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The Center for International Education and Research was inaugurated on October 1, 2005 as a special facility for research and education. The aim of the CIER was to become the heart of internationalization in Mie University. Currently our partnership has expanded to 80 universities in 29 countries, conducting mutual exchange activities and international collaborative research.

**A Message from President Atsumasa Uchida**

Mie University is encircled by three green “Sansui” (三載) referring to the green brilliant waves in Ise bay, the fresh green trees on campus, and the clear green sky in Mie.

In this privileged environment, we are aiming to progress by converging efforts as the most environmentally advanced university in the world, based on the smart campus strategy.

That is why today, aiming to expand the information technology of environmental study and research to computer data, we present the “Mie Environmental & Informational Platform, MEIPL” which will not only benefit students, but everyone in the community.

Furthermore, the new University Hospital Ward was opened in January 2012. Working with advanced information systems and facilities to meet the latest medical situations, the new hospital ward will develop and maintain excellent staff members and provide challenging job opportunities.

At Mie University, we strive to contribute towards the “development of human resources and research, enhancing society’s welfare through the harmonious coexistence of nature and mankind.”

Currently, there are 251 international students studying on our campus. They originate from China, the Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, the U.S.A, Germany, France, Spain, Malaysia, Indonesia, and other foreign countries.

They sparkle to reach their purpose, and study hard to learn the Japanese language, basic and applied research, and Japanese culture. They also make many friends in Tsu city and adjacent communities. I sincerely hope that all of our international students get to enjoy their lives in Mie University.
On March 6, 2012, the inaugural opening ceremony for the “Mie Environmental & Information Platform” was held. This new center started its operations on April, 2012. At the ceremony, Prof. Atsumasa Uchida, President of Mie University, made the inaugural address, followed by guests of honor Mr. Maeba, Mayor of Tsu city, and Mr. Akatsuka, chairperson of the Akatsuka Botanical Garden.

Following the introductory words, the inauguration tape was cut and the guests were invited to see the facilities before its official opening one month later. Chairpersons from the community circles attended the ceremony as guests of honor.

Prof. Uchida said, “I expect Mie University to continue being a center that aims to become the most environmentally advanced university, and by expanding our environmental education and research activities, we are now one step closer.”

In addition, electronic information in the form of computer data will be highly used as a complement for information science. The Mayor, Mr. Maeba, extended his congratulations, “I think it’s wonderful to start regional communication and linkage at Mie University.”

After a preview of the MEIPL Center, the “Anniversary Talk Session: Sports and Environment ~Coruscate Female Superstars~” was held at the exhibition hall on the first floor. Prof. Atsumasa Uchida, Prof. Hye-Sook Park, Executive Vice President of Mie University, and Prof. Miho Takeda, Special Appointed Professor for Social Cooperation, all joined the session. Prof. Park led the session as moderator while Prof. Uchida, a medical doctor, and Prof. Takeda, a silver medalist for synchronized swimming, engaged in perfect dialogue.

The Mie Environmental & Informational Platform is a three-story reinforced building, created to house the institution’s environmental education as well as the educational research by means of electronic information.

On the first floor, there is an exhibition hall that offers information on environmental education and research results. Furthermore, it was designed not only for our students but also for the general public, so that it could serve as an exchange platform with the people from the community.

On the second and third floors, there are facilities for the students to respond to their information society as well as for faculties to conduct their education and research classes with various electronic information devices. In addition, there are facilities such as the “Learning Commons” on the second floor, and the “PBL Seminar Room and Teaching Commons” on the third floor. These facilities are available to use as libraries for human resource development.

In addition, this building was designed with an environmental friendly concept. Natural sunlight is efficiently used with solar power panels, roof greening, LED lights, and CO2 sensors to reduce energy loss. The frame of the multi-display system is decorated with the timbers from the forest thinning at the Mie University Forest Station.
5TH INTERNATIONAL WEEK AT MIE UNIVERSITY

The 5th International Week was held December 10 - 21, 2011

For almost two weeks, International activities were held on Mie University Campus, including International Symposia (The UNESCO ASPnet Symposium and the Global Symposium on Promoting Human Resources), various contests, and an “International Exchange Party” to wrap things up with a celebration. More than 1,200 people including students, faculties, staff members, families and friends participated in the activities.

Among the 12 events conducted, there was an English Speech Contest, two International symposiums, a Miss Mie Doll symposium, a Japanese Speech & Skit Contest, and a debriefing session for various programs at the Center for International Education and Research. Also an International Food Festival, and a photo and song contests.

UNESCO ASPnet is regarded as the center for promoting “ESD,” education for sustainable development; always working in support of peace and international cooperation. As of July 2011, there are more than 9,000 schools participating in the UNESCO ASPnet in over 180 countries and regions.

On December 10, 2011, the “Mie University UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network Symposium 2011” was held at Mie University. Before the symposium, a meeting took place in the conference room hosted by Prof. Atsumasa Uchida, President of Mie University, and Prof. Hye-Sook Park, Executive Vice President for Environmental and International Affairs; as well as other Mie University officials, special guests and lecturers involved in the UNESCO ASPnet.

Together, they discussed about how to increase the number of UNESCO ASPnet in Mie Prefecture; finding better ways to promote the projects; and defining the university role in the ASPUnivNet.

Among the guest lecturers in the symposium, Mr. Koji Asai, Director for International Cooperation, International Affairs Division, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports Science and Technology, gave a keynote lecture entitled “Utilization of ESD and UNESCO ASPnet.”

Also, Prof. Kazuyuki Mikami, Executive Vice President of the Miyagi University of Education, gave another keynote lecture entitled “Advantages of Registering with UNESCO ASPnet in School Education - ESD and the Support of Universities.”

On August 21, 2009, Mie University was presented with a certificate for becoming the first national university in Japan to join the UNESCO ASPnet. As of April, 2012, there are 397 schools among kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools and universities in Japan.
On December 17, 2011, as part of the Mie University International Week activities, the "Symposium on Promoting Global Human Resources-Forming Mie University Asia Model (MAM)" was held at the Sansui Hall, Mie University.

The President of Mie University, Prof. Atsumasa Uchida gave the opening remarks for this international symposium, followed by a series of lectures that started with Prof. Hye-Sook Park, Executive Vice President of Environmental and International Affairs, who discoursed about the university’s ongoing efforts to promote global human resources.

The guest lecturers were Mr. Lee Kyun-Dong, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea, and Mr. Jun Kanai, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Toshiba Corporation. Both of them expressed their individual efforts, the Republic of Korea as a country, and the Toshiba Corporation as a company, of promoting global human resources.

After the symposium’s opening remarks and lectures, a panel discussion took place with Prof. Hye-Sook Park acting as the moderator.

Among the other participants that joined the panel session of the symposium were Ms. Huang Ju Hua, Education and Culture Consul of the People’s Republic of China, Consulate-General in Nagoya; Mr. Mitsuhiro Ikehara, Minister’s Secretariat, Director for International Affairs Division, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; and Mr. Toshiharu Yasuda, Lieutenant governor of Mie Prefecture.

The Mie University International Exchange Party was held on December 21, 2011. This yearly celebration is an opportunity for international students, Japanese students, university officials and special guests to share under one roof.

Before the welcoming remarks from the President of Mie University, Prof. Atsumasa Uchida, there was a choir presentation performed by the “Faculty of Education affiliated J.H.S. Music Club,” followed by guest speakers Mr. Eikei Suzuki, Governor of Mie Prefecture, and Mr. Tsunenori Yanase, President of the Japan-China Friendship Association in Mie Prefecture. Prof. Hye-Sook Park made the inaugural toast of the party.

Furthermore, an “International Students Country Introduction” was held. In the event students from Korea, China, Thailand and Indonesia, danced and talked about their countries of origin. During the Mie University International Week, there were many contests held, such as the English and Japanese speech contest, the photo contest and an international song contest. The winners were announced during the International Exchange Party.

Finally, a group of students sang “Matsukensamba” and invited everybody to join for a group dance. Minutes later, a performance from the Mie University Cheerleading club took place to wrap-up the event on a high note.
On April 20, 2012, a “Talk Session” with University Presidents from Japan and the Republic of Korea was held at the hall on the first floor of the new Mie Environmental & Informational Platform building with an attendance of about 160 students, international students, faculties, and staff members.

During the session, Dr. Woo Hee Park, President of Sejong University, Republic of Korea, and Prof. Atsumasa Uchida, President of Mie University, exchanged their ideas and opinions on forming global human resources in Asia in this 21st century period. Prof. Hye-Sook Park, Executive Vice President of Mie University served as the session’s moderator.

Together, they talked about their ideas and expectations focusing on world-class global human resources rooted in the community and essential English education for international human resources.

In addition, they talked about their efforts to expand the students’ opportunities with other foreign universities, especially about the Double Degree Program, Short Visit/Short Stay Program, International Internship Program, and Support Programs for career opportunities available for international students.

Furthermore, Japanese and International students gave some opinions and ideas as well as expressed their satisfaction concerning their studies and campus life at Mie University, and the activities of the Korean Universities.

This talk session was a great experience full of opportunities for the participants.

On May 13, 2012, a ceremony was held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the People’s Republic of China, hosted by the Mie “Japan-China Friendship Association,” with the collaboration of Mie University, at the Plaza Dohshin, Tsu city.

This event was also done to commemorate the foundation of the 60 years that the Japan-China Friendship Association has been functioning.

The President of Mie University, Prof. Atsumasa Uchida gave the opening remarks at the event’s reception, followed by a special lecture given by Mr. Koichi Kato, a member of the House of Representatives of Japan.

Mr. Kato expressed that while working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he learned through his experiences, the importance of respecting each other, especially among people belonging to this two countries that share very strong ties.

After the lecture, three international students from China, and Japanese students from Mie University, had a talk session with Mr. Kato.

They presented the “Japan-China Youth Declaration of Friendship” as Mie University students. In the declaration, they committed themselves to cooperate with each other and to create a new history of friendship between Japan and China. Please read the Declaration of Friendship on Page 23.
A debriefing session for the International Internship Program was held on April 17, 2012. Out of the two students that participated, one Mie University student went to Thailand to experience the program’s curriculum, teaching Japanese language to students from Khon Kaen University; also, one student from Thammasat University, in Thailand, came to Mie University to engage in many practices related to her area of study: Crop research. At the end of the debriefing session, the students were given a certificate by Prof. Hye-Sook Park, Executive Vice President for International and Environmental Affairs, and Prof. Hiroshi Ehara, Vice President for International Affairs.

From February 19 to March 3, 2012, seven students from Mie University participated in the Vietnam Field Study. The students belong to the Faculties of Humanities, Law and Economics, Medicine, Engineering, and Bioresources. They were accompanied by Prof. Michiko Yoshii, from the Center for International Education and Research, CIER, who is in charge of this international program.

The students visited various places in Ho Chi Minh city and Long An province. They also studied in the National Ho Chi Minh City University of Pedagogy. They visited schools that teach street children; hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and various NGOs from Vietnam and other countries that are working closely to help alleviate the primordial needs of some of the places that most lack resources. This program is part of the academic exchange and cooperation agreement between Mie University and the National Ho Chi Minh City University of Pedagogy.

Korea Field Study Program

From February 20 - 29, 2012, seven undergraduate students and one graduate student belonging to the schools of humanities, education and medicine at Mie University, participated in the “Korea Field Study Program.”

The aim of this international exchange program is to improve the Japanese students’ understanding of Korean culture, language and society by experiencing and communicating in both Korean and Japanese language with Korean students. This was a good opportunity for students from both nationalities to understand cultural differences from other students’ point of view.

On February 24, the participants of the Korea Field Study Program attended the Japan-Korea International Exchange Seminar at Dongguk University. At the seminar, Prof. Hye-Sook Park, Executive Vice President for Environmental and International Affairs, Mie University, gave a special lecture on the promotion of global human resources.

Thailand Field Study Program

From February 22 - 28, 2012, five students from Mie University accompanied by Prof. Hiroshi Ehara, Vice President for International Affairs, Mie University, participated in the Thailand Field Study program. During the field study, students were able to experience various academic and social activities such as the “Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Future in Asia” 2012 International Conference, hosted by Thammasat University.

They also visited a banana plantation owned by the Thai government, a flower company, and a “China” factory, where they learned about the line production process and various preparations that merchandise must go through before it is sold. In addition, they also had the opportunity to visit an above-water market, where locals sell their goods on boats that border the market. Finally, they attended the FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific, which was holding a conference entitled “Current Food Security Situation and Future Outlook.”
Mie University and Sriwijaya University have shared an Academic Agreement Exchange and Cooperation since July 19, 2008. Together, both universities have been focusing on the Double Degree Master Program on Integrated Food Production and Management Planning for international education studies.

On March 26, 2012, the Mie University Graduation Ceremony was held at the Sansui Hall. Furthermore, a graduation ceremony for the Double Degree Program was also held that day on campus.

The two students that graduated from the Double Degree Program were Ms. Haruna Tanaka, Mie University, and Ms. Siska Arie Santy Siahaan, from Sriwijaya University, Indonesia. Both students belong to the Graduate School of Bioresources, Mie University.

On behalf of Mie University, Prof. Motoi Yoshioka, Dean of the Graduate School of Bioresources, and Prof. Hiroshi Ehara, Vice President of International Affairs, attended the meeting.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Totong Kamaluddin, Prof. Dr. A. Muslim, Dr. Sabaruddin, and Dr. Ir. H. Abu Umayah, were also present as visiting guests in representation of Sriwijaya University.

Mie University established an overseas office at Sriwijaya University. The aim of this office has been to support students from Mie University as well as students from Sriwijaya University allowing them to take advantage of greater opportunities on an international level.

On September 29, 2011, eight “Waste Management” trainees from Central and South America visited Mie University from August 24 to October 5, to participate in a program sponsored by JICA, Japan International Cooperation Agency, which entrusted the ICETT, International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer, with the participants in efforts to “Promote Recycling-Oriented Societies in Central and South America.”

The participants came from five countries: Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Venezuela. The course was focused not only on the efficient waste disposal technologies available in Japan, but also on the shaping of recycling-oriented societies by promoting the 3Rs of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, as well as environmental education.

At the President’s Office, they met with President Atsumasa Uchida where they conversed with members of the Mie University Environmental ISO Student Committee, in a conciliatory mood. “It is one of the most important issues for mankind to consider the balance of the environmental disruption and the economic development” said President Uchida. Furthermore, Prof. Hye-Sook Park, Executive Vice President for Environmental and International Affairs, presented a lecture at the Liberal Arts building. The subject of the lecture was “Environmental Pollution, Problems and Solutions.” She also took the opportunity to express Mie University’s aims and goals on this matter.

From January 18 to February 22, 2012, eight trainees from Venezuela visited Mie University for Environmental Activities. During their stay they visited municipalities, educational organizations, and private sectors to learn about “Waste Management for Promoting Recycling Oriented Societies in Central and South America.” These trainees are the administrative officers in charge of waste control in Venezuela, and they will bring back the experience and the knowledge gained, to their country. Thanks to Mie University’s advanced environmental educational activities they will deepen their understandings.

In the first half of the program, they joined the site tour including an introduction of Mie University environmental preservation activities by the Environmental ISO Student Committee. In the last half of the program, they attended a lecture by Prof. Hye-Sook Park, Executive Vice President for Environmental and International Affairs, Mie University. After the tour, they made a courtesy visit to President Atsumasa Uchida, where they had the chance to share, and express their ideas and opinions.
For more information, please visit our website at: www.cie.mie-u.ac.jp/en/cier

Mie University is currently involved in academic exchange agreement with 80 Universities in 29 Countries. As of June 1, 2012, there are 251 International Students enrolled in Mie University.
As part of the academic exchange and collaboration between the two universities, the second year of the Japanese Winter Course Program was performed successfully. Prof. Miriam Doi, from Tasmania University was present during the ceremony.

During the month of January, a total of 13 students (six undergraduate & seven graduates) from Tasmania University joined the “Japanese Winter Course Program” at the Center for International Education and Research, CIER, Mie University. The course for undergraduate students was held from January 5 - 27, whereas the course for graduate students was from January 5 - 20.

This opportunity was part of the advantages of the academic exchange and cooperation agreement shared between the two universities. Prof. Masako Fukuoka, Japanese Studies for the CIER, was in charge of organizing this international exchange program.

In addition to Japanese language studies, the students participated in discussions with Mie University tutors. They also had the chance to experience elementary school exchange; learned about meditation in Zen Buddhism and conducted research presentations in Japanese language.

On January 18 - 20, Professor Miriam Doi, from Tasmania University, visited Mie University officials. The meeting took place in the Director’s Office at the Center for International Education and Research. On behalf of Mie University, Prof. Hye-Sook Park, Executive Vice President for Environmental and International Affairs; Prof. Hiroshi Ehara, Vice President for International Affairs; and Prof. Masako Fukuoka, Professor for Japanese Studies, CIER, were present in the meeting where international exchange between the two universities was fruitfully discussed.
On November 25, 2011, the opening ceremony for the new “University Hospital Ward” was held on the 5th floor of the Mie University Hospital, which opened its doors in January, 2012.

At the ceremony, Prof. Atsumasa Uchida, President of Mie University and Prof. Kan Takeda, Director of the Mie University Hospital, gave the opening speeches. President Uchida said, “I am very happy that the New Hospital Ward will provide high quality medical assistance and training to ensure the successful development of primary health care programs. Furthermore, our Emergency and Critical Care Center will benefit those who are in need of rapid appropriate treatment within our prefecture.” The guests of honor expressed their congratulations following the tape cutting.

Mie University Hospital inaugurated a new helicopter for health emergencies called “Doctor Helicopter.” The Helicopter carries a doctor and a nurse at all times. The fact that it travels at a speed of 200 km/h, makes it capable of reaching any part of Mie prefecture within 35 minutes, allowing a patient in critical condition to get primary treatment within this time frame. This new implementation is part of the facilities that Mie University Hospital is looking to offer as part of the developments in regards to emergency medicine: The ability to deal with life-threatening situations that require prompt medical attention.
The opening of the New Mie University Hospital Ward features brand new spacious facilities where patients can feel relaxed during treatment, while at the same time, staff members can experience better working conditions. Among the amenities, we are offering a varied food menu, cooked using mostly fresh domestic products, including meals with bread and other foods that some foreigners feel more comfortable eating.

Furthermore, patients can also enjoy the quiet atmosphere with a wonderful view of the Ise Bay from our 12th floor restaurant that holds live presentations once a month.

Currently, some of our staff members can speak English and Chinese. There is one Portuguese interpreter working at Mie University Hospital, offering help to patients from Portuguese speaking countries. In the new ward, internet is available in every room for patients to use with their laptop computers. This is very convenient, especially for foreigners who often communicate with their loved ones through the internet.

“Doctor Helicopter” can save the lives of those who get serious injuries in distant places within the prefecture. Recently, a critically-injured child was brought from the south area of Mie Prefecture to the University Hospital, where the child rapidly received an appropriate treatment. This shows the importance of Mie University’s Emergency and Critical Care Center in our prefecture.

Finally, there are special rooms and electronic medical charts available for medical students and residents undergoing the “Practical Medical Care Training.” The new facilities are equipped with modern medical devices which will aid students to perform their studies and training with interest.

Prof. Zhao Kang Ying - Special Appointed Professor for Education

On April 1, 2012, the CIER welcomed Prof. Zhao Kang Yin from Jiangsu University. She teaches Chinese Language and Culture I, as part of the International Career Development Program “Courses in Foreign Languages.” This curriculum is aimed to deepen the students’ understanding of Chinese culture by analyzing its most representative characteristics. At the same time, Prof. Zhao Kang Ying, together with Prof. Masako Fukuoka, CIER, are carrying out collaborative research on the subject of Japanese Education.

There are many International Academic Exchange and Cooperation activities she has been involved with regarding both Mie and Jiangsu University such as the Japanese Summer School in Mie University; the Tri-University International Joint Seminar & Symposium; and an International Culture Day that Prof. Zhao organized herself, where Jiangsu University students wore kimonos and Japanese food was sold in stalls.

When asked what she thinks about internationality, she expressed: “It is beautiful to see how students from different parts of the world, Japanese, Chinese, Americans, etc., open their hearts and minds for the sake of understanding, meanwhile widening their appreciation of different cultures.”

For the 40th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the People’s Republic of China, and also for the commemorative 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Japan-China Friendship Association, we, as Mie University students, make efforts together to contribute toward the development of the friendly relationship between Japan and China. To achieve this, we declare as follows with our thoughts to build up the peaceful society on both Japan and the People’s Republic of China.

1. We make efforts to develop the tradition of friendship, to fulfill a role for exchanges, and to strengthen the mutual cooperation, complying with the principles prescribed in the “Japan-China Joint Communique of 1972,” the “Japan-China Peace and Amity Treaty,” and the “Japan-China Joint Declaration.”

2. Japan and the People’s Republic of China are separated by only a narrow strip of water and have had friendly relationships for more than two millennia. On the other hand, we learned from each other through the unhappy periods of our lives. We make efforts to maintain this friendship between Japan and China keeping with the spirit of “Learn from the Past for the future.”

3. We conduct attractive exchange activities widely and make efforts for young generations to be successors of Japan-China Friendship Activities by deepening their understanding about histories and cultures of Japan and the People’s Republic of China, traditional friendship, and the vision for the future development.

4. We acquire appropriate technical knowledge, and make efforts on the formulation of the sustainable development of Japan-China Friendship by deepening their understanding about histories and cultures of Japan and the People’s Republic of China, traditional friendship, and the vision for the future development.

We declare that we aggressively seek what we can do and cooperate with each other for the friendship of Japan and the People’s Republic of China to flourish in the global society and make maximum efforts to create a new history.

As a center of learning, Mie University strives to contribute towards the “Development of Human Resources and Research.” Our greatest aim alongside forming global human resources, is to achieve quality international exchange by conducting mutual exchange activities and international collaboration. This is the main reason why the new Mie Environmental & Informational Platform (MEIP) is so important to us, because it promotes connection between our personnel and student body. By means of expanding our information technology for environmental study and research to computer data, we are contributing not only to Japanese and International students, which are the key players of all of our programs, but also to the community.

Mie University offers many opportunities for students to shine and supports them fully. We hope that progressively more active participants shall continue to bring further development to international issues.