1 / Introduction

This GIP-TRIAD Newsletter introduces the international activities of University of Tsukuba (UT) with its partner universities, National Taiwan University (NTU) and University of Bordeaux (UB). The reports in this volume 4 are mainly focused on Summer Programs which have been held as part of the international exchange events among three universities.

2 / Activities

... Students from College of Agro-Biological Resource Sciences Participated in Bordeaux Summer School 2016

From July 17 to 30, nine students from College of Agro-Biological Resource Sciences of UT participated in “The Bordeaux Summer School 2016.” They studied the present situation and the leading-edge researches in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry in France through lectures and practical training by professors of UB. And they visited research institutes, agriculture related companies and Chateau to learn about the frontline of above research fields and wine production. They also enjoyed walking around the downtown and visiting Marché. All curricula were offered in English. On the final day, Assoc. Prof. Nakao Nomura, College of Agro-Biological Resource Sciences, participated in the program’s debriefing session. This visit supposedly gave those students valuable experiences though its schedule was very busy.

(Upper-left) Scene from the orientation
(Upper-right) Scene from reception by professors and students of UB
(Lower-left) Scene from practical training in Green Campus
(Lower-right) Debriefing session on the final day

... Visit to University of Bordeaux and Université Bordeaux Montaigne by Prof. Teruo Higashi

On June 9 and 10, Prof. Teruo Higashi, the former Vice President of UT and Provost of Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, and Prof. Osamu Ohneda, Director of Office of Global Initiatives of UT, visited UB and Université Bordeaux Montaigne (formerly University of Bordeaux 3).

On June 9, they made a courtesy visit to Dr. Vincent Dousset, Vice President for International Affairs of UB, and handed in CiC Supplemental Agreement with a signature of Dr. Kyosuke Nagata, President of UT. It is expected that this will enhance CiC Initiative between two universities. Following this, they had a luncheon meeting with Dr. Achille Braque-laire, Vice President for Education, and had a discussion on Course Jukebox and GIP-TRIAD which is in preparation now.

On June 10, they visited Université Bordeaux Montaigne, and negotiated with Mr. Patricia Budo, Director of International Division, and Ms. Irina Nicoleta Simion, Chief of Division in charge of International Cooperation, for the conclusion of the university-level agreement. They also had a discussion on the promotion of academic exchanges at whole university. Both universities already have such exchanges in the fields

Handing in CiC Supplemental Agreement to UB (from left) Prof. Osamu Ohneda, Prof. Teruo Higashi, Dr. Vincent Dousset, Prof. Laurent Servant (Adjunct Vice President for International Affairs)
of humanities and social sciences and regional research in Africa, which are leading fields of Université Bordeaux Montaigu. In the afternoon of that day, Prof. Higashi visited Green Campus of UB (INRA - Bordeaux National Institute for Agricultural Research), and had a talk with Prof. Dominique Rolin, Coordinator for GIP-TRIAD at UB. They also interviewed Mr. Masaki Asachi, a student of the Global Food Security Course for the double degree program (DDP) in Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences of UT. Prof. Higashi also visited Chateau Couhins, a winery owned by INRA, which produces UT brand wine.

Awards Ceremony for "Monsanto Scholarship System for the Cultivation of Professionals Aspiring for Sustainable Agriculture" / Dialogue between Students and CEO of Monsanto Japan

The awards ceremony for "Monsanto Scholarship System for the Cultivation of Professionals Aspiring for Sustainable Agriculture" was held at headquarters of Monsanto Japan on August 5. Four students from Global Food Security Course for the double degree program (DDP) under Master's Program in Agro-Biotechnology Science and Technology were selected as recipients. In the ceremony, they had a dialogue with Mr. Yamane, President & CEO of Monsanto Japan, and told their enthusiasm for participating in DDP and their career paths after completing the program. Then, Mr. Yamane gave a special talk about its business, corporate philosophy, efforts to realize sustainable agriculture, public relations for giving a better understanding of genetically modified products to general consumers, etc., which were all new to students. They were given a very meaningful opportunity and asked many questions.

These DDP students will make on-site reports on their activities regularly. We expect them to report the benefits of studying and doing research abroad to younger fellows, and more students will have interests to join the DDP program.

Mini-Symposium among National Taiwan University, Kyoto University, and University of Tsukuba

On June 18, a mini-symposium was held at NTU as a part of distance lectures among NTU, Kyoto University and UT, which is planned to be one of the subjects of GIP-TRIAD. Eight UT students attended to make oral and poster presentations on their research. Two among them received awards respectively for the oral and poster presentation.
Open Campus for Prospective Undergraduate Students

Open Campus for prospective undergraduate students was held at University of Tsukuba on August 7. Prof. Hiroshi Ezura gave a special lecture at College of Agro-Biological Resource Sciences, titled “Learning Tomato and Designing the Ideal Tomato” for the attendees. It is expected that the students who attended this event will get interested in the research and our university.

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Information Session on Double Degree and Joint Degree Programs for Students of Agro-Biological Resource Sciences

Information session on double degree programs (DDP) and joint degree program (JDP) was held for the students of Agro-Biological Resource Sciences on July 6. Prof. Yuichi Yamaoka, Chair of Master’s Program in Agro-bioresources Science and Technology, explained the outlines of DDP, followed by the faculty members in charge of partner universities: Prof. Chiaki Matsukura in charge of UB, Asst. Prof. Junichi Peter Abe in charge of NTU, and Prof. DeMar Taylor in charge of Utah State University. During the session on DDP between NTU and UT, three NTU students and one UT student (starting from coming September) gave talks about their motivations in applying for DDP. Then Prof. Matsukura made an explanation about GIP-TRIAD, a joint degree program by UT, UB and NTU. Students asked many questions, showing their willingness and great interests in studying abroad. It is expected that more students with high ambitions will decide to participate in DDP and JDP by attending such information sessions.

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Information Session for Studying in Japan

On July 13, Assoc. Prof. Ryosuke Ohniwa, Faculty of Medicine, took part in Information Session at the Interchange Association in Taipei. Programs taught in English seemed of great interest to the participants.

Summer Research Program 2016 at University of Tsukuba

Summer Research Program 2016 was held as a part of exchanging events between partner universities from July 25 to August 6. It was a two weeks' program, and students from the partner universities in Taiwan, France and USA experienced leading-edge researches in a laboratory of either Master’s Program in Medical Sciences or Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences. On the final day, students made presentations to share their own experiences. At the orientation Assoc. Prof. Ryosuke Ohniwa introduced double degree programs (DDP) and Global Innovation Joint-Degree Program (GIP-TRIAD) to the attendees.

Information Session for Undergraduate Students on Double Degree Programs, Joint Degree Program (GIP-TRIAD), and Course Jukebox

On August 2, an information session was held mainly for undergraduate students of Medical Sciences in order to introduce several master’s programs which enable students to make a long-term study abroad. Ten highly motivated students attended, and among those programs, GIP-TRIAD was the most popular.
The international exchange has become increasingly active among undergraduate students, staff and faculty, and we hope it will lead to increase interest in double/joint degree programs at either Masters or PhD level. The GIP-TRIAD Newsletter plans to continue to report the activities of on-site faculty, UT’ students and offices. We aim to keep the GIP-TRIAD Newsletter interesting and relevant to our readers, so we truly appreciate any and all feedback regarding its content.

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3 Relevant Information about Studying Abroad

French Government Scholarship for Overseas Students 2017

The French Government 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. Scholars can receive support for a period of 6 to 12 months. Details are available in the following URL: http://www.science-japon.org/bgf/

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. Please visit the website (http://www.tobitate.mext.go.jp/) to check the details for the application which is due October 24.

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