CONTENTS

1 Introduction

2 Activities

- The Third International Conference for Global Innovation Joint-Degree Program (GIP-TRIAD)
- [ Faculty and Student Exchange ]
  - National Taiwan University Summer Program
- [ Tsukuba Global Science Week 2015 ]
  - University of Tsukuba Overseas Alumni Conference
  - NTU Lounge & Imaging Science Café for Biology and Medicine
  - Student Research Presentation Competition
  - Tunis-Taiwan-Bordeaux Joint Workshop
- [Other Recent Activities and Notifications]
  - Long-distance Learning through Simultaneous Teleconferencing
  - Visit to the Bordeaux Office by the First Secretary of the Japanese Consulate in France
  - Relocation of the UT Bordeaux Liaison Office to University of Bordeaux’s Victoire Campus
  - Study Abroad in France Fair
  - International Week at University of Bordeaux
  - The 12th Solanaceae Conference (SOL2015)
  - Towards the Establishment of the “Monsanto Scholarship System for the Cultivation of Professionals Aspiring for Sustainable Agriculture”

3 Relevant Information about Studying Abroad

4 Editor’s Note
Introduction

Welcome to Volume 1 of the GIP-TRIAD Newsletter! Formally known as “GIP,” GIP-TRIAD has updated its name to better reflect its vision for the three-way joint degree program between University of Tsukuba (UT) and its two partner universities: University of Bordeaux (UB) and National Taiwan University (NTU). This newsletter is dedicated to publishing the latest information related to GIP-TRIAD, centering particularly on the activities of faculty and students. This volume contains brief reports on the international exchange events and other activities that took place involving University of Tsukuba and its partner universities for GIP-TRIAD between September and November 2015 including Tsukuba Global Science Week 2015.

Activities

The Third International Conference for Global Innovation Joint-Degree Program (GIP-TRIAD)

On September 30, GIP-TRIAD held its Third International Conference for the Global Innovation Joint-Degree Program at the Tsukuba International Conference Center as a part of TGSW2015. The conference was attended by related faculty and staff from both University of Tsukuba and its partner universities National Taiwan University (NTU), University of Bordeaux (UB), and University of California, Irvine (UCI) to discuss the state of progress for the establishment of the joint-degree program under GIP-TRIAD.

Presentations from University of Tsukuba included an introduction to the updated scheme for a three-way joint degree by Coordinator Prof. Yoshito Kumagai (Faculty of Medicine), as well as other presentations by Assoc. Prof. Toshihiro Kameda (Faculty of Engineering, Information and Systems), Assoc. Prof. Helmut Yabar (Faculty of Life and Environmental Science), and Prof. Hirohisa Nagai (Grad. School of Business Science) about potential areas for future collaboration with GIP-TRIAD. UT’s partner universities also prepared presentations about relevant existing programs and systems for double/joint degrees, and the respective progress made towards the establishment of GIP-TRIAD. Speakers included Prof. Ming-Ju Chen (NTU College of Bioresources and Agriculture), Prof. Hsinyu Lee (NTU College of Life Science) and Mr. Emmanuel Frouté (UT Bordeaux Office in UB). The presentations were followed by an open discussion session in which attendees shared ideas on what necessary actions must be taken to prepare GIP-TRIAD to begin in 2017 as targeted.

Faculty and Student Exchange

National Taiwan University Summer Program (August 16~29)

Ten master-level graduate students from University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences participated in this year’s National Taiwan University (NTU) “Summer Program Plus N1.” During the first week of the two-week program, students received practical training in biotechnology at the NTU Center for Biotechnology. During the second
week, students had additional training in leading research techniques at laboratories in the NTU College of Medicine, College of Life Science, and College of Bioresources and Agriculture. On the final day, students presented the results of their research from each of the labs visited during the program. This program is held part of a series of collaborative programs with NTU including a spring-semester distance learning course (in molecular and cellular biology), mini-symposia, and TA activities during the 2015 Tsukuba Summer Research Program. These collaborative activities are organized to allow students from both universities to experience the roles of both “host” and “guest” and cultivate not only knowledge and lab techniques specific to their research, but also improve their skill for international communication. GIP-TRIAD also plans to be involved with this collaborative program after it starts in 2017.

Tsukuba Global Science Week 2015 (TGSW2015)

University of Tsukuba Overseas Alumni Conference 2015

The 2015 University of Tsukuba Overseas Alumni Conference took place during TGSW2015 and was attended by representatives of UT’s overseas alumni network, including National Taiwan University of Sport President Hua-Wei Lin, who will serve as the first executive head for the University of Tsukuba Taiwan Alumni Association (planned est. in 2016). Lin is one of the top names in world of Taiwanese baseball, and his illustrious record includes winning an Olympic bronze medal, subsequently coaching the Taiwanese baseball team to an Olympic silver medal, and managing the Taiwanese team at the very first first World Baseball Classic. At the conference, in addition to sharing what he learned while attending the UT, Lin reported on the preparation status of the University of Tsukuba Taiwan Alumni Association to the attendees, including UT President Kyosuke Nagata. The Taiwan Alumni Association is expected to play an important supportive role in GIP-TRIAD, particularly for the purposes of networking with internship companies and broadening employment opportunities for graduates.

Strengthening the GIP-TRIAD Network:
NTU Lounge & Imaging Science Café for Biology and Medicine

The “NTU Lounge” session was held during TGSW2015, jointly sponsored by National Taiwan University (NTU), the Human Biology Program (HBP) at University of Tsukuba, GIP-TRIAD, and the UT Taiwan Liaison Office. The session included an introduction of recent activities by representatives of NTU (including the plans to establish a molecular imaging center and a proton therapy center), as well as presentations from NTU and UT students enrolled in the Double Degree Doctoral Program in Biomedical Sciences between NTU College of Bioresources and Agriculture and the UT Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences about their many experiences in the program, including the many differences in their daily lives. Session guests were treated to tea provided by NTU and other refreshments prepared by University of California, Irvine. The session was attended by about 60 faculty and students, including UT President...
Organized by the UT Faculty of Medicine, the Student Research Presentation Competition gave participating students the opportunity to present their research on life science-related topics. Each of the 28 oral presentations and 39 poster presentations were scored, and awards were given to the students whose research and presentation were most highly evaluated. From UT, 23 students gave oral presentations and 31 gave poster presentations. Ten students participated from National Taiwan University (including 2 from the College of Bioresources and Agriculture, 4 from the College of Life Science, 3 from the College of Medicine, and 1 from the College of Public Health). Of those, 2 gave oral presentations, while the remaining 8 gave poster presentations. One student attended from the University of Bordeaux and gave an oral presentation. Of the students awarded for their presentations, 13 were from UT and 3 from NTU. It is expected that through such research presentations, GIP-TRIAD students will discover new starting points, or "seeds," for future collaborative research.

Kyosuke Nagata and University of Bordeaux President Manuel Tunon de Lara. The session was a successful opportunity for the partner universities in GIP-TRIAD to deepen their mutual understanding of each other’s academic program.

Following the NTU Lounge, HBP, GIP-TRIAD, and UT’s Liaison Offices in Bordeaux, Irvine, and Taiwan jointly held the "Imaging Science Café" on the theme of cutting-edge imaging techniques and their application in medical and biological science. Speakers included Prof. Satoru Takahashi (UT), Assoc. Prof. Kentaro Hatano (UT), Assoc. Prof. Tsu-Ming Liu (NTU), UB Vice President Vincent Dousset, and Assoc. Prof. Arash Kheradvar (UCI). The session was held in a relaxed style in which attendees enjoyed light refreshments while listening to each of the session presentations. Prior to the session, invited guests were also treated to a tour of the UT Proton Therapy Center. Both the Imaging Science Cafe and the Proton Therapy Center tour served as a good basis for collaboration for future GIP-TRIAD activities between UT, UB, and NTU.

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Mutual Growth through the Exchange of Research: Student Research Presentation Competition

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Tunis-Taiwan-Bordeaux Joint Workshop

The fundamental aim of GIP-TRIAD is to cultivate advanced professionals who can actively work at the international level to solve global-scale problems. As an opportunity to lay groundwork for this and similar goals and deepen the mutual understanding between global partners in France, Tunisia, Taiwan, and Japan, the UT Offices in France, Tunisia, and Taiwan jointly organized this session in which they held discussion about research on social problems in each country.
Long-distance Learning through Simultaneous Teleconferencing

From October, National Taiwan University, University of Tsukuba, and Kyoto University started an autumn distance learning course on cancer biology. The start of the course corresponded with the beginning of the fifth year of collaboration between the three universities. The course is held once a week for a total of 10 weeks, and the class sessions are composed of a combination of English-language lectures by faculty from each university and presentations of research papers in English by students. Preparation for the student paper introductions challenges students by requiring them to prepare outside of the classroom, and the overall experience is valuable in that it helps students develop their communication and presentation skills. It is planned that students enrolled in GIP-TRIAD will also participate in this course as part of the curriculum.

Visit to the Bordeaux Office by the First Secretary of the the Japanese Consulate in France

On August 28, the First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in France, Mr. Kohei Ohkawa, visited the UT Bordeaux Liaison Office during a visit to University of Bordeaux campus. In addition to being introduced to activities conducted between UT and UB including the Campus-in-Campus scheme and the current progress towards establishment of GIP-TRIAD, Ohkawa participated in discussions with the Bordeaux Office about internationalization at the university and collaborative efforts with the embassy, which is fully endorsed by GIP-TRIAD.

Relocation of the UT Bordeaux Liaison Office to University of Bordeaux’s Victoire Campus

The UT Bordeaux Liaison Office, originally established in October 2013 at UB’s Talence Campus, completed its relocation to UB’s Victoire Campus in July of this year. The Liaison Office is managed and operated by three members: its Director, Prof. Joji Kijima; a long-term resident faculty member, Prof. Chiaki Matsukura (Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, UT); and its administrative manager, Mr. Emmanuel Frouté. On October 22, the new Bordeaux Office held an opening ceremony as part of its International Week, which was attended by UB President Manuel Tunon de Lara. The office will play a key supportive role for UT students traveling to France through double degree and joint degree programs.
The 12th Solanaceae Conference (SOL2015) was held at University of Bordeaux from October 25-29. Twelve participants attended from the University of Tsukuba (including students from the Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences), giving 2 oral presentations and 9 poster presentations. UT Prof. Chiaki Matsukura, who is currently stationed in Bordeaux for GIP-TRIAD, participated in the conference and gave an oral presentation. Additionally, UT Doctoral Program in Biosphere Resource Science and Technology first year doctoral student Mr. Kentaro Ezura was given an award at the conference for his poster presentation. During the conference, UT Prof. Chiaki Matsukura gave an oral presentation and UT Doctoral Program in Biosphere Resource Science and Technology first year doctoral student Mr. Kentaro Ezura was given an award at the conference for his poster presentation. During the conference, UT Prof. Chiaki Matsukura gave an oral presentation and UT Doctoral Program in Biosphere Resource Science and Technology first year doctoral student Mr. Kentaro Ezura was given an award at the conference for his poster presentation.

French Cultural Week was held from September 27 to October 4 with the aim of promoting internationalization at UT. As part of the event, a France Study Abroad Fair was held on the evening of October 1 at the Student Commons, and included an introduction to study abroad in France by CAMPUS FRANCE staff, an introduction to the University of Bordeaux by GIP-TRIAD members. Despite heavy rain on the evening of the event, about 20 students attended and showed their strong interest in study abroad in France by asking questions and actively participating in the fair.

The University of Bordeaux (UB) celebrated its International Week from October 19 to 23. The UT Bordeaux Liaison Office prepared a booth at the event and promoted UT to the students attending. Mr. Emmanuel Frouté attended the event, stationing the booth and promoting GIP-TRIAD and UT activities. Additionally, a reception was held on the night of October 22 and was attended by UB students, foreign students, and faculty alike. UB President Manuel Tunon de Lara gave an opening greeting at the event in which he talked about the exchange activities between UT and UB, followed by a greeting message from Prof. Joji Kijima.

Study Abroad in France Fair

International Week at University of Bordeaux

The 12th Solanaceae Conference (SOL2015)
The University of Tsukuba and Monsanto Company have recently established the "Monsanto Scholarship System for the Cultivation of Professionals Aspiring for Sustainable Agriculture" in support of the collaborative degree (Double-Degree Program (DDP)) and Global Food Security Course between University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Bordeaux (France), and National Taiwan University.

Monsanto Company is a global enterprise that provides agricultural technology and services under a corporate social pledge to establish "sustainable agriculture" that provides stable and sufficient food and nutritional resources to the world. It is said that global food resources must be at least doubled by 2050 if the world is to feed the projected population of 9 billion people. Meanwhile, it is being predicted that there will be a simultaneous decline in agricultural resources (including water resources) and agricultural productivity as a result of climate change stemming from global warming. Thus, there is a clear demand for technological developments that can establish sustainable agriculture for implementing the food production necessary to offset the predicted limitations in resources. Monsanto Company strives to contribute to the pursuit of this sustainable agriculture by making excellent use of modern techniques primarily through breeding/development of crops created by plant biotechnology (gene combination) and plant breeding, chemical and organic pesticides, and precision farming, among others.

We at Monsanto Company feel that there is a greater need than ever before for young researchers and leaders with a global perspective in the field of agriculture. Upon learning about the great efforts University of Tsukuba has been making to educate and train such young talent in agriculture, we decided to offer a scholarship to contribute to the cultivation of these valued human resources with a global perspective and thus contribute to the shared goals of our institutions.

We believe that such "human resources with a global perspective" are defined as talented persons who have not only specialized knowledge about agriculture and related technologies, but who can also understand the difference between Japanese and foreign cultures/ways of thinking and the strengths and weaknesses of both, negotiate solution strategies in line with that understanding, and have the abilities for problem-solving and communication necessary to implement those solutions with mutually positive outcomes. It is our intention to facilitate the cultivation of such human talent through this scholarship.

Additionally, we understand that the collaborative degree program with University of Bordeaux will allow students to gain practical experience in circular agriculture in France, a major agricultural country. We are greatly expectant that through giving students the opportunity for such experience, this program will produce talented persons who will become strong implementers of the techniques and ideologies they have learned abroad in Japan. Our dream for the scholarship is that the recipients will eventually go on to become the human talent who can view things with an open-minded perspective and propose and implement new models for the promotion of Japanese agriculture.

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A message from the Monsanto Company…

Towards the Establishment of the "Monsanto Scholarship System for the Cultivation of Professionals Aspiring for Sustainable Agriculture"

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Relevant Information about Studying Abroad

"Innovation Internship 100"

Below is the latest available information about "Innovation Internship 100."

Announcing the launch of "Innovation internship 100"

On October 5, the "Innovation Internship 100" was formally commenced with an opening dedication by French Prime Minister Manuel Valls. The "Innovation Internship 100" (part of the "French Japanese Innovation Year") is a new project with the goal of offering students in Japan with the opportunity to experience interning at innovative French corporations.

1. Target Candidates

Students with Japanese nationality and aged 30 or under at the expected time of graduation. Candidates are to be selected by participating corporations based on their abilities and statement of purpose.

2. Participating Corporations

Corporations already listed on the France Alumni website (URL below) include the following:


3. What do "Innovation Internship 100" interns do?

Selected interns engage in a project related to one aspect of innovation (including scientific technique, industry, financing, cooking, fine arts, marketing, and management, among others). Interns will receive direct supervision and coaching, and be given responsibilities fitting to their abilities and in accordance with the length of the internship. Other details such as language use, remuneration, location, accommodation, etc. are different depending on the accepting corporation. Please see the France Alumni website for more details.

4. Visa

Selected interns can participate in training/professional activities in France with a Working Holiday Visa, which can be obtained free of charge. The only procedures required with regard to the accepting corporation is to sign an agreement defining the details of the internship.

It is possible for selected interns who have already previously been issued a Working Holiday Visa to participate under a different visa category. In this case, it is necessary to prepare and submit a signed three-way written agreement between the selected intern, his/her university, and the accepting corporation at the time of application.

5. Financing & Remuneration

The remuneration details differ by accepting corporation.

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Editor's Note

Thank you for reading Volume 1 of the GIP-TRIAD Newsletter! Although our newsletter has changed its name, we plan to continue to use it to share the latest information and developments related to the program. Of course, we aim to keep the GIP-TRIAD Newsletter interesting and relevant, so we truly appreciate any and all feedback regarding its content.

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