

# International Exchange

## A worldwide academic network and overseas presence

Our current network of inter-university agreements consists of 56 universities in 28 countries and regions. Our network of inter-departmental agreements consists of 21 departments in 11 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. We relocated to the New Mongol Academy in 2016, which serves as a base for education, public relations and the exchange of researchers: either researchers from Akita who are located there, or foreign students who wish to go onto Akita University from the New Mongol Academy.

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. In 2016, 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.

In 2017, we opened the Akita University Botswana Office in the Botswana International University of Science and Technology. As well as conducting research and educational activities in the South Africa region, this is used as a base in the region for the required "International Resource Fieldwork" course in the 3rd grade of the Faculty of International Resource Sciences.



Signing at the opening ceremony

## 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.

The "short stay program" is a systematic educational program for graduate students in our partnership institutions in resource-rich countries. During its four week running period, the students carry out laboratory work and visit institutions related to resources in the prefecture.

Recently, an increased number of students who have completed this program come back to the university as regular students or international exchange students. We hope that this program will publicize 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.



## Educational and Daily Life Support for Foreign Exchange Students

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

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 to enable students and faculty staff to independently study a variety of different languages.

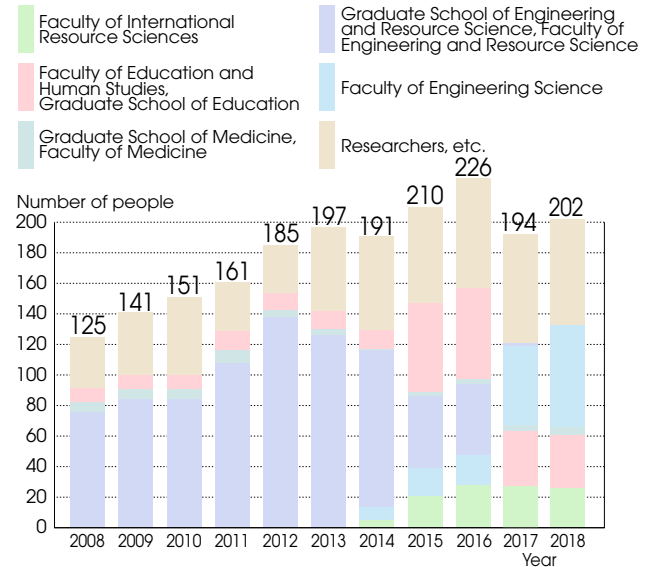


Students experienced rice planting



Multicultural Lounge

## <Transition in International Student Numbers>



## Fostering Students & Faculty with International Perspectives

In order to train faculty members with international perspectives, we have "Akita University Researcher Overseas Visit Project" to encourage our faculty members to research in overseas universities. Since 2008, approximately 3 researchers per year (28 in total) conducted research abroad under this project.

Also, in an effort to provide financial support to university students studying abroad at partner universities we have the "Akita University 'Miraisozo Fund': Student Overseas Visit Project". A part of 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 4 students in 2017.



Study Abroad Orientation