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Introduction

Starting with this volume, the Global Innovation Joint-Degree Program (GIP-TRIAD) aims to regularly publish the GIP-TRIAD Newsletter to share the latest information and developments related to the program. The scope of this newsletter is to report on the recent activities of both students enrolled in the program and the related teaching faculty. We hope that this newsletter provides readers with an interesting and informative glimpse into our groundbreaking degree program.

Activities

Faculty and Student Exchange

Biodiversity, Agriculture and Culture of Taiwan

Two students from the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences participated in the special “Biodiversity, Agriculture and Culture of Taiwan (BACT)” summer program at National Taiwan University (NTU). The program, which takes place over about four weeks, gives participants the first-hand opportunity to study and learn not only about Taiwanese agriculture and biodiversity, but also about Taiwanese culture.

Summer Research Program at University of Tsukuba

The 6th Summer Research Program, attended by about 40 students from University of Tsukuba’s global partners, was held in late-July 2015. During the intensive two-week program, participants experienced leading-edge research techniques by dividing up into different labs in the Graduate Schools of Medical Science and Life and Environmental Science. Students showcased their work during presentation sessions on the final day. Participants included twelve students and two lab assistants from National Taiwan University, and seven students from University of Bordeaux.

Summer Research Program: Seminars

Three professors invited by GIP-TRIAD gave enlightening special seminars for the Summer Research Program: Assoc. Prof. Han-Yi Chou (NTU Graduate Institute of Oral Biology) on 7/23; Prof. Jon M. Fukuto (Sonoma State University Department of Chemistry) on 7/25; and Assoc. Prof. Tang-Long Shen (NTU College of Bioresources and Agriculture) on 7/31.
A delegation from the University of Tsukuba visited National Taiwan University to complete a student exchange agreement between the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences and the College of Bioresources and Agriculture (NTU) on April 19, 2015.

On July 29, Prof. Hiroshi Ezura, Chair of the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences (UT) and Prof. Yuan-Tay Shyu, Dean of the College of Bioresources and Agriculture (NTU), concluded an academic agreement for a Global Food Security Double Degree Program (GFS-DDP). Enrolled first-year NTU graduate students will begin taking courses under this agreement in September 2015, followed by selected first-year students from the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences (UT), who are scheduled to begin from April 2016. Students in the program spend their first semester at their home university and travel to the relative partner university from their second semester (where they must reside for at least one year.) There, students continue their coursework and research abroad under the guidance of their academic advisor, and return to their home university for their final semester, where they are expected to prepare and defend their research in a graduation thesis. This program offers students the opportunity to acquire master’s degrees from both universities by taking courses in English and only preparing a single graduation thesis.

(Original Japanese text by Prof. Junichi P. Abe)

GIP-TRIAD plans to continue future involvement in the Summer Research Program and support the unique opportunity it provides students for international exchange with other universities.

**DDP/JDP Agreement-Related**

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**Student Exchange Agreement Concluded between the University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences and the National Taiwan University College of Bioresources and Agriculture.**

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**Signing Ceremony for the Global Food Security Double-degree Program between the University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences' Master's Program in Agro-bioresources Science and Technology and National Taiwan University College of Bioresources and Agriculture's Master's Program.**

On July 29, Prof. Hiroshi Ezura, Chair of the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences (UT) and Prof. Yuan-Tay Shyu, Dean of the College of Bioresources and Agriculture (NTU), concluded an academic agreement for a Global Food Security Double Degree Program (GFS-DDP). Enrolled first-year NTU graduate students will begin taking courses under this agreement in September 2015, followed by selected first-year students from the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences (UT), who are scheduled to begin from April 2016. Students in the program spend their first semester at their home university and travel to the relative partner university from their second semester (where they must reside for at least one year.) There, students continue their coursework and research abroad under the guidance of their academic advisor, and return to their home university for their final semester, where they are expected to prepare and defend their research in a graduation thesis. This program offers students the opportunity to acquire master’s degrees from both universities by taking courses in English and only preparing a single graduation thesis.

(Original Japanese text by Prof. Junichi P. Abe)
University of Tsukuba Delegation Visit to the University of Bordeaux

On July 20, Specially Appointed Professors for the Office of Global Initiatives (UT) Prof. Teruo Higashi (Head of the Campus in Campus (CiC) Initiative), and Prof. Jouji Kijima (Head of UT’s Europe-based activities) traveled to University of Bordeaux (UB) to meet UB President Manuel Tunon de Lara and VP Vincent Dousset (Head of International Relations at UB). Acting as an emissary for UT President Kyosuke Nagata, Prof. Higashi travelled to France to personally invite President Tunon de Lara to Tsukuba Global Science Week 2015, to which President Tunon de Lara accepted at the meeting. Following this, Prof. Higashi attended a meeting for planning the implementation of the CiC Initiative, organized by the International Office of University of Bordeaux and the UT Bordeaux Office. In addition to these activities, Prof. Higashi spent time laying groundwork for the implementation of GIP-TRIAD at UB.

On July 21 and 22, a delegation from the UT Department of Educational Promotion lead by Prof. Shinobu Sato (Head of the UT Office of Educational Planning) visited the University of Bordeaux. During their visit, the delegation actively met with officials to gather information about the UB educational system for the purpose of creating an internationally comparable education system at UT. Following these activities, the delegation then visited the UT European Office on UB Victoire Campus. At both sites, the delegation actively laid groundwork for the implementation of GIP-TRIAD at UB.

University of Bordeaux and National Taiwan University, two important partner universities for the University of Tsukuba, recently concluded a university-level agreement. It is expected that this agreement will help facilitate three-way exchange between the universities.
Application Conditions:

1. Applicant is a Japanese National or has obtained permanent residence in Japan;
2. Applicant is 30 years old or younger on April 1 of the planned year for studying abroad;
3. Applicant meets relevant criteria for Type II Scholarship by the Japanese Student Service Organization (JASSO). (Applicants should inquire at their home university whether or not this is applicable.);
4. Applicant fulfills all other requirements outlined in the relevant recruiting information.

(*Please see the “Tobitate Ryugaku Japan” homepage (http://www.tobitate.mext.go.jp/) for more details about the application process and its requirements.)

Summary of Prof. Arthur Lander's Visit to National Taiwan University

Dr. Arthur Lander, professor at UT partner University of California, Irvine (UCI), recently traveled to Taiwan to meet with NTU officials.

Summary of GIP-TRIAD Coordinator Prof. Yoshito Kumagai’s Visit to NTU

GIP-TRIAD Coordinator Prof. Yoshito Kumagai recently visited NTU, where he met with the Head of Academic Affairs to discuss the NTU course curriculum, and with the Heads of the Colleges of Life Science and Medicine to discuss both institutions’ medical courses and possibilities for future interaction.

Summary of Preparations to Establish a University of Tsukuba Alumni Association in Taiwan

On June 19, UT alumni currently residing in Taiwan gathered in Taipei to discuss and prepare for the establishment of a University of Tsukuba Alumni Association in Taiwan.

Relevant Information about Studying Abroad

1. Tobitate Ryugaku Japan

The “Tobitate Ryugaku Japan” Program, which started in 2014, is a system to support and encourage Japanese students to study abroad. It is supported by both the Japanese government (MEXT) and private institutions.

Application Conditions:

1. Applicant is a Japanese National or has obtained permanent residence in Japan;
2. Applicant is 30 years old or younger on April 1 of the planned year for studying abroad;
3. Applicant meets relevant criteria for Type II Scholarship by the Japanese Student Service Organization (JASSO). (Applicants should inquire at their home university whether or not this is applicable.);
4. Applicant fulfills all other requirements outlined in the relevant recruiting information.

(*Please see the “Tobitate Ryugaku Japan” homepage (http://www.tobitate.mext.go.jp/) for more details about the application process and its requirements.)

2. Innovation Internship 100

“Innovation Internship 100,” held as part of the “French Japanese Innovation Year,” is an overseas internship program that will start in Japan from October 2015. It is aimed at Japanese students aged 30 or younger who wish to intern in the field of innovation.

A list of internship positions and accepting companies available through this program and relevant application details are available by accessing the “France Alumni Japon” website and clicking on “Innovation Internship 100.” (*Scheduled to be published from Sept. 15.)
The Government of France Scholarship System for Overseas Students is a system that is available for Japanese students and postdoctoral researchers who aspire to study (through master, doctoral, or double degree programs) or conduct research in France. Successful applicants are selected based on their application documents and a face-to-face interview. Applicants are asked to submit a research proposal and make necessary arrangements with the accepting institution in France prior to applying for the scholarship. Scholarship recipients can receive support for a period of 6 to 12 months.

Details are available in the following URL: (http://www.ambafrance-jp.org/article2915#t-5035) (Japanese and French only).

4. Monsanto Japan Ltd. Support System for Overseas Students

Monsanto Japan Ltd. has generously offered to provide support for select students who will enroll in the Global Food Security Course (double-degree program). Applications will be accepted from late November 2015.

Relevant Details
(1) Qualifications for Applying: Applicants must be enrolled in the Double Degree Program Global Food Security Course and must have a strong record of academic achievements.
(2) Number of Students to be Awarded Support: Two students
(3) What’s Supported?: Partial support for overseas travel and accommodation expenses
(4) How to Apply: Applicants should prepare and submit the necessary documents as outlined in the Support Recruitment Guidelines released in late November 2015.
(5) Selection: Applications will be screened in two parts (documents and interview) by a screening committee made up of representatives of both University of Tsukuba and Monsanto Japan Ltd.
(6) Obligations for Support Recipients: Successful applicants who are granted support will be asked to present the results of their research and work abroad at Monsanto Japan Ltd. before graduation.
(7) Inquiries: Contact Prof. Yoshihiro Okabe, University of Tsukuba E-mail: Okabe.Yoshihiro.gp@u.tsukuba.ac.jp Tel: 029-853-6005