

# International Exchange

## A worldwide academic network and overseas presence

Our current network of inter-university agreements consists of 57 universities in 29 countries and regions. Our network of inter-departmental agreements consists of 16 departments in 9 different countries and regions. We will continue to be proactive in promoting international exchange through academic partnerships and student exchanges with our partner institutions.

We are actively establishing our presence overseas. In 2012, we established our first overseas office, Akita Mongolia, in partnership with the Mongolian University of Science and Technology. The office serves as the base of study and research for our university researchers located there.

In April 2013 we opened our second overseas office, Akita University - Chulalongkorn University Joint Research Laboratory at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. An Akita University team which is involved in joint research with Chulalongkorn University is using the laboratory, and it now serves as a base for research and field work for both universities.

In 2014, we established a liaison office with Hokuto Bank, Bangkok. Akita University Bangkok Office is a practical base for our PR activities in South East Asia, allowing us to co-ordinate with institutions in the region, as well as to attract exchange students.

We established this office after concluding a "Strategic Partnership Agreement between Akita University and Hokuto Bank". In 2015, Akita Prefectural Government set up the Akita Prefecture business network for expansion in Thailand. It held a general meeting in Bangkok to establish it. This was also the occasion for the signing of an MOU between The Suranaree University of Technology, Akita University and Hokuto bank.

We have established two research laboratories in Indonesia. In 2015 we opened the "Faculty of International Resource Sciences and Trisakti University Joint Research Laboratory" at Trisakti University, kitted out with all the necessary equipment required for research, such as microscopes and rock cutters. With some test samples received from the state-owned oil company, Pertamina, amongst others, we have put together data on oil resources which are typically very difficult to come by otherwise, increasing our investigative capabilities through this joint effort. This year, we established the Faculty of International Resource Sciences and the

Faculty of Engineering, Hasanuddin University Joint Research Laboratory at Hasanuddin University. It is installed with polarizing microscopes, digital microscope cameras and polishing machines.

By establishing research bases in Indonesia, we hope for increased growth in the study and development of the region, focused on joint research into Asia's underground resources.



Hasanuddin University Joint Research Laboratory

## From establishing research bases for resource development to PR activities for our student exchange programs

Established in 2009 as a university-wide organization, the Faculty of International Resource Sciences research and education Center, the parent body of the Graduate School of International Resource Sciences, provides technological support to resource rich countries, organizes symposia on resource sciences, and sets up bases for research into resource development.

In particular, via our Short Stay Program (SS), we take in undergraduates for a four week period at the university from institutions other than our active exchange partnership institutions. They participate in classroom learning and laboratory work, and visit institutions related to resources in the prefecture.

Recently we have seen an increased number of students who have completed the program and returned home, come back to the university, either as regular overseas students, or else as exchange students. We hope that this program serves as a way of publicizing our activities overseas.

Akita University is planning to expand the international exchange program, in keeping with our role as a university which is open to students all over the world. To that end, given the growth in overseas study and overseas placements for students and teaching staff, as well as the increase in foreign students coming to study from abroad, we are working to establish an environment which is conducive to taking them in. In February 2008, we established the International Exchange Center, an organization established to drive our international exchange strategy.



## Ample Educational and Daily Life Support for Foreign Exchange Students

Along with the increased numbers of foreign students, we are making active efforts to maintain an educational support system for them.

In 2009 we established our own unique scholarship “the Akita University Scholarship for Privately Funded Students.” As a result, we are now able to award scholarships to students with excellent grades from partner schools who wish to study abroad. In order to deepen students’ understanding of Akita culture, various community-rooted events are planned, such as an overnight farmhouse stay, *mochi* (rice cake) making, a visit to Yokote to see the *Kamakura* (igloo), overnight ski trips, and others. By adopting a “tutoring system” Japanese students help exchange students with their Japanese language study and provide support for their daily lives.

In April 2010, the “Multicultural Lounge” was established as a space to independently study a variety of languages, and study abroad orientation and information meetings are regularly held here.

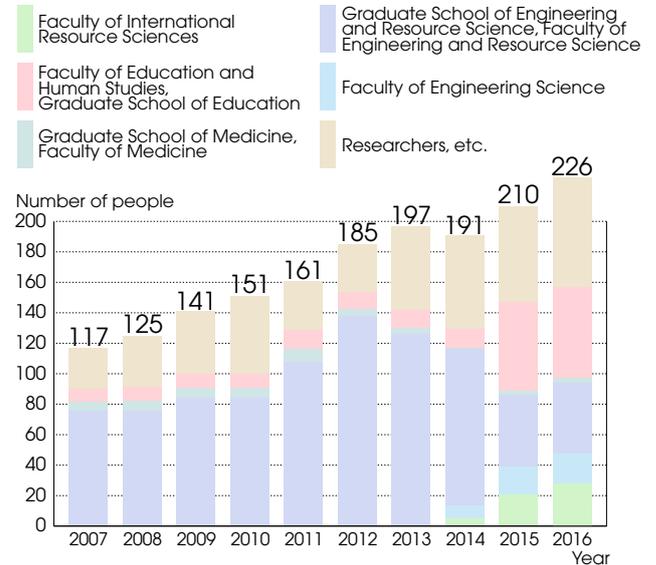


Students experienced rice planting



Multicultural Lounge

### <Transition in International Student Numbers>



## Nurturing Talented Students & Faculty with an International Perspective

Nurturing Talented Students & Faculty with an International Perspective in order to assign young faculty members to posts in foreign universities, and nurture talented professors with an international perspective, we have undertaken the “Akita University Researcher Foreign Assignment Project.” Each year since 2008 approximately 3 professors (25 in total) have used this system to conduct research at universities abroad.

Also, in an effort to provide financial support to university students studying abroad at partner schools we have established the “Akita University Student Overseas Assignment Support Project.” Part of the student’s international airfare is paid for (up to 40,000 yen within Asia, and up to 100,000 for other locations), with support provided to 5 students in 2015.



Study Abroad Orientation (May 23, 2014)