

Introduction to the Acceptance of International Exchange Student Activities to the Kobe City College of Technology from Foreign Countries

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1. Introduction

Kobe always creates in us a resplendent, exotic mood reflecting what the cosmopolitan city is. The Kobe City College of Technology (KCCT) is an educational establishment that is appropriate as an international organization and as part of an intelligent city. KCCT's education policy cultivates the engineer who can play an active part in the global community. For this purpose, our college has a responsibility to perform some significant tasks with an international education research organization. Engineer training gives each student personal dreams to have an active lifestyle in the global community.

KCCT's Global Collaboration Research Committee was established in the year 2010 and since then, has carried out activities to accept visitors to our college from foreign countries.

This report introduces one aspect of these international exchange activities.

Our college has accepted many students who visited from foreign countries in the past. Through various efforts, international exchange was cheerfully promoted.

KCCT has interacted with the JENESYS Program (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring more opportunities of international exchange.

Furthermore, our college cooperated with JICE (Japan International Cooperation Center) Kansai branch.

Our college also cooperated with the Kobe YMCA, which was connected to an exchange group with Kobe's sister city of Seattle. This included the Global Teens Leadership Program, with on-site training such as practice with doing experiments, taking classes, and participation in club activities at KCCT. The program filled the day's activities until a homestay host family took the foreign guests home.

It is to bond human beings together with a host family as part of the homestay program process. Through this interchange with foreign students, the essentials of engineer education for the future promote international activity.

This report also shows a variety of exchange cases with various situations regarding the acceptance of international exchange student activities at KCCT from foreign countries. In particular, the author became an active host family participant. From that perspective, the experiences had at KCCT and at home are written down in this report.

2. JENESYS Program

The JENESYS Program is an international exchange student program by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The Great Exchange Plan of the East Asian Young People in the 21st Century" was held in January 2007.

In the second East Asia summit meeting (EAS), Asia was intended to have a strong solidarity through large-scale youth exchange.

Added to the ten ASEAN countries were China, Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Russia: (joined in 2011), the JENESYS Program was started as an organization which invited several thousand young people to Japan. JENESYS Program's concept was the understanding promotion exchange program to Japan encouraging the growth of a diplomatic base by inviting talented people to Japan from countries such as those in Asian Oceania and North America to embrace our future.



Figure 1. JENESYS Program's farewell party (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths)

Figure 1 (JENESYS Program's farewell party) and Figure 2 (JENESYS 2.0 Program's farewell party) show the global members of the JENESYS Program (Japan-East

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Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths). The human interchange activities' heartwarming members are the origin of various world solutions to the problems of the upcoming era.



Figure 2. JENESYS2.0 Program's farewell party at JICA Kansai (KCCT's Global Collaboration Research Committee plan)

JENESYS Program dispatches many countries' students to our college. As for this program, it has developed continuously in all regions of the world.

Regarding the JENESYS Program acceptance results and the dispatch results of the JENESYS Program, our college was favorably included with pride. As for the members dispatched by the JENESYS program to KCCT, wonderful smiles were seen as shown in figure 3.

The past results of KCCT are shown simply. The main points are listed as follows:

- (1) Reception of 30 Thai students including the Thai student's leader was carried out on November 2, 2017.

The theme of the visiting members to Japan was "Science and Technology". With a laboratory tour of the Mechanical Engineering Department and Applied Chemistry Department, they participated in Kendo Club and the Brass Band Club. Then, an opportunity to experience engineering education and Japanese culture was provided too. After a two-day homestay, the participation of the farewell party was carried out.



Figure 3. A time at the farewell party of JENESYS Program in Noevir Stadium Kobe

Time goes by so quickly for everyone involved, and then the members of the visiting group started the homeward journey being sent off with warm goodbyes.

- (2) JENESYS 2016, a group from Singapore's Ngee Ann Polytechnic, was received with 26 Singaporean students on March 10, 2017.

They visited KCCT's laboratories and Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. They took the West Kobe plant tour of the Kawasaki Heavy Industries robot business center, joined in KCCT's Kendo club, brass band club, calligraphy, and origami activities. KCCT's students were dispatched in 2016/03/07-03/15 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in "JENESYS 2016's program". Using public funding, they sent KCCT's students to Malaysia. In total, 22 people took part in the activities. 13 members were 4th and 5th grade students while 9 members were from KCCT's advanced course studies, equivalent to 3rd & 4th year college students.

- (3) The second group of "JENESYS 2015", was made up of Cambodian high school students, university students, and graduate students, accepted from January 29 to January 31, 2016.

- (4) With JENESYS2.0 on June 20, 2014, from Singapore 27 university students visited our college.

They alternated between graduate research and club activities. It was performed along with a youth exchange program from the North America area, and students from KCCT were dispatched for two weeks in the United States by public funds again. As for that, they were able to receive dispatch by a large amount of public funds, the high percentage of acceptance results are proof that our activity was recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a result, 23 people, KCCT 1st -3rd year selected students were dispatched on a schedule that went from Saturday, January 12th to Sunday, January 25th in 2014.

- (5) 23 university graduate students visited from ASEAN, Oceania: (Australia, New Zealand), India, and East Timor on October 4, 2013.

The theme was Japanese pop culture and we invited students who were interested in this subject, especially animation. There was also the exchange of the Westside High School students from Huston, Texas, American based on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs JENESYS program.

- (6) 21 high school students of the physical sciences were accepted from Indonesia on June 29, 2012.

From Friday, June 29 to Sunday, July 1, they were accepted as homestay students and stayed with the families of our college's students and teachers.

3. Public interest incorporated with YMCA JCCCNC (Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California community) Takahashi Program

One girl came to the author's home from northern California. The northern Californian girl who visited Japan as a part of the Japanese-cultural exchange program spent 4 days of 2013/07/27-31 in the author's home. The program was based on the Kobe YMCA's JCCCNC Takahashi Program. Stories about Japanese-cities, history, and life in northern California were exchanged between the student and the author.

On the last day, international exchange activities were done as would be for parents and children at Kobe City College of Technology. Because it was known in advance, the Global Collaboration Research Committee at the Kobe City College of Technology made good preparations. In terms of content, they focused on both technical lessons and English lessons.

The author's daughter of the same generation took care of her in various ways. It is thought that the growth of the daughter was affected extremely. The author experienced a home with two daughters for a week.

In the case of JENESYS, the opening ceremony was held on Friday evening and the good-bye party was held on Sunday. That was three days. However, with YMCA, she went to other places besides Kobe City College of Technology from the author's home for one week. The author's wife helped see off and welcome back the student at Sannomiya Station. On July 29, 2015, all of the North California Japanese Culture Community Center students visited our college again. Figure 4 shows KCCT members together with JCCCNC (Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, Takahashi Program) members.



Figure 4. JCCCNC visitors group photo at KCCT



Figure 5. The RoboCup robot introduction and the earnestness for a discussion, the experience was genuine



Figure 6. In group photos, foreign visitors are always enthusiastic.

Figure 5 and Figure 6 show the Kosen RoboCup robots' introduction. The students who visited KCCT were all earnest. And the enthusiastic discussion is appeared in attitude. The scholarship in the pursuit was genuine.

4. Evolution of JENESYS 2.0 PROGRAM

In JAPAN, it was announced that the youth exchange service "JENESYS2.0" would be carried out with a scope of 30,000 people as succession of JENESYS between the Asian Oceania countries, starting on January 18, 2013.

The youth exchange service was carried out with a scope of 5,000. In addition to this, between the North America areas, great evolution was expected. (This North American enterprise is carried out by a program by the name of "KAKEHASHI Project.")

In order to increase confidence in Japan and its economy, it is important to increase foreign visitors.

To that end, the project promoted Japanese brands with strength or charm, including "Cool Japan" and the international exchange activity of our college became more enthusiastic. There are many places of interest in Kobe city. There were various events held at the author's home. Having fireworks are one such event.



Figure 7. The introduction of the sightseeing spots of Kobe and a fireworks display at the author's home

5. Reflections on accepting students as a host family

In our college, the student and the teacher continue activities of homestay with kind hospitality in mind. KCCT is recruiting valuable, talented students and their families and adding them to a registration bank every year. By joining the host family bank, one becomes active in learning the truth of the international exchange.

The author hosted eight foreign exchange students and a leader on five occasions.

The exchange students hosted by the author included two Indonesian girls, twice, one Thai leader, one girl from North California, and two girls from Singapore.

The author keeps in touch via LINE and e-mail. For two or three days during the JENESYS program, “hospitality” was done thorough ongoing preparations from the opening ceremony on Friday to the good-bye party on Sunday. English was not usually used by the author. But he studied hard for many various situations while enjoying the documents of the acceptance scenes in advance.

And then the most appreciated results included yearning for a smile and a valuable time of shared personal feelings.



Figure 8. Two aggressive girls go into the dolphin show at the Suma Aquarium before getting permission

From being distant strangers, the visitors that came to the author’s home grew close to the author immediately. Rather than focusing on responsibility viewpoints, it is important that there is a fine feeling there. As for figure 8, it looks like eye contact was made in the open space of a large aquarium. The author really appreciated that eye contact even at such a distance, and many such memories were made in the few days of shared living.

6. Encounter with Dr. Paul Poramet Charoynoot

It was expected that Mr. Paul Poramet C., leader of the

Thai mission would stay at the author’s home, being that his home was a host family in the KCCT host family bank.

The doctor’s actions and stories were so powerful, and until midnight were displayed business cards on the desk in the living room. Dr. Poramet discussed his thoughts on Japanese SSH (Super Science High Schools) and about the Thai international strategy eagerly. To make the conversation possible, the required tools included a dictionary, paper & pen, and a smartphone. Discussion on religion was interesting, too.

Dr. Poramet worked for Thailand’s Department of Education (MOE: Ministry of Education). From the result of the international exchange with Japan, the author was invited to go to take his Ph.D. at a Thai university. In Dr. Poramet’s unique LINE profile, his credentials were confirmed and they really were excellent. We made a tour of the sake breweries of Nada-Gogo from the morning.



Figure 9. Encounter with Dr. Paul Poramet Charoynoot

Figure 9 is taking a ceremonial photograph inside the sake barrels. And then, we had the windsurfing lesson of my hobby go together in Koshienhama’s beach.



Figure 10. Windsurfing Lesson and a Morning Walk

As shown in Figure 10, there was much appreciation for the windsurfing lesson. Early the next morning, Dr.

Poramet was taken for a walk to Taisanji Temple. After returning home, it was decided to sing the song, “You Raise Me Up” at the farewell party. In the author’s home, a sudden and powerful crash course in voice lessons began in morning without any thought being given about disturbing the neighborhood. That evening at the party the song seemed to be too loud to everyone in the farewell party’s meeting place. But the words of the song still encourage the author to this day. With a genius leader from the Kingdom of Thailand in figure 11, it is really thanks for me to have spent happy days.



Figure 11. Leader of the Visitor head to our college was a genius of the Kingdom of Thailand

7. Importance of the international exchange between each other’s college students

The international exchange at the Kobe City College of Technology began with the presentation of culture and the college life in each other’s countries. Differences in culture are felt and a valuable understanding can be learned simply by attending the experience of the International interchange.



Figure 12. Intro of Muay-Thai: national sport of Thailand

Figure 12 shows the national sport of Thailand with martial arts by Thai students as an introduction to Muay-Thai. An interest in kick boxing was born.

From our college’s students, the introduction of the unique technology of each department can be seen in Figure 13.



Figure 13. Introduction of KCCT’s unique Departments

Figure 14 is an appearance of the interchange activity in the Kobe city college of technology when two girls who came from Singapore were accepted at the author’s home.



Figure 14. Singapore members in various KCCT activities

Kobe Maritime Museum and Kawasaki World was included on the schedule made at the author’s home.

However, the robot business center plant tour was organized by KCCT with Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. At that time there was a serious concern by the author about having an overlap of the itineraries by KCCT and the private schedule made by the host family. Luckily everything worked out. The stuffed toy Merlion which the author received as a souvenir still hangs from a doorknob in his home.

A neighboring gentleman that lives across the street from the author appeared at KCCT’s Technical Forum that same year. KCCT’s Annual Technical Forum on Industry - Finance - Academia - Government Collaboration is a big event at the college every year. The neighbor participated

in the Forum as a special guest. He worked as a Senior Managing Director at Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. He talked in a panel keynote speech to a large audience. It was an interesting talk including the construction of the plant and about the laying of the cement.

Even though many exchange students were short term, it was felt that the interchange between students was the most important in various scenes. Faculty are the instructors, only needed to support international exchange. However, the fun and effort of the international exchange could be enjoyed by the faculty almost as much as the students themselves. The significance of learning English is recognized by many students participating in the international exchange activities.



Figure 15. Exchange between students at various events

Figure 14 and figure 15 are scenes at exchange events that KCCT's Global Collaboration Research Center hosted for international exchange activities.

8. Summary

The new global viewpoint of the Kobe City College of Technology is thought to continue to be raised to a great professional standard from now on. In 2010, a great deal of effort was put in with necessity by Professor Dr. Hideaki Shakutsui (Chairman of the Global Collaboration Research Center at the first meeting on April 28th, 2010). Then, with support of many staff, it is thought that the result continues up to the present day. The education of technical colleges in the future must bring up the engineer with the natural and soft feelings related to the global stage. The development of a global sensitivity in all students should be strongly required. It is needed in the near future for an organization to improve more. The challenge to a new way of work-life is near.

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