



UQ-KU Project

九州大学 研究教育交流拠点

UQ-KU
Project
Newsletter

November 2019

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND – KYUSHU UNIVERSITY OCEANIA PROJECT

November Newsletter

Kyushu University's Young Academics Visit the University of Queensland

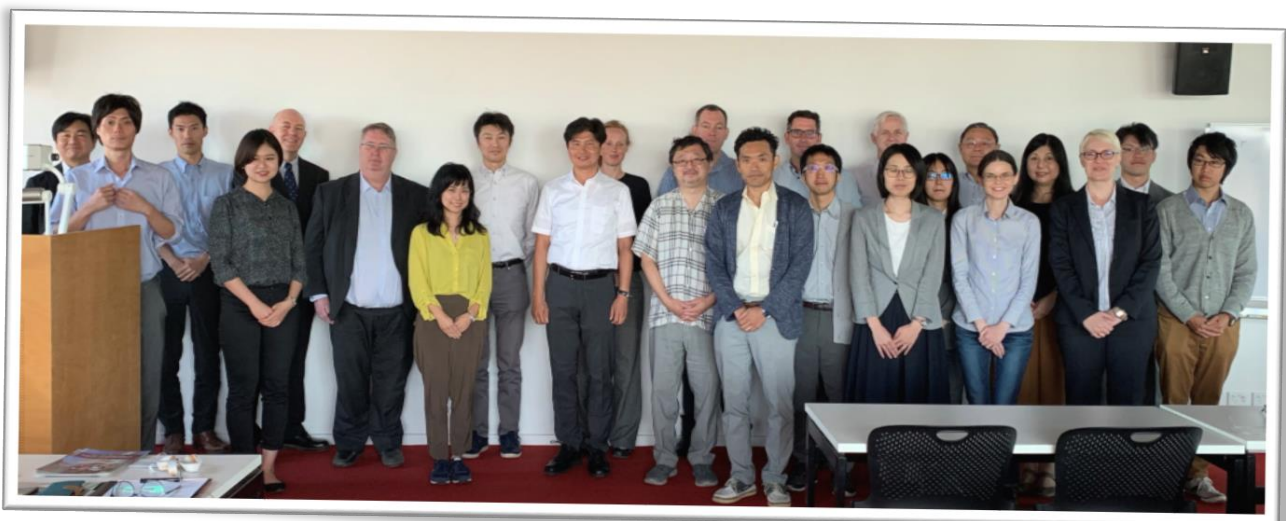
The University of Queensland, in conjunction with the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE) was very pleased to welcome a new group of young academics and early career researchers from Kyushu University. Their visit started with an Academic Exchange Workshop, with very informative presentation from Associate Professor Natalie Konomi about Kyushu University and Associate Professor Daisuke Yasutake gave an overview of the

Department of Agriculture at Kyushu University. Members of the University of Queensland's Hypersonics Research Group were very pleased to see the familiar face of Associate Professor Hideaki Ogawa, and welcome him back to the St Lucia Campus. Associate Professor Ogawa had spent some considerable time participating in research with the Hypersonics Group some years ago.

David Mee (Professor and School Chair of the International Development and Engagement Committee, UQ) finished the workshop by speaking about the massive online open course (MOOC) run by the Centre for Hypersonics at UQ.

The Academic Exchange Workshop was also attended by Akiko Uchiyama (Lecturer, School of Languages and Cultures at UQ and the Convenor of the Master of Arts in Japanese Interpreting and Translation (MAJIT) program) and Associate Professor Kristen Sullivan, a University of Queensland alumnus, now working at Shimonoseki City University.

The visiting academics then spent the remainder of the week at the University of Queensland, gaining exposure to a range of innovative teaching styles and techniques. Teaching innovation is a key element of higher education at UQ, with an emphasis on active learning, learning pathways, adapting texts for lecturing purposes and blended approaches to teaching.



Kyushu University and Queensland University Academics at the Academic Exchange Workshop, September 16th 2019

Exposure to innovative teaching methods will always inspire and lead to better learning outcomes. Staff members from the Institute of Teaching and Learning Innovation (ITaLI) and ICTE will be travelling to Kyushu University in December to run teaching innovation workshops for the staff in the Engineering Faculty.

Professor Kazuhiro Nogita, Manager of the UQ-KU Project extends his thanks to all who presented at the Workshop and to Ms Ayano Hirashima, (Support staff of UQ-KU project, Kyushu University exchange student at UQ), who was MC for the Workshop.

Kyushu University Economics and Engineering Students' visit to the University of Queensland

This year, a group of high achieving Kyushu University Economics attended an intensive, economics focussed English language programme at ICTE. This was an initiative of Professor Kenji Iwata, Dean of the Faculty of Economics. It is anticipated that going forward that this program will be as successful as the Q²PEC or Qshu-Queensland Program for English Communication, for Kyushu University Engineering students, which ran for the fourth time during August and September.



Group photo of Q²PEC and UQ-JPIE students

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

<http://www.mechmining.uq.edu.au/uq-ku-project>

Q²PEC 2019 WILL GREATLY CHANGE MY LIFE

I joined Q²PEC program and I went to Australia for six weeks. Australia was the first foreign country that I visited, and this was very long time staying in another country as the first experience. I had lots of wonderful experiences through this program and I'll tell you some of them.

The first story is about my homestay. My host family were so kind and cheerful. They gave me an English name, and I was treated as a real member of the family. They listened to me talk about my daily life. When I caught a cold, they taught several tips to get better. When I felt sad because I made mistakes in my class, they gave me advice. Moreover, dinners were very delicious, and I ate it a lot every day. The host family has two daughters; one was three years old, and another was one year old. Because of them, my host parents seemed to be busy, but I could see these children growing up. I think they enabled me to enrich my 6-weeks stay in Australia.

The next story is about the classes. I took ICTE class in the morning, and twice a week I also took afternoon class about engineering, workshops, and a site visit of CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation). In the morning class, most of classmates were Japanese despite the mixed nationality of the class, and English class was held in "English" which I wasn't used to. This made me perplexed and I took a long time to enjoy my class due to this. However, teachers were very gentle and delightful, and they gave me advice even though the day they didn't have any classes. In the afternoon class, I learned about engineering inventions which were made by Australian, practiced presentation and fieldwork. I was really poor at doing presentation, so it was great opportunity. In the workshop, I learned about "What is Engineering", the relationships between engineering and the economy, and that the political situation differs from developing countries to developed country through this activity. At CSIRO, listening to information and visiting their site enabled me to get image of engineer working in companies. In the last week, I heard about the studies of UQ and visited engineering laboratories there. I could see the places that are usually not open to the public, and I could learn about another courses of study. Besides, I could roughly understand what they told in spite of my poor knowledge because of the sharp growth of my listening skill of English.

UQ had many varieties of activities outside of the classes. I joined one of them called "ICTE-Chorus". Participating in this activity gave me more opportunities to interact with many people who weren't the students of UQ, such as other universities or language schools. Performing in the local radio and the Brisbane Festival was one of my precious experiences.

This program also changed my mind significantly. When I decided to apply for this program, I was so nervous about studying abroad not only because of my lack of English skill and knowledge but also because I felt the thick barrier of language. However, communicating with people from various countries and regions enabled me to overcome it and to enjoy talking with them. Moreover, thanks to them, I realized the strong and weak points of life in current day Japan that I took it for granted before going abroad. This program also made me more conscious about my study and taking part in student exchange programs. Hereafter, I will brush up my English more in order to communicate with them in English more, join an exchange program and do research in a foreign country. I'm quite sure that taking part Q²PEC will continue to motivate me powerfully to do more English and it will be the wonderful experience that will greatly change my life in the future.

Haruka Oishi

Materials Science and Engineering

STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA HELPED ME GROW

I spent memorable five weeks in Brisbane. First of all, ICTE was fantastic language school to study English. Teachers were really kind and their classes were easy to understand, so all my English skills, I mean reading, speaking, listening and writing skill, were improved. Also, in terms of speaking and listening, talking with my host mother was good practice for me. She is a really intelligent woman, and she watches TV News every night, so while making and having dinner, we were talking about various current issues which were in the news, like climate change, refugees or cashless society. She wanted to know Japanese economy, politics, health problems, and so on, but I couldn't answer correctly for her questions, because I didn't have enough knowledge of my country. Then, I realized it was important to know Japan before going abroad. Therefore, I started to subscribe Japanese Economic Newspaper after coming back to Japan from Australia. I've learned a lot from this paper, and information got from it is really useful for my study, Economics, in the Kyushu University. I'd like to express my gratitude to host mother and ICTE teachers.



Making friends with a kangaroo

Secondly, although I've been to Australia to learn English, it was more difficult for me than I had expected to concentrate on only studying, because there were so many attractive things, such as beautiful beaches, cute animals, and big shopping malls, so I couldn't stop myself from going outside! I think there are two main reasons for reputation of Australia as the sightseeing spot. First, Brisbane was not countryside, but there was less crowded than Japan, partly because Australia has bigger continent than Japan has. Second, every day was lovely weather!!! No rainy day!! It causes drought or bushfire, so it is serious problem for Aussies, but for tourists, like me, less rain was wonderful. Because of these reasons, I could go anywhere without feeling stressed.

Thirdly, I love Aussie's personality!!!! This is because they were really friendly. For example, every time I got lost in city or around university, they tried to help me. Someone always spoke to me. I never met such a situation in Japan, because generally speaking, Japanese people are shy, even though they want to help strangers like Aussies. Also, when I rode the lift in my homestay apartment, then a resident at this building got on after me, they usually started talking with me, like "Hi! How are you going?". And, when they rode off, they told me that "Have a nice day!". In Japan, I don't know my neighbour's face,

of course I've never talked with them. I think most young Japanese people are not close to their neighbour like me. It is a cultural difference between Japan and Australia and most of other countries. Thus, Japanese should imitate this good Australian culture. Japan ought to get out of the image that Japanese people are polite, but they are really shy. I could be more talkative than before, studying in Australia. I wish more Japanese would get rid of their shyness.

As these experiences suggests, I could make amazing memories for five weeks. I really appreciate all people who met in Australia, because everyone helped me grow.

Thank you so much.

Yuki Nakahara

KU Economics Student

UQ-JPIE 2019 ADVANCED MANUFACTURING IN PRACTICE... CONTINUED

The 16 students from the University of Queensland, who were our Buddies when they studied at Kyushu University and were with us for two weeks as part of the UQ-JPIE program. During that time, we took the lecture that they had to take, together. Thanks to this experience, we got to be close to them very much and we went to Dazaifu in Fukuoka on holiday and then, we had some lunch, some dinner, and so on. Throughout this experience, I could much improve my English communication skill.

I then came to the University of Queensland for the Q²PEC program. In the early morning, I took classes at an English language school called ICTE where many foreign students gathered. We had difficult time to have a friendly chat because of initial nervousness, but we gradually became closer and finally we went to the city to have a lunch together in the last day. I felt the wonderful power of English which made people, whose mother tongues are different, be able to communicate and be close to each other by using English.

After the class at ICTE, we took the class on engineering in English for Kyushu University students only, where we looked up investments in Australia and then gave a presentation about them and conducted a survey of UQ students. It was so fun to speak English pragmatically not only sitting in a class. We also went to look at the Commonwealth Scientific, Industrial Research Organization called CSIRO and also looked at the experiment facility and listened to the presentations of masters' and doctoral students, and professors in UQ gave about their study and research. It was so exciting to study about their engineering research in Australia because it triggered an insight into knowing about foreign engineering and not only engineering in Japan.



Homestay Family

On the last day in UQ, I gave a presentation about a part of my graduation study, which we translated into Academic English. This was very difficult to do so we had to think of how to say that in an easy way, but it was a valuable and wonderful experience for us and it will absolutely help us with our future engineering studies.

During my stay in Australia, I was home staying. After I came back home in week days, I had a lot of daily conversations with my host family about coffee, English words and Australian culture that I didn't know: "How it was today's class?" and "What we are going to do on holidays?". Sometimes my English grammar was incorrect as was my pronunciation so that I couldn't communicate well with them, but I managed to tell them eventually very well so that I could. I really felt English was difficult and I should take care to make my English correct.

I visited sightseeing in Brisbane with my host family and we learned some Catholic Church on a holiday. In summary about home stay, I improved my English skills and got a deeper understanding of multiculturalism, my homestay family increased to one, and it has become a very good memory in my life.

Kazuma Hiraoka

Earth Resources, Marine and Civil Engineering

COMFORTABLE CLIMATE, CLEAN SEA, WARM PEOPLE

Comfortable climate, clean sea, warm people. I spent a very dense month in Brisbane, Australia this summer. I would like to write down with the meaning of keeping my precious experiences that cannot be replaced with anything in my memory.



On the first day of studying abroad, I met my host family at the university and they took me to my homestay. Despite the first meeting, I was able to continue talking in a bright atmosphere in the car. I felt that I could speak English better than I expected in advance, and my worries vanished, then I was looking forward to the language school starting the next day. I was also able to get a high score in a placement test and entered the top class.

On the first day of the lesson, I felt desperate for the difference with the students around me. The reason why I had been able to talk with until that time was just my host family used gentle English, I noticed. I didn't know what the teachers and the students around me were saying. I once thought seriously about lowering the class level and consulted with the teacher, but I was encouraged to be able to understand after three weeks. In order to keep up with the surroundings, I of course participated in classes in the morning, participated in activities in the afternoon and had conversations with my host family. Thinking in English and using English all the time is harder than I expected, and I remember that I headed for my bed as soon as I had dinner every night.

On Monday of the second week, I realized that what my teacher was saying in the class came into my head. Perhaps the reason is that I kept living in English for a week and listening to the same teacher every day. I became able to follow the lesson a little, so the number of remarks in the class increased and the circle of friends expanded. After that, I could spend my school life easily and comfortably, on weekends I went out to the city, nature parks, beaches and so on with

friends and my host family. I was able to send such kind of the Australian days. As for English, I realized my improvement in English as I was able to hear what I hadn't understood until yesterday.

On the last day of studying abroad, while I was feeling reluctance to go back to Japan, I said good-bye to my host family and local friends at the airport. They were all warm-hearted people who helped me in an unfamiliar environment and made it fun. I still have messages with them through SMS, and I feel that having friends all over the world is really valuable.

Through this one-month study abroad, I learned not only English but also cultures, values, and ways of thinking in various countries, and rediscovered the goodness of Japan. This experience has increased my motivation for learning English, so I would like to try harder to study abroad as an exchange student next year.



Kenta Kusuda

KU Economics Student