KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

UQ-KU Project

九州大学
研究教育交流拠点

UQ-KU Project Newsletter

April 2016

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND – KYUSHU UNIVERSITY OCEANIA PROJECT

Inaugural Newsletter

What is the UQ-KU Project?

The UQ-KU Project has been established to increase practical collaborative activities between the University of Queensland (UQ) and Kyushu University (KU).

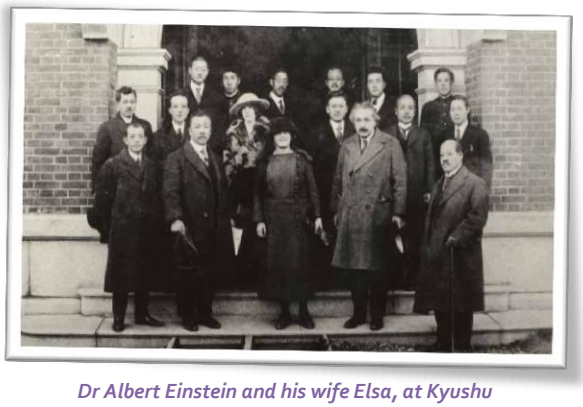
The UQ-KU Project will provide an avenue for the following activities:

1. Academic exchange: undergraduate and postgraduate student exchange, research staff exchange, joint publications and presentations.
2. Education opportunities: lectures, education projects, industry-university collaborative research projects.
3. Support services: communications and public affairs, exchange student assistance.

These activities will build upon Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Queensland and Kyushu University, signed in 1993.

A Brief History of Kyushu University

Kyushu University, or as it is known locally, Kudai, is located in Japan's largest southernmost city, Fukuoka. Kyushu University began as the Fukuoka Medical College in 1903, but soon became the fourth Japanese Imperial University in 1911.



Dr Albert Einstein and his wife Elsa, at Kyushu University in 1923.

Kyushu University has a long history of international academic collaboration, with one of the most famous collaborators being Dr Albert Einstein.

Spread over five campuses in Fukuoka, Kyushu University has approximately 12,000 undergraduate students, and 1,700 postgraduate students, as well as some 2,200 faculty members and 4,000 staff.

Kyushu University is a research-intensive university and is ranked inside the top eight research-intensive universities in Japan.

The UQ-KU Relationship

In 1993, the University of Queensland and Kyushu University signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Over the intervening years, the exchange of students, staff and research cooperation has been modest.

However, in recent years, this has started to change. Kyushu University alumnus and current associate professor at the University of Queensland, Kazuhiro Nogita, visited Kyushu University as a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Fellow in 2011.

Associate Professor Nogita, as an invited professor, has delivered a series of lectures to undergraduate students on "Energy Materials" since 2012.

A distinguished delegation from Kyushu University visited the University of Queensland on the 25th of November 2015. In the photograph are (L to R), Mr Jonathan Read (UQ), Ms Eri Hata (Head of International Affairs Division KU), Assoc Prof. Kazuhiro Nogita (UQ), Mr Goro Watanabe (Executive Director of International Affairs Department KU), Prof Koichiro Watanabe (Vice-President KU), Prof Reiko Aoki (Vice-President KU), Prof Chiharu Kubo (President KU), Prof Joanne Wright (Vice President UQ), Prof Simon Biggs (Executive Dean Engineering UQ), Prof David Mee (UQ), Dr Jessica Gallagher (UQ)

Mr Jonathan Read, from the University of Queensland has also delivered an annual lecture series on "Engineering Ethics" since 2012.

Dr Guang Zeng, a former University of Queensland PhD student, spent 3 months of his candidature at Kyushu University from November 2013-February 2014 as an occupational trainee. In addition, the University of Queensland has also hosted visitors from Kyushu University including a Kyushu University Master's student who spent six months in the Department of Mechanical and Mining Engineering.

Additionally, a group eighteen Kyushu University undergraduate students participated in Q²PEC2015. This was a five-week long intensive English language course at the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE-UQ).

MY KYUSHU UNIVERSITY EXPERINCE

Last year (13/10/2015 to 08/11/2015), I had an opportunity to spend one month carrying out my experiments at the Ultramicroscopy Research Centre, Kyushu University, hosted by Prof Syo Matsumura. It was really a wonderful and enjoyable experience. I was amazed when I was told that the centre had two atomic resolution microscopy (ARM) and there were six ARM in total at Kyushu University. I was also shocked when I saw the giant ultrahigh voltage transmission electron microscopy (UHVTEM) which was as high as two floors. I knew, at least in the transmission electron microscopy section, there were not a lot of universities or institutes had the facilities like this. I mainly used UHVTEM to characterize my special samples. There is no such UHVTEM available in Australia that is why I wanted to carry out part of my experiments at Kyushu University. I was excited to have the opportunity to work in such a fancy centre equipped with state-of-art facilities and work with the world-renowned experts, such as Prof Matsumura.

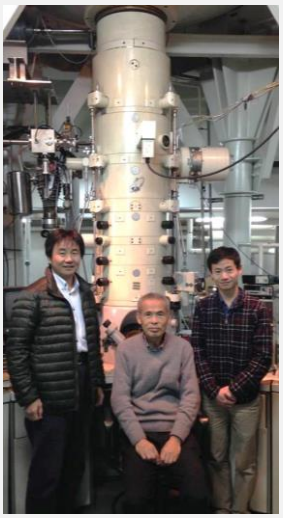
I received numerous help from the academic staff, technicians and research students at Kyushu University. I appreciated that Yamamoto-san always accompanied me to do the experiment until mid-night. Everyone there was very kind. I lived in the dormitory, which provided breakfast and dinner. I was surprised that the women in the refectory remembered my name after several days and they made me feeling like at home. On my last day in Kyushu University, the members of Prof Matsumura's group had a farewell party for me and the party was finished with a Japanese way to say goodbye to me, I appreciated their hospitality and kindness.

Time flies, one month is a very short time, however, I received much more than I expected, good experimental results, opportunity to work with world renowned experts, deep interaction with Japanese people and friendship. I started to miss the time spent at Kyushu University, nice people, nice Japanese cuisine, sashimi, ramen etc. I strongly recommend that our fellow students and staff should actively involve in the exchange programs between Kyushu University and the University of Queensland, you will definitely benefit from these programs.

Dr Jerome Wu

MY KYUSHU UNIVERSITY EXPERINCE

I visited Kyushu University from the 2nd of November 2015 to the 30th of January 2016, under the University of Queensland Graduate School International Travel Award (GSITA) and Kyushu University visiting research program. The aim was to gain access to equipment that is unavailable in Australia but would greatly contribute to fundamental questions central to my PhD thesis.



Kyushu University is one of the seven national universities in Japan with science and engineering programs being one of their key strengths. In my area of study about solid-state hydrogen storage materials, having access to state-of-the-art research facilities such as atomic resolution and high voltage electron microscopy has greatly enhanced the quality of my research. The staff and students were very kind and supportive for my experiments. This has resulted in joint publications and helped strengthening the existing research collaboration between UQ and KU.

Although the use of English is quite limited at KU, there are ways for you to get by despite the language barrier. The International Student Association at Kyushu University (KUFSA) organizes various activities for students including sightseeing trips, Christmas parties, etc. During my stay there, I had a chance to join a trip to Nagasaki prefecture with other students. There are also Japanese classes run by volunteers on campus. These are the place for international and Japanese students to meet and interact with each other.

Apart from the time spent in the lab, exploring places in Fukuoka was one of my favourite activities. Fukuoka's contemporary attractions including architecture, art and cuisine make it a great place worth visiting. There are many interesting places such as Umino-Nagamichi Sea-life Aquarium, Fukuoka botanical and zoological garden, Robo-square, Fukuoka Art Museum, Dazaifu Tenmangu shrine, etc. The food and rent are relatively less expensive compared to Brisbane while public transport fares are somewhat similar. My time spent here has been both very rewarding and enjoyable and I would recommend a fellow student to visit Kyushu University on an exchange program.

Xuan Tran

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

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