

# KU Today

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学部紹介  
特集

Special Issue  
**Faculty of Dentistry**



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**KUToday** is a biannual publication to present information about Kagoshima University to a wider international audience. Each edition will feature one faculty for prospective overseas students as well as other topics such as educational programmes, research and alumni information. Some articles are translations from the Japanese-language publication, *Kadai Journal*, upon which *KU Today* is loosely based. Any comments or suggestions about *KUToday* will be warmly received.

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**A Note on Names**

Following convention East Asian names appearing in *KU Today* are written family name followed by given name.

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Specially Appointed Assistant Professor,  
Global Initiative Centre





## Producing dentists who excel both on the local as well as the global stage



**Dr. Miyawaki Shōichi, Dean**

Since it was established on the Sakuragaoka campus in October 1977 as one of only eleven such faculties at national universities throughout the country, the Faculty of Dentistry has played a significant role as the only dental science education and

research institution in the southern Kyūshū and Okinawa region.

Following in the tradition of those pioneers of Satsuma who were so active during the Meiji Restoration, as a result of our faculty's efforts to produce dentists who can play active roles in the international community as well as support medical care on outlying islands and in remote areas, our graduates have gone on to become internationally active professors at our university and elsewhere, and contribute greatly to regional medical care by serving as the chairman of Kagoshima Dental Association and similar bodies all over southern Kyūshū. Recently, we have become the first dental faculty in Japan to introduce a curriculum based on academic

outcomes, and are hoping this will lead to even more progress.

Our current students are also outstandingly dynamic and have received various awards such as the Asia Pacific Dental Students Association Scientific Research Award in 2016, and the IADR Hatton Award and the Kagoshima Bank Future Creation Plan Award in 2018.

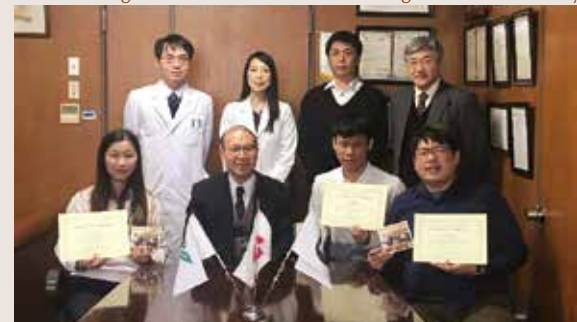
Furthermore, the faculty is heavily engaged in international exchange. Over the past three years, departmental agreements have been concluded with Kaohsiung Medical University and National Yang Ming University in Taiwan, University of Hong Kong in China and Prince of Songkla University in Thailand. In 2018, our departmental exchange programme with Airlangga University in Indonesia was upgraded to a full university exchange programme. Many of our undergraduate students have gone on exchange to these institutions and in January 2019 we hosted some of their students in Kagoshima.

To all those dental students overseas – why not come to Kagoshima University and experience Japan's advanced dental education with state-of-the-art and unique research and education that our faculty offers? For students who want to make new discoveries, who are eager to take on challenges and who want to become dentists who can play active roles both locally and globally, I can strongly recommend studying here with us.

### 1. A medical visit to a remote island



### 2. Welcoming dental students from Kaohsiung Medical University





## Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

The Field of Oral and Maxillofacial Rehabilitation, Advanced Therapeutics Course in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences is engaged in the research and clinical work of various congenital and acquired diseases. These include cleft lip and palate (CLP), jaw deformity, inflammation, trauma, oral cancer, jaw bone cyst, and stomatitis. In particular, our department is especially well-known in Japan in the field of CLP for our comprehensive medical care. Patients and their families are cared for both physically and psychologically from birth to the end of the patient's growth, with the addition of the parents' group activities in the Kagoshima area. These activities are highly-valued socially, and we received a local award called the MBC prize in 2013 for our social contribution.



Department members

## International educational activities



Overseas student undergoing clinical training

Our department has had many international doctorate students and they have also studied in clinical fields under the foreigner medical training system authorised by Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Given this opportunity to study in both scientific and clinical fields, after returning to their home countries, they are able to contribute significantly to both research and medical care as teachers.

Furthermore, many oral surgeons, dentists and nurses also come to our department from abroad to observe and learn our treatment methods and systems in the hospital. More than 30 people have visited our department in the last 10 years from countries such as Brazil, Indonesia, and Bangladesh. Recently, our international educational activities are not just limited to those conducted at Kagoshima University, as we have also travelled abroad to transfer surgical technique and knowledge.



Basic Microsurgery Course held in Jakarta in conjunction with the University of Indonesia in 2019



Doctors from Padjadjaran University and Harapan Kita Children and Womens' Hospital, Indonesia



## Volunteer activities in Africa and Asia

Since 2006, we have continued our international volunteer activities performing charity operations for CLP patients in Vietnam, Indonesia and Ethiopia. In rural areas of developing countries in Africa and Asia, many CLP patients of all ages do not receive proper treatment, because of poor economic development and insufficient medical infrastructure. The aim of this medical support is to supply surgical treatment to patients with CLP in order to improve their quality of life, and also to help local medical staff establish future guidelines for treatment of CLP in these countries.

On many islands in Indonesia, such as Sulawesi,

Kalimantan and Nusa Tenggara, we are jointly participating in a CLP charity project with oral surgeons from several local universities. There are a lot of patients who require charity operations, therefore, surgeons have to do many operations late into the night, using headlamps in order to respond to sudden power outages due to poor power supply conditions in the hospitals. Through these experiences, we become very close to the local staff and we can pass on our techniques and also exchange knowledge with the local oral surgeons. This is extremely vital for the development of oral surgery in both countries.



Patients and their families waiting for operations in Butajira, Ethiopia



Charity operation with local staff in Garbet Hospital, Ethiopia



Charity operation with Airlangga University, Indonesia



Operating during a power outage



## Practical training visiting dental clinics on outlying islands Minami Hiroyuki, Professor

One of the educational goals of the Faculty of Dentistry is to produce dentists who can contribute to community medical care, and here in Kagoshima it is possible to experience regional dental care in a variety of different environments by utilising the geographical features of the prefecture. There are 28 inhabited islands in Kagoshima Prefecture, where about 10% of the total population of the prefecture lives. The larger islands among them such as Tanegashima, Yakushima, and Amami-Oshima have good transport links, medical infrastructure and living conditions. On the other hand, there are smaller islands, such as the three islands of Mishima village, Kuchinoerabujima of Yakushima town, and the seven islands of Toshima village, with populations from 60 to 180 people, which have no permanent doctors or dentists. Dental treatment on these outlying islands is carried out by visiting clinics twice a year, composed of two dentists from the faculty who team up with dental hygienists from the Kagoshima Dental Association. The programme, which has been running since 2007, allows several students in the fifth and sixth years of their studies to accompany the dental teams.

Ferry journeys of between four and twelve hours are the only means of taking the travelling clinic bus and portable dental treatment unit to the islands. The visits start with setting up the portable apparatus in the island's community centre. A wide range of age groups from infants to the elderly visit the clinics. Dental checkups and cavity treatments are carried out on children if necessary, and denture repairs and denture adjustments are often carried out on adults, and the students help with the treatment. Recently, the importance of prophylactic dental treatment and instruction to prevent dental caries and periodontal disease has been emphasised, especially because islanders cannot receive treatment immediately even if the necessity arises. For the participating students, it is a precious opportunity to understand the situation of these dentist-less island communities and to consider the role of a dentist.

### 2019 participants: Kajio Risako, Sagara Saki, Yütoku Miyoko

This April, we participated in a six-day training programme to Nakanoshima and Suwanosejima in the Toshima Islands. We arrived at our first destination, Nakanoshima, after seven hours on the ferry. First of all, the whole team set up the medical care system. We

assisted with dental care such as cavity treatments and denture adjustments which the dentist did in rotation. In addition, there were opportunities to carry out rubber dam isolations and fissure sealants on children, as well as periodical examinations, scaling, mechanical tooth cleaning, and giving instruction on how to use interdental brushes and dental floss for the adult patients. We were able to see many patients, some of whom had been suffering with pain caused by moving teeth for several months before our visit. We could easily see that health in the oral cavity is maintained by paying attention to self-care, receiving dental treatment when the islanders visit the mainland, as well as receiving care from these visits twice a year.



Although in our daily practical training in the university hospital, we did not have to think about the medical care environment, here we found there

were many constraints. The lighting equipment was insufficient, and it was difficult to accurately illuminate the oral cavity. We realised that the proper positioning of the dental chair facilitated the dental care. The sound of the portable unit was loud like a vacuum cleaner. On Nakanoshima, magnified digital images were available using the equipment on the clinic bus. However, since we didn't take the bus to Suwanosejima, the film had to be developed by hand and observed with an X-ray film illuminator. Such insufficient situations are not limited to outlying islands, and medical care in depopulated areas on the mainland and in the time of natural disasters can be the same. Through this programme, we realised that it is necessary to acquire a wide range of clinical skills, and also we were motivated to become involved with medical services in underpopulated areas by getting to know about living and medical environment in these remote areas in Kagoshima.

We would like to express our gratitude to the professors and the hygienists of the Prefectural Dental Association, the administrative staff and the many islanders who participated in the training.





## Student Voice

Lee Ji-young (Kyung Hee University), Alumni

I entered the Faculty of Dentistry in 2008 and graduated in 2014. In 2017, I underwent training in the periodontal medicine department of Hokkaido University. In 2018, I passed the national dental practitioners' examination in Korea and completed a residency at Kyung Hee University Dental Hospital in Seoul. I am currently working as a resident specialist at the same hospital, where I am somewhat involved in the training and education of dentistry students.

I thought about studying abroad after I left high school. From there, I started studying Japanese and was lucky enough to be accepted the following year. At first, I had a hard time due to my lack of Japanese language skills, but I was blessed with good classmates and teachers and soon got used to it and was able to graduate in six years. I haven't been back to Kagoshima University since I graduated, but I often think back to my life at the university and in Kagoshima.

I still remember the entrance examination. From the beginning, I had the goal of obtaining a dental licence in both Japan and Korea, and when I was asked in the interview why I had decided to study abroad and what my aims were for after graduation, I said that even though I hadn't decided where I wanted to work I wanted to be a bridge between Japan and Korea and that I also wanted to do volunteer work.

Of course, it is difficult to say whether I have achieved my aims, but I think I am working towards them little by little. There are not many people in Korea who understand Japanese dental terminology so I am sometimes asked to interpret. For example, when doctors and students from the university in Japan which we have an exchange programme with come to Korea, I guide them around our hospital and explain about the lives and studies of Korean dentistry students. I also interpret for Japanese colleagues when

they come to Korea for academic conferences. I am also asked to supervise the translation of Japanese dental books into Korean. Last month, when the president of our college attended a conference in Kagoshima, he expressed a wish to visit Kagoshima University and meet the dean, Dr. Miyawaki. I was very happy to hear that they are considering setting up an exchange agreement between our two institutions.

When we had our graduation party in 2014, I was impressed when we were told that as graduates of Kagoshima University, the faculty would always follow what we do. And now that I am away from Kagoshima, I am very aware of this sentiment.

From now on, I will continue trying to be a dentist who can not only act as a bridge between our two countries but trying to convey a positive influence by keeping in mind those thoughts that I had when I started Kagoshima University and by continuing to enhance my ability and knowledge.



Graduation party



Volunteering in the Philippines



Volunteering in the Philippines



Residency conclusion ceremony at Kyung Hee University



At Kyung Hee University Dental Hospital

## Student Voice

Guo Jyun-Siao / Lin Chin-Yu / Cheng Yuan-Chi (Kaohsiung Medical University), Short-term exchange students

We are fifth-year students at Kaohsiung Medical University (KMU) in Taiwan. We attended Kagoshima University - KMU International Student Exchange Programme and we visited the Faculty of Dentistry for about one week in January 2019. The faculty's campus is located in Sakuragaoka in Kagoshima and is about the same size as the campus of KMU. We participated in many activities arranged by the faculty, including the model practice of restorative dentistry and endodontology with third-year students, special lectures from different departments, and clinical visits to Kagoshima University Hospital. We also

had wonderful city tour around Kagoshima with the faculty teachers and dental students who had visited KMU last year. During our visit, everyone treated us so nicely. We not only learned a lot but also had a lot of fun. Looking back now, we miss our visit to Kagoshima. We hope that the good relationship between Kagoshima University and KMU will continue forever.





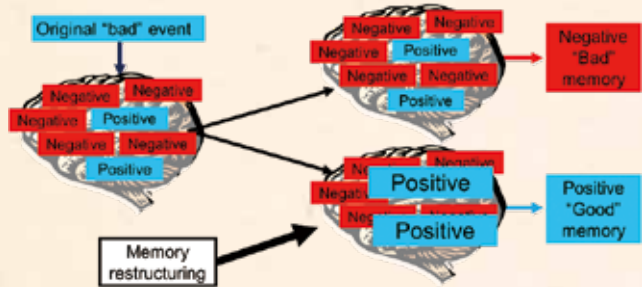


# Ease fear, improve oral health: Memory-reconstruction for “good” dental experience

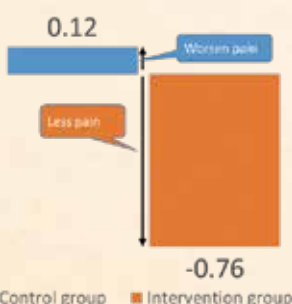
Dr. Heima Masahiro, RDT, DDS, PhD, joined the Faculty of Dentistry in April 2019. He was hired to lead the international exchange programmes and projects.

He has a unique background compared to the other faculty members in a Japanese dental school. He started his dental career as a dental technician in a local dental clinic. After that, he decided to shift his focus and become a dentist. He graduated from the dental school of Okayama University and trained in both pediatric dentistry and general dentistry. He also earned a PhD in Dentistry four years later. His thesis was regarding dental care-related fear and anxiety (dental fear) which is a worldwide problem for both patients and oral health care providers. His research career has stemmed off from this research. He moved to the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle as a visiting assistant professor in 2002 and kept up his research regarding dental fear.

One of the big problems was that there was no strategy to help people who had terrible experience in dental care. Accumulation of bad dental experiences leads to dental fear, which in turn threatens their quality of life. Dentists try to avoid causing any pain and or stressful situations during dental treatment.



However, it is sometimes unavoidable, such as in an emergency, and dentists can not do anything about it. Part of Dr. Heima’s significant work was the development of a strategy to help people who have had bad dental experiences. His team focus on memory, which leads to behaviour in the next dental treatment. Our brains save positive and negative information regarding the original event at the same time. His team explained the last “bad” dental treatment could be



changed by using positive words at the beginning of the next visit to the patient (memory restructuring process). In the research, his team asked how painful the injection administered during the last visit was after the memory restructuring

procedure and compared it with the level of pain immediately measured after the injection administered that day. The team found that the pain level increased if they didn’t do the intervention and the memory of the pain levels decreased after the intervention. The behaviour in the following visit was the main outcome of this study; participants with memory restructuring could undergo dental treatment much easier than participants without it. This technique became a standard of American Academy Pediatric Dentistry. After six years at UW, he moved to Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland as Pediatric Dentistry Assistant Professor. For a long time, it was believed that parents who didn't complete high school led to more tooth decay in their children. Dr. Heima found that children whose parents regularly visit their dentist visit the dentist and keep healthy teeth. Additionally, parental dental fear levels showed the same phenomenon as parental education level. The parental dental visit was actually found to be the more important factors, rather than parental high school completion and or parental dental fear, to keep children's teeth healthy. He recommended encouraging parental dental utilisation to keep their children’s teeth healthy.

He also worked with transgender individuals as a personal supporter and a researcher, and he revealed transgender individuals are in a situation of high dental fear risks. He wishes that all LGBTQ+ individuals are understood and the discriminations against them are







stopped immediately.

In the clinic, he always takes care of adults and children with dental fear who have difficulties visiting a dental clinic. His care does not use sedative treatment. He also uses behavioural supports. He has made a lot of impact on the oral health and life of many patients with dental fear.

He played many roles in the US such as a teaching faculty and researching, and now, Dr. Heima has returned to Japan to lead the international exchange programmes and projects.

The Faculty of Dentistry has concluded departmental agreements with several dental schools in East Asia and North America. The school plans to continue expanding its international relations with other universities from all over the world.

Dr. Heima has tremendous overseas experience. He knows about living the bitter sweet life in foreign countries. You may be anxious about speaking Japanese. Don't worry, he will help you. He knows receiving support from the school is important. Please feel free to contact him if you have any questions or interest in visiting the Faculty of Dentistry of Kagoshima University.

*Associate Professor*

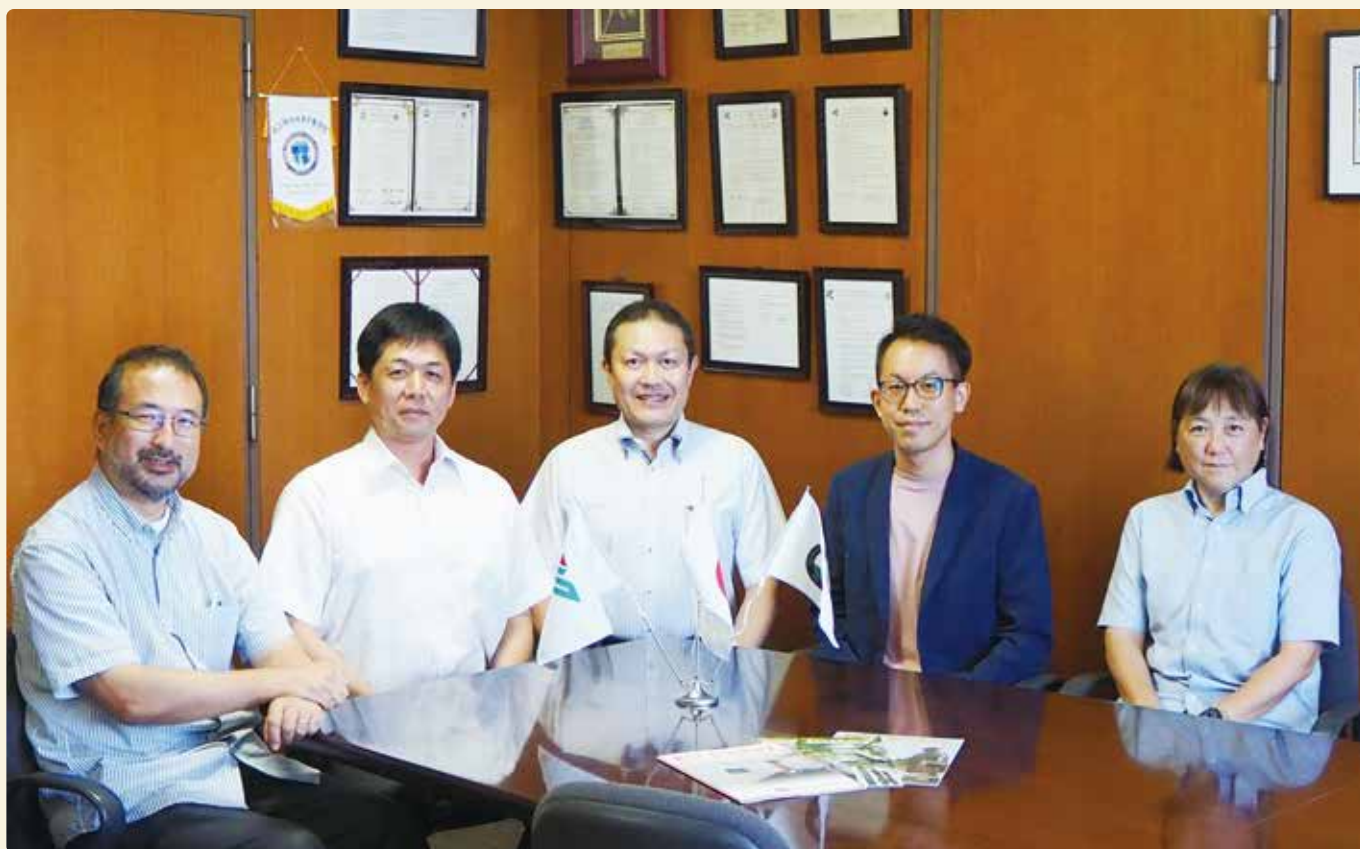
## *Heima Masahiro*

**Social and Behavioral Medicine Field, Health Research Course, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences**

Heima Masahiro is an Associate Professor in Kagoshima University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences who has a unique background and many international experiences. He started off his dental career as a dental laboratory technician, then he earned DDS and PhD from Okayama University. He was also trained as both general and pediatric dentist in Japan and the United States. He moved to the United States in 2002 and conducted many research projects, educated dental students, provided dental care to dentally fearful patients including children and adults, and took the international leaderships. He is still currently playing many roles and contributes to global health from Japan.



## Into a new era of healthcare professionals contributing internationally and locally: global education in the Faculty of Dentistry



Having celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2017, the Faculty of Dentistry has produced more than 2,000 graduates and its education aims to provide the ability to respond to diversified oral health needs in the modern world.

Since 2015, the Faculty of Dentistry has built an outcome-based curriculum that sets out clear goals for each dental educational stage. The dental students are taught to be able to achieve the goals in each stage rather than the students are passively taught simple knowledge.

The faculty's curriculum policy calls for acquiring the ability to respond to diverse medical needs in local and international communities, whilst its diploma policy outlines the ability to understand the diversity of dental care in local and international communities, including remote islands, to acquire the capabilities to work extensively in local and international communities, and to understand the social role of dentistry and medical care.

The faculty has developed human resources to support oral health care in remote islands and areas by taking advantage of the special characteristics of the Kagoshima area. Additionally, it also designs and operates curriculums and programmes aimed at educating dentists who are capable to work in international situations.

KU Today interviewed Professor Tamatsu Yuichi, Professor Nishitani Yoshihiro and Associate Professor Heima Masahiro about global education in the faculty.

**Can you tell us about the Courses for Global Health Care Providers, your faculty's core subjects for global education?**

**Nishitani:** The classes are held in four stages, from Global Health Care Providers I for 2nd year students to Global Health Care Providers IV in the 5th year.

**Heima:** I worked in the United States of America for 17 years and often heard many people say that Japanese dentistry was highly advanced. On the other hand, Japan's contribution to the international community was insufficient. So, while bringing attention to Japanese dental care to the world, we needed, above all, an example of international contribution to show our students.

Global Health Care Providers I helps students



generate ideas for international contribution.

Global Health Care Providers II provides more concrete simulations of the feasibility of international contribution, such as how to raise funds. And so we're making it possible for students to carry out these kinds of projects on their own even after they leave us.

Global Health Care Providers III and IV provide students with knowledge about situations they may encounter in dental clinics in Japan so that they can develop the necessary communication skills. We want to give students the experience of being able to provide oral health care, even if their English is not perfect.

International contributions and the provision of dental care in foreign languages in Japan are the two pillars of this course.

### What exactly do you mean by international contribution?

**Heima:** There are many ways to do this, such as helping to raise the level of oral health care in developing countries and the level of dental education in cooperation with local universities, and volunteering.

**Nishitani:** Instead of guiding students, we start by asking them what kind of international contribution do they think they can make.

**Heima:** We are also hoping to get ideas from students and their flexible minds. For example, we have them think about what they can produce if they were operating in regions that do not have the same infrastructure as Japan, for example, water and electricity supply.

**Nishitani:** There are also things which they may not realise are international contribution. For example, dental bonding developed in Japan have the highest quality in the world. But, if you don't understand how to use them properly, then going overseas and giving workshops on them is also international contribution.

**Tamatsu:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was building a dental school in Sri Lanka to develop a system for training dentists. I specialise in anatomy and volunteered to instruct oral surgery doctors there. In addition, we have held symposiums on forensic dentistry, inviting teachers from partner universities to discuss the creation of an international platform for dental formulae, which is necessary for identification of individuals at the scenes of large-scale disasters.

### Is class content set considering the situations graduates are most likely to work in in the future?

**Nishitani:** There are currently over 100,000 dentists in Japan, but only 10% of them work in hospitals or universities, the remaining 90% work in clinics. In the future, many students may have to deal with patients who cannot speak Japanese in Japan so we are using role-play to help them prepare for those kinds of situations.

**Tamatsu:** In role-play, we teach them not to use technical terms but simple words that ordinary people can understand.

**Nishitani:** We choose several common oral health problems as the themes, and members of the faculty who specialised in those areas will discuss with the students about the problems.

**Heima:** After that, students take the role of patient and dentist. They conduct a consultation with the patient, make a diagnosis, make an appointment for the next examination and make a payment. The patient has information about their symptoms and explains them to the dentist. Everything is designed to be conducted in English prior to clinical training, which is held in their 4th and 5th year, in order to overlap with preparation for the national dentistry exam. There are no classes that do the same thing in Japanese, and some of it is rather advanced, so all in all, it is quite hard for the students.

### Could you tell us more about your overseas dental study programmes?



**Tamatsu:** Originally, it started informally about four years ago using the personal connections of faculty members who had done research abroad. From there, it was made into overseas dental study programmes that available in all years of study. Each year has a different

destination based on the level requirements of each host institution.

To date, we have dispatched students to such institutions as University of British Columbia in Canada, the University of Hong Kong in China, Kaohsiung Medical University and National Yang Ming University in Taiwan, and Airlangga University in Indonesia for a period of one to two weeks.

**Nishitani:** Let me give you an example from the programme at Kaohsiung Medical University. Unlike Kagoshima University, the Collage of Dental Medicine in there has its own multiple hospitals in different locations, so our students had visited them. They also participated in simulation training there, which they already had done in my class in Kagoshima. Students from both countries got along well with each other.

However, it's a great pity that not all students can take part in these programmes due to conflicts between personal schedules and curricula on both institutions.

**Heima:** The students who participated in the programme said it was interesting to see the unexpected differences in both systems.

### And what about programmes for overseas students in Kagoshima University?

**Nishitani:** In January 2019, we had three students come from the College of Dental Medicine at Kaohsiung Medical University for about one week. Faculty members from several departments, including myself, gave lectures in English. The students also visited our dental hospital to see what dental treatment in Japan is like. And, in the same way as when I took our students to Kaohsiung, we had the students from Kaohsiung participate in simulation training held here. Our main focus is interaction between students, so we used an active learning approach by getting them to join the Japanese students' groups.

The capacity of our faculty is 53 students for per year. As I said earlier, not everyone can participate in our overseas dental study programmes, creating an experience gap between students. But if we can host students from overseas, it will be helpful for our students who have not been able to go.

This year, six students from Kaohsiung Medical University will visit Kagoshima to study that would be funded by Sakura Science Plan. They are going to visit the factories and laboratories of SHÔFÛ INC. and MORITA CORP. in Kyoto, two of the world's leading companies in the research and development of dental materials and equipment. Specialised materials are imported and used in Taiwan as well, but there is no production base, which is why we want the students to go there.



To what extent does international awareness and interest, and the need for a foreign language take root amongst the Japanese students?

**Tamatsu:** When I talk to high school students on open campus days, I stress that the dental profession is broader than they might imagine and that they will need to be more international. When we do evaluation after role-playing in class, there are some students who are very interested in it and those who didn't feel it is necessary. That's where our challenges lie.

**Nishitani:** Many students who participate in the overseas dental study programmes are ambitious. And after the students from Taiwan went back, our students are keeping in touch with them. Ideally, these relationships will flourish over the long term.

Will international contribution in dental care and student participation in international programmes contribute to Kagoshima in the long run?

**Nishitani:** We don't really make a distinction between "Kagoshima" and "International". For example, students who have gained an international outlook by participating in one of the international programmes may end up working on an island in Kagoshima.

**Heima:** The concept of health care for students participating in global education programmes is changing. Sometimes the education we provide is reflected in these conceptual changes that are used in the real world. Through these experiences, they are able to reconsider Japan and Kagoshima.

**Nishitani:** I think the goal has been achieved just by realising these things.



**Networking event**  
After a short lecture, information and opinions were exchanged. The theme was career development and unconscious bias.



## Centre for the Promotion of Gender Equality

Equitably empowering all individuals to grow and shine.

**Koshio Shunsuke**

*Vice President and Executive Director for General Affairs, Director of Centre for the Promotion of Gender Equality*

Kagoshima University promotes gender equality based on policies established in our Basic Principles of Gender Equality and Action Guidelines and our Action Plan for Gender Equality.

### Raising awareness and promoting gender equality

We hold executive seminars on gender equality and distribute leaflets on unconscious bias to all members of staff. We run a course on gender-equal society in the general education department as well as a course on how to become a researcher for high school students delivered by female lecturers. We also publish a newsletter and hold gender equality exhibitions in the university library.

### Support for work-life balance

To help create an environment in which employees can manage both their work and personal lives successfully, we hold awareness-raising seminars, long-term care consultations, opinion exchange meetings and child care support.

### Support for researchers

Research assistants are assigned to support researchers during significant life events so that they may continue their research careers. We also operate a mentor system to provide advice on career development.

### Support for the development of female leaders

We have set targets for the ratio of women amongst senior administrative positions and researchers. We also hold empowerment seminars for women.

### Participant testimonials

#### From a postgraduate student who attended a networking event

The meeting was both inspiring and fun. At first, I was a little nervous, but everyone was very warm and friendly. I decided to participate because I thought it would be a good opportunity to think about my future after graduation, but it was also an opportunity to look back on my past after listening to the lecturer speak. There were a few home truths for me, because I also had a time when I felt lost when I was looking for a job and things were not working out so well, but that experience led me to my current job, so it was good to realise that a seemingly unsuccessful experience can end up being a starting point.

#### From a participant in the work-life balance support seminar

I will strive to create an atmosphere in which employees can easily use the leave system by promoting communication in the workplace so that they can balance life and work. I also want to think about the value of my life.



**Work-life balance support seminar**

We hold this event to help create a workplace environment where every employee can play an active role without having the fear of having to quit due to life events.



## United Graduate School of Agricultural Studies student identifies and names rare fish

During a marine survey of Kagoshima Prefecture conducted by the university museum, it was discovered that a large one-metre long fish in the Carangidae family, was the first oyster pompano, *Trachinotus anak*, to have been found in Japan. It was identified by Wada Hidetoshi, a second-year student of the United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, and he was given the honour of coining its Japanese standard name, *yokozunamarukoban*, which translates as “sumo grand champion” pompano. Sumo fan Wada named it after its huge body and developed back muscles that reminded him of a yokozuna grand champion wrestler.

This oyster pompano is a rare species that has been recorded only off Taiwan and the northern seas of Australia. In November 2018, the fish was caught off the coast of Kasasa, which known as a rich fishing ground, by a local fisherman, Sakamoto Osamu, who operates a fixed shore net fishery. At first, it was thought to be a rare Indian pompano, *T. mookalee*, so it was brought to

the laboratory of Dr. Motomura Hiroyuki, who is both a professor in the graduate school and also the director of the museum, by another fisherman, Itō Masahide.

Wada, who started the research, identified the fish as an oyster pompano based on its characteristics, such as the shape of its head bone and the absence of teeth on its tongue. The findings were jointly published in July 2019 in the Japanese Journal of Ichthyology (Ichthyological Society of Japan) by Wada, Mr. Itō and Professor Motomura.

“I’m really happy that I have been able to follow in Professor Motomura’s footsteps.” Wada recalls how he felt when he found out that it was an oyster pompano. About 20 years ago, Professor Motomura gave *T. mookalee* its Japanese standard name of *koganemarukoban*. He also said that if his research was approved academically, it would help promote the town of Kasasa, adding, “It would be a great way to repay all the fishermen there.”



Wada Hidetoshi with the specimen



At work measuring specimens in the laboratory



Students from all over the world study in Professor Motomura’s laboratory



*Trachinotus anak*



The laboratory houses about 150,000 specimens





## Taiwanese students at affiliated junior high school for 2019 English Campaign

Once again, the English department in the university's affiliated junior high school welcomed a group of sixteen teacher-training students from National Taipei University of Education to promote cross-cultural exchanges using English as a communication tool. For eight days in late August and early September, the Taiwanese students and the junior high school pupils did a variety of activities as part of the 2019 English Campaign.

After the welcome party and the orientation, the real work began on 1st September, when all the participants were divided into three groups: one to make tapioca milk tea and pork rice, one to find out about NASA inventions that have filtered through to our daily lives, and one to create eco-bags to help protect the environment. All the activities were done in English, which was sometimes difficult for the junior high school pupils but they all seemed to enjoy communicating in various ways.

The following two days, classes in six subjects (Japanese, social studies, English, music, art and PE) were taught in English to help improve the Japanese pupils' English skills. With this opportunity to study English outside of normal English classes, the

students seemed to be puzzled at first, but in the practical subjects like music, art and PE, they were soon able to overcome any language barriers with the Taiwanese students and were able to enjoy using English.

On the last day, farewell parties were held in each class, and the pupils exchanged message cards with the Taiwanese students as well as singing them some songs. During the programme, the Taiwanese students homestayd with the pupils' families, giving them even more chance to get to know each other outside of school, too.



Group activity on 1st September



Farewell party in the classroom

## Students visit Gengenbach Town Hall in Germany



Meeting with the mayor of Gengenbach

As part of a twelve-day September study tour around Europe, Professor Nakajima Daisuke and seven students from the Course of Community Studies in the Faculty of Law, Economics and Humanities visited Gengenbach Town Hall in Germany and had a two-hour meeting with the mayor, Thorsten Erny, and Lothar Kimmig, executive director of the cultural and tourism association. Gengenbach, a town of about 11,000 people in the south-west of the country, is known for



Article in the Offenburger Tageblatt on 25 Sep 2019

its beautiful old wooden buildings and many flowers.

In the meeting with the mayor, the students heard about the town's issues and the mayor's vision for the future.

It was revealed

that Gengenbach is tackling the challenges of an ageing and declining population by maintaining infrastructure while preserving the historic town centre and securing employment and residential areas. In terms of cultural and tourism policies, they also learned that tourism infrastructure is beneficial to local residents, and that cultural events improve the quality of life and increase both the number of tourists and residents. This visit was reported in the local newspaper.





# Farm stay experience in Izumi

Rafael Marmolejo,

Specially Appointed Assistant Professor, Global Initiative Centre

In July 2019, I had the privilege of accompanying the students from Thailand's Burapha University and Taiwan's National Cheng Kung University students to Izumi as part of the US-Kagoshima-Asia Triad Programme's Japanese Culture course.

Outside of the main city areas, most of Japan is still covered in farmland or *inaka*. Izumi is no exception. We wanted to expose the visiting Thai and Taiwanese students to the nature and local culture of Izumi through having contact with local people. What better way to do this than through what is known in Japanese as *nōka minpaku*. These farmhouse B&B style accommodations offer great value and fine hospitality when compared to hotels, yet the price for an overnight stay comes in at under 10,000 yen. Usually, during a farm stay, an agriculture tourism experience comes included. This can take many forms depending on the farm and host. Besides this, there are many Japanese cultural experiences that one cannot gain by staying at a hotel. For example; the Japanese custom of removing one's shoes before entering a home at the *genkan*, eating dinner by an open *irori* hearth, and sleeping on a *futon* in a *tatami* mat room.

My group's host was Mr. Ōhira who took us for a side excursion to the island of Nagashima famous for its fresh fish and beautiful scenery. After buying a nice red snapper fish to grill for the evening, he took us to his home which was formerly a samurai house. Our guest room was generous in space and we had an *irori* in the middle of the room. For dinner Mr. Ōhira and his lovely wife, Sachiko, prepared a sumptuous feast with whole roasted chicken, the grilled fish, roasted vegetables and salad harvested from their garden. Our dessert was fresh watermelon harvested by my colleagues and me. We partied on late into the night eating and drinking and sharing cultural experiences

with our host. We came to learn that Mr. Ōhira, who is now 72 years old, worked in sales and marketing for Panasonic in the United States. Soon after retiring he and his wife started farm stay hosting as an enjoyable way to meet people from around the world and enjoy cultural exchange. And the Ōhira's are not alone. In Izumi, there are around 18 different families offering farm stay accommodation, with each one offering a unique agricultural experience.

For example, some of the students in our group were taken by their host family for a twilight tour of the local mountains to enjoy a deer watching experience, whilst others were treated to picking citrus fruit from orchards. Another group enjoyed feeding and caring for calves and some students also participated in extracting and making honey. Everyone came back with beautiful, unforgettable memories.

So, if you are looking for an authentic Japanese lifestyle experience in the countryside, with home cooked meals from seasonally harvested produce, then I highly recommend that you try this style of accommodation. You will be rewarded with the warmth and kindness of true Japanese hospitality.



Izumi farm stay hosts with some of the vegetables & fruits you can harvest with them



Front Cover: Professor Nishitani providing a dental treatment

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