

## Striving towards creating a harmonious campus

The Office for International Cooperation and Exchange, popularly known as OICE, was established in its present form in 2003. OICE members consist of one regular staff, and three advisory members (Head and two advisors). In addition, one temporary personnel, from the International Student Section, provides technical support.



A view of the OICE during an informal gathering

Presently, over 200 international students from 30 countries are affiliated with our school. The OICE is an interface between the university and these students, as well as those striving to join us in the future. We work in close cooperation with our school's Academic Affairs Section, especially with the International Student Section, for all administrative matters related to students and events. Our major activities are counseling/ advising, overseas correspondence, providing placements to MONBUKAGAKUSHO Scholarship students, self-supporting students, and JSPS researchers, etc. The OICE regular staff is an alumna of this school. Her previous experience as a doctoral student here and the struggle with language barrier comes in very handy while counseling the students, who are often a replica of the dilemmas faced years ago by her and her peers. For the OICE, there is nothing more satisfying than seeing the smiling and enthusiastic faces of the students freed of worries.

Most international students, especially those on MONBUKAGAKUSHO Scholarship lack the Japanese language ability. Hence, from 2003, student-related information received in Japanese from the International Student Support Group of the university was mailed to the international students in Japanese and English. However, as the students use various email ID's, and with the influx of SPAM mails, at times they did not receive the emails sent and missed out important information. To avoid this problem, we set up the OICE homepage

in April 2006. Since then, all that we need to convey to the students is being regularly uploaded on this homepage.

In addition to studying/ research, we also wish that international students can make lots of friends, and truly cherish throughout their life, the time they spend on our campus. To enhance interactions among them as well as with the Japanese students,

we organize annual event like the Yayoi International Day. During this event, international students present the uniqueness of their native country through power-point presentation, music, song etc. On this occasion, we also invite a few Japanese speakers to share their personal experiences either during their study abroad or as tutors of international students, or on topics related to Japan. Last year, the power-point presentation made by a Japanese student depicting the seasons in Japan and its characteristic foods, flowers, festivals, etc was very educative to the international students, especially those new to Japan.

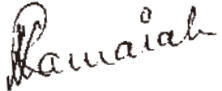
Another annual event we organize is the overnight study trip for international students. During this trip, we visit one of the affiliated research facilities of our graduate school, and nearby places of interest. This provides an opportunity for the students to not only make friends, but also enrich their knowledge about our school.

The motto of OICE: "To strive continuously towards creating a campus where cultures blend, and everyone including international students and researchers enjoy harmony, mutual respect and trust".

PS: Only a few of the OICE activities are briefly mentioned here. Anyone interested in knowing more may please visit the OICE personally for further details.



Brochure for new students

  
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