science and Technology Museum, etc., will also be offered to provide on-site experience with renowned industrial leaders who are working on such issues in their own practical work.

The Student World Forum offers a unique opportunity to network globally, along with numerous workshops and discussion panels.

Welcome to Tongji University

Tongji University is one of the leading universities with a long history of innovation in China. Scientists and students from all disciplines meet at the interfaces between engineering, science, medicine, management, arts, law and economics.

As a comprehensive university with 9 disciplines and 29 departments, Tongji University offers diverse courses in its 82 Bachelor Degrees, 218 Master Graduate Programs, 94 PhD Programs and 16 post-doctorate mobile stations. As a sustainability-oriented university, Tongji University is always aiming for sustainable development on education, scientific research, social service and the smart campus.

Nearly 50,000 students are enrolled, including 3975 international students from over

100 countries and regions. Tongji University actively promotes its internationalization and has become an important window for China's international exchange in education, culture and technology.

We are looking forward to greeting all AC21 members at this important event in 2013! It will be a memorable experience! Welcome to Tongji University, Shanghai!



Staff Mobility between the University of Freiburg and Nagoya University

Manuela Kniss, Anne Rottler and Christian Tischer
University of Freiburg



Christian Tischer, International Relations Asia,
International Office, University of Freiburg,
www.io.uni-freiburg.de

One of the various components of the European Union's ERASMUS program is the staff mobility of university employees, for both teaching and other staff (http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus/teaching_en.htm). Under the program guidelines, this exchange is limited to universities in the EU. However, scientific collaboration does not stop at borders, AC21 being a good example, and the University of Freiburg decided to provide a budget for international staff mobility as well. The idea is that a staff exchange with non-European universities might provide the participants with even more valuable insights than a staff exchange with our quite well-known European neighbours. A disadvantage here is that reciprocity may be difficult to achieve, as funding for a return visit, which is provided for the intra-European ERASMUS staff mobility program, is not available.

Among the applicants were Ms. Manuela Kniss and Ms. Anne Rottler, working as administrative assistants at the Department of Microsystems Engineering – IMTEK – in the University of Freiburg's Faculty of Engineering. The Laboratory for Microsystems Materials (Professor Oliver Paul http://www.imtek.de/laboratories/materials_processing) and the Bio- and

Nano-Photonics research group (Professor Alexander Rohrbach <http://www.imtek.de/laboratories/bio-and-nanophotonics>) collaborate closely with colleagues from Nagoya University and other Japanese universities, meaning that both professors regularly travel to Japan, and that guests from Japan visit Freiburg. Ms. Kniss and Ms. Rottler handle quite a lot of the communication with Japanese colleagues and often take care of visitors. When the opportunity for staff mobility emerged, both were highly motivated to learn more about their counterparts at Nagoya University and experience different scientific and administrative structures, as well as another culture and language.

After a long exchange of emails and a couple of meetings, on November 10, 2012 Ms. Kniss and Ms. Rottler set off on their trip to Nagoya. Ms. Atsuko Hisada from the International Planning Division of Nagoya University took care of Ms. Kniss and Ms. Rottler during their stay. During their week-long stay in Nagoya they enjoyed a quite intensive program in which they were showed around the University.

In a discussion with Japanese students who had studied in Freiburg and with German students studying in Nagoya, they learned that Nagoya is the ideal city in which to learn about Japanese culture because of its middle size and its location in the heart of Japan. They got an insight into the central university administration at Nagoya, with visits to the student registration office, the third party funds division and the human resources department. Discussions showed that there are significant differences between Japan and Germany regarding social insurance, promotion of scientific and non-scientific personnel, and retirement policies.

Other important stops were the International Students Exchange Division with presentations on the NUPACE exchange program and the JASSO scholarships, and the student dormitories for international students.

Ms Kniss and Ms. Rottler were welcomed by Vice President Watanabe and met with the International Exchange Committee.

Of course, the school of Engineering played a major role during the visit. Ms. Kniss and Ms. Rottler met with Professor Arai and Professor Fukuda, with whom Professor Paul collaborates. They were given explanations of the technical processes at the labs and the different administrative tasks at a typical Japanese laboratory. A discussion with Professor Furuya (International Student Advisor) and her collaborators concerning the School of Engineering and the exchange of Engineering scientists provided important insights into the Summer Program for PhD students in Engineering, and another meeting with Professor Tokuda into the JUACEP-Program (Japan-US Advanced Collaborative Education Program).

The most important experience was of course exploring the differences between Germany and Japan in everyday life:

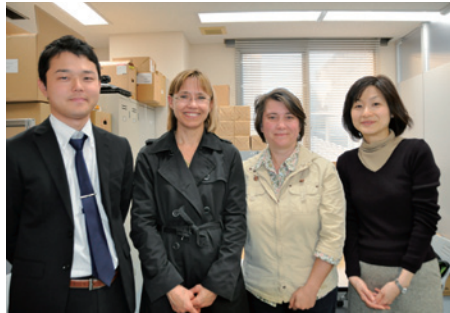
“We have been confronted with a totally different society: people on the street or in the office are mostly polite and kind with foreigners. Japanese people do not raise their voices, do not react in an abrupt or spontaneous way and are very sensitive to their environment and colleagues. We were impressed by their calm and respect for others when they line up in the subway, for example.

We discovered that the image of Japanese cuisine prevalent in Germany is very far from the Japanese reality: Japanese food in Germany is practically represented by sushi, while the variety (fish, noodles, fermented

vegetables) and sophistication (fermented pickled dishes, sweet or salty) of food we saw in Japan was impressive. The way of presenting dishes is an art in itself.

The Germans are known to be a disciplined society, aware of the importance of cleanliness and well organized, but it has not reached the level of perfection of Japanese society. In Japan, no trains are delayed, and although the platforms are crowded it does not take more than 2 minutes for everyone to find their way into their reserved car.”

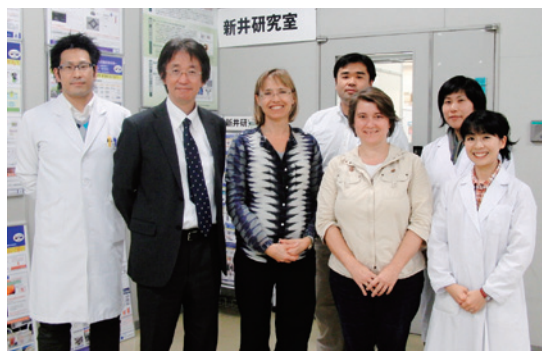
Ms. Kniss and Ms. Rottler want to thank Ms. Hisada and all the colleagues at Nagoya University for their wonderful time in Nagoya and will encourage their colleagues to make the effort to have such valuable experiences, too.



Ms. Kniss and Ms. Rottler with Atsuko Hisada (r.) and Mizuki Kanazawa (l.) from the International Planning Division, who both took care of them during their stay at Nagoya University



Ms. Kniss and Ms. Rottler holding "EVE", one of the latest technological creations of Prof. Fukuda's Laboratory



Visit to Prof. Arai's Laboratory, Department of Mechanical Science & Engineering, Nagoya University

Comments from staff of Nagoya University who visited the University of Freiburg

Yoshihumi Funato

Administration Department of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences / Cellular and Structural Physiology Institute, Nagoya University

“The end of November, when we made our visit, was the Christmas season. At night a Christmas Market was being held. There were lots of street stalls set up selling frankfurter sausages and mulled wine for both citizens and tourists to enjoy. It turns cold in Germany in November, with lots of rain and snow; but a Christmas mood envelops the whole town, warming people’s hearts. We were able to see the culture of Germany that can make an entire town excited by Christmas over a month before Christmas day itself.”

Moe Nakayama

Educational Affairs Division, Nagoya University

“Last year at the end of November I went to Freiburg, Germany, to participate in overseas training for administrative staff. There was a famous Christmas Market right there, and I got to enjoy the fun atmosphere. I was only there for two short days, but I was able to look around a German university’s facilities, and meet with and listen to a lot of university staff. I sensed the high level of ability of the staff there as university professionals through their command of several languages in the international affairs they were working on.”

Rie Oya

Information and Communications Headquarters, Nagoya University

“One of the aims of this training was given as “the investigation of support systems and initiatives for accepting international students”. Both the universities I visited this time offered an attractive education/learning environment for international students, and I found their active efforts to acquire even more outstanding international students particularly impressive. I felt that, as well as continuing our efforts to acquire outstanding international students at NU, we also need to send our students overseas and develop internationally active leaders. I am very grateful to be given a training opportunity of this kind, and I hope to make full use of it in my work from now on.”

From the General Secretariat

Serving as a Source of Information: Our Dreams and Passion

Shigeo Suzuki

Professor

Graduate School of Languages and Cultures, Nagoya University

The move from the reception of information to its transmission was a prescription for the recovery of Japan as it entered the 21st century. To give a familiar example, a car dealer near Nagoya University changed its name to “Information Transmission Base” and began selling cars. But now the dealer has erased the word “transmission” from the sign.

The removal of the word might be attributed to our new awareness that we are lacking the ability to select and utilize information well, but it is more likely due to our loss of interest in transmission since we have not been instilled with an ardor for information exchange or been excited by new visions born out of the exchange of information.

Before I joined the AC21 Office, I had an agreeable impression that the AC21 network, primarily motivated by dreams and passion for fruitful academic interactions across countries, is vitalized with active information transmission using its resourceful information editing ability.

Five years ago I thought of having a student cultural exchange using a video conference system, and formed a plan in which students from both countries could make presentations on some influence of their own country’s culture upon that of the partner country, and discuss the significance of this influence.

The video conference system made information exchange possible between regions and universities, so we began to look for an exchange partner. It occurred to us to take advantage of the university network of AC21.

Thanks to the strong connection among AC21 members, and with the financial support we received from them, for which I am still very grateful, we reached an agreement with a faculty member at AC21 member Chulalongkorn University, and carried out the plan for academic cultural interaction.

Since I became a member of the AC21 Office last year, I have been fortunate enough to be able to contribute to the steady implementation of the AC21 Graduate Summer School (a cutting-edge science program for graduate students in the Sciences, coincidentally to be held at the same Chulalongkorn University).

The AC21 Secretariat makes meticulous preparations, such as sending planning drafts or calls for participation to member universities, or acquiring outside funding. The office also endeavors to disseminate information to participants on unique Japanese technology through a presentation by the Prius developers, and to foster grand dreams for the future through a series of lecture by distinguished scholars, such as Dr. Ryoji Noyori, a Noble-Prize winner.

When we think of the achievements that Trustee Watanabe, the supervisor of AC21, was successfully accomplished through his initiatives such as making the Nagoya University Homecoming Day a large cultural exchange event, we can sense the passion and visions of a better future through reciprocal interactions, transmitting and receiving scholarly information.

When you attend preliminary meetings for the Summer School, you will notice loyal



Video conference system projecting film of Chulalongkorn University side and Nagoya University side [inner screen]

support for AC21 plans among the member universities, and you will find their attitude to the AC21 similar to that of a traditional British private club.

Loyalty and mutual trust are hallmarks of the club, but it has one drawback: it tends to shut itself away from others with its established values and standards. Currently, the AC21 member universities are from Europe, North America, South Africa, and some developed countries. If we could include several academic institutions from the so-called Asian frontier in the club, we would be able to cultivate a plurality of values within the club.

As for myself, this year I am holding another student cultural exchange via the video conference system. The partner institution is from Sri Lanka, which has no AC21 member university.

There must be several activities like mine taking place at NU. I believe that if the AC21 network can link with these individual activities, the consortium would be further energized in its passion for multicultural reciprocal information.

Upcoming AC21 Activities and Events

| | | |
|------|----------|---|
| 2013 | May–June | AC21 International Graduate Summer School, Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University and Nagoya University |
| | October | Fifth Student World Forum, Tongji University Eleventh Steering Committee, Tongji University |
| 2014 | March | Seventh AC21 International Forum, Stellenbosch University |
| | | Twelfth Steering Committee, Stellenbosch University |
| | | Sixth General Assembly, Stellenbosch University |
| 2015 | [TBA] | Sixth Student World Forum, The University of Strasbourg Thirteenth Steering Committee, [TBA] |

AC21 General Secretariat Activities (2012.10 – 2013.3)

| | | |
|------|---------------|--|
| 2012 | October 26 | 110th AC21 Office Meeting |
| | December 19 | 111th AC21 Office Meeting |
| 2013 | January 17 | 112th AC21 Office Meeting |
| | January 21–22 | Visit Chulalongkorn and Kasetsart University |
| | February 21 | 113th AC21 Office Meeting |
| | March 5–8 | Visit Stellenbosch University |
| | March 11–14 | Attend APAIE |
| | March 28 | 114th AC21 Office Meeting |



Academic Consortium 21

AC21 Members

Chemnitz University of Technology (Germany)*
Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)*
Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia)
Huazhong University of Science and Technology (China)
Jilin University (China)
Kasetsart University (Thailand)
Nagoya University (Japan)*
Nanjing University (China)
National University of Laos (Laos)
North Carolina State University (U.S.A.)*
Northeastern University (China)
Peking University (China)
Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China)*
Stellenbosch University (Republic of South Africa)*
The University of Adelaide (Australia)*
The University of Freiburg (Germany)
The University of Minnesota (U.S.A.)
The University of Strasbourg (France)
Tongji University (China)

*Steering Committee Members

What is AC21?

AC21 is an international academic consortium comprised of educational and research organizations from around the world. It was established at the Nagoya University International Forum, held on June 24, 2002, with the aim of creating an international academic network; the AC21 Secretariat is also located at Nagoya University.

AC21 General Secretariat



Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 464-8601 Japan
Tel: 81-52-789-5684/5686 Fax: 81-52-789-2045
e-mail: office@ac21.org
URL: <http://www.ac21.org>

Visit our website
for the latest information!
www.ac21.org