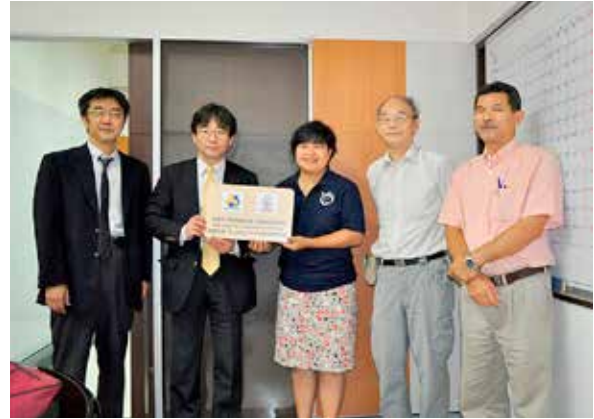


# International Exchange

## An Academic Network Stretches Across the Globe

Our present network of inter-university agreements consists of 51 universities in 27 countries and regions, and our network of inter-department agreements consists of 15 departments in 8 different countries and regions (as of May 1, 2014). In October 2012, the overseas base “Akita University Mongolia Office” was opened. In April 2013 the second overseas base “Akita University - Chulalongkorn University Joint Research Laboratory” was opened at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.

We will continue to be proactive in promoting international exchange through academic and student interaction with our partner schools.



Akita University - Chulalongkorn University Joint Research Laboratory (April 25, 2013)

## Challenging Resources Taking Akita University’s “Stage” Global

Resource-less Japan; its great challenge is how to obtain them.

Rare-metals, resource nationalism, and urban mining are keywords we find in the media these days making it obvious to everyone that the world is turning upon the axis of resources. As countries go to war over resources, Akita University’s presence is becoming more prominent.

Akita University is the only university in the country where students can study the entire mining process from start to finish; from resource prospecting, to mineral extraction, to mineral processing. Leading experts in the resource field gather here from all over the country and train students, interns and researchers from all over the world, including Japan, to become resource development experts.

“Akita University International Center for Research and Education on Mineral and Energy Resources” has been taking a central role in this challenge. Established in October 2009, it specializes in resource research, with the aim to be the research hub for resource development. The center is based in the Faculty of Engineering and Resource Science, which makes it easier for center staff to make long-term business trips and it serves as a center for the entire campus.

Currently the center is concentrating its efforts on providing technological support to countries that possess resources. The center began when the resource-rich African

nation of Botswana requested that Akita University train its resource engineers.

We are providing the know-how to resource-rich countries but have difficulties in developing them. In addition to Botswana, we began to support Mongolia, Kazakhstan and other countries with undeveloped resources.

Akita University has a proud history that began more than 100 years ago with the former Akita Mining College. Now, it acts as “resource diplomat”, gathering and refining professional knowledge and bridge to the future.

The knowledge cooperation will lead to establishing Japan’s resource security and a system of stable supply. The technology cultivated over many years in Akita is now ready to take on the world.



Akita University is working towards expanding its international exchange so that it may be a university open to the world. To that end we are striving to promote study abroad and international appointments amongst our students and staff, as well as increasing the number of foreign students we accept and maintaining an appropriate environment to host them. The International Exchange Center was established in February 2008, setting in place a framework for furthering strategic international exchange.

## 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 the system of educational support.

In FY2009 we established our own unique scholarship (the Akita University Scholarship for Privately Funded Students) for privately funded foreign exchange students. As a result, we are now able to award scholarships to students from partner schools with excellent grades who wish to study abroad.

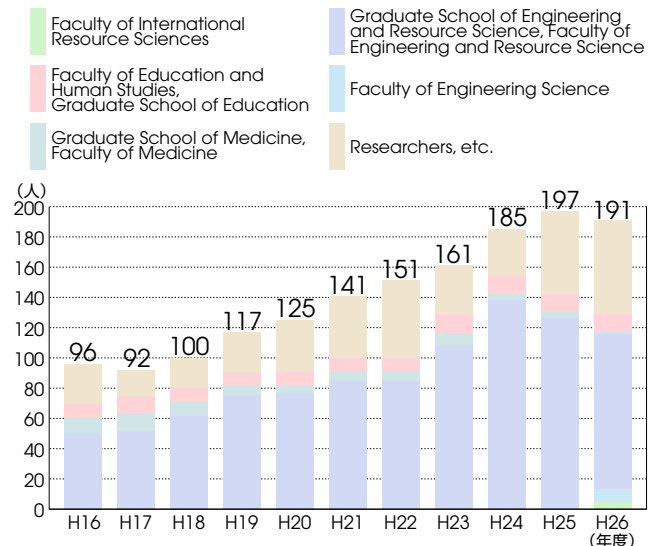
In FY2014, the Japan Student Services Organization's Student Exchange Support Program (for short-term students) adopted the "Akita University Experiential Program (AUEP)" for the 5th straight year, increasing the number of scholarship recipients, which in turn lead to the increase of exchange students from partner schools. The AUEP program aims to raise students' communication ability and gain an understanding of Akita's culture through experiential multi-language classes and specialized classes in English.

In order to deepen students' understanding of Akita culture, various community-rooted events are planned, such as an overnight farmhouse stay, mochi (rice cake) pounding, a visit to Yokote Kamakura (igloo), overnight ski trips, etc. By adopting the "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.



Multicultural Lounge

### <Shifts in International Student Numbers>



## Nurturing Human Resources with an International Perspective

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In order to assign young faculty members to post in foreign universities, and nurture human resources with an international perspective, we have undertaken the "Akita University Researcher Foreign Assignment Project". From 2008, when it was systemized, each year approximately 4 people, totaling 18 researchers 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 international airfare is provided (up to 40,000 yen within Asia, and up to 100,000 for other locations), with support provided to 5 students in FY2013.



Study Abroad Orientation (May 22, 2013)