The Second Covid-19 Edition of the UQ-KU Project Newsletter

Agility, Adaptation and Resilience
Another challenging year for staff and students at Kyushu University and the University of Queensland is ending. At this time all of us should reflect on how well we have dealt with the ongoing challenges of providing our students with the best possible learning experiences, that will provide a pathway to successful careers.

This Newsletter serves as a testament to the agility, adaptability, and resilience of all involved with the UQ-KU Project, as 2021 has been another successful year, and the many achievements of the UQ-KU Project are outlined herein.

Professor Syo Matsumura appointed as Honorary Professor at UQ
Distinguished Professor Syo Matsumura has been appointed as an Honorary Professor in the School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering, at the University of Queensland. Professor Matsumura has co-managed the UQ-KU Project, since its inception. Professor Matsumura has also had a long history of collaboration with many researchers from the University of Queensland and is the Partner Investigator of an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. Additionally, as part of this new role, Professor Matsumura will also co-supervise a PhD student from the University of Queensland, deliver a lecture to the School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering and will host the UQ-JPIE (MECH4950) in 2022 (we remain optimistic that travel between Japan and Australia will resume in 2022).

Those at the University of Queensland would like to congratulate Professor Matsumura and we look forward to working more closely with him and benefitting from his considerable knowledge and expertise.

Japanese-English Translator Engagement 2021
Students from the University of Queensland’s Master of Arts in Japanese Interpreting and Translation (MAJIT) were engaged to do translations from English to Japanese of UQ-KU Project Document, for the Internet Landing pages of the UQ-KU project and of this Newsletter from English to Japanese.

The following Masters’ students were engaged in 2021:

- Mr Brendan Tran (L) and Ms Mariko Kishi-Debski
- Mr Naoko Iwata (L) and Ms Narumi Kameda

The UQ-KU Project thanks these students for their service, and we hope that the students’
experience was enjoyable, and it was of value for what is to become their profession.

The University of Queensland & Kyushu University guest lecture series
The guest lecture series by the University of Queensland and Kyushu University staff members has continued in 2021 albeit by online delivery.

Professor Kazuhiro Nogita delivered a lecture series entitled “Systems for large scale hydrogen storage and delivery.” in English to a cohort of engineering Master course students at Kyushu University. This was part of the at Kyushu University lecture series “Advanced Engineering 2: Sustainable energy for a better future” held on 19th January 2021,

Mr Jonathan Read also delivered a 13 lecture series on Engineering Ethics to the Kyushu University’s 3rd year cohort of international engineering and applied chemistry students.

Kyushu U 3MT Competition
An initiative by the UQ-KU Project, Kyushu University held its inaugural 3-minute thesis competition, where PhD students must describe their research in no more than three minutes. This competition has been held UQ for many years and all students have found it a challenge to condense the reasons for, and scope of, their research into a three-minute time frame. The Kyushu University students rose to the challenge of this format and delivered some inspired lectures.

Kyushu University Research Fellow, Associate Professor Stephen Lyth deliver a lecture in April to a cohort of the University of Queensland Masters’ Students. The UQ students were enrolled in MATE7016, Materials for Energy Conversion and Storage, and Associate Professor Lyth delivered to the UQ students a lecture on hydrogen storage.

Kyushu U 3MT Promotional Flyer

Associate Professor Stephen Lyth

Thanks to all personnel involved in this initiative and a special thank you to UQ’s Professor Lydia Kavanagh being one of the judges and to Professor Kazuhiro Nogita for being the MC of this event.

UQ-JPIE and Q^2PEC Engineering Lecture Sessions
Another initiative of the UQ-KU Project was to hold a joint engineering lecture series between the University of Queensland and Kyushu University.

This lecture series ran from 6th to 17th of September, with 10 lectures in total from UQ and KU. In addition, the Q^2PEC students also attended English courses run through TAFE College Queensland, and these students were then challenged with making a small presentation at the end of their Q^2PEC online immersion studies, on 24th September of 2021. The programme and reflective essays by Q^2PEC students, Sophie Kimura and Takaharu Kuraki are included at the end of this Newsletter.
UQ Japan Day
The University of Queensland held the inaugural UQ Japan Day on the 10th of November 2021. This event was opened by His Excellency Mr Shingo Yamagami, Ambassador of Japan to Australia, and Professor Deborah Terry, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Queensland.

This was an initiative of UQ’s Global Engagement Team, with strong support from the UQ-KU Project, with Professor Syo Matsumura and Professor Kazuhiro Nogita hosting a breakout session entitled “Advanced materials characterisation opportunities between UQ and Japan”.

Acta Student Awards
Dr Flora Somidin, an alumnus of the University of Queensland, received one of the prestigious Acta Students Awards for 2020 (announced in July 2021). Dr Somidin, was one of only 15 recipients globally (for student first authors) and it was for her publication:


Dr Somidin’s received strong support from the UQ-KU Project and Kyushu University’s Progress 100 Project, which enabled her to travel to Kyushu University to access the most advanced transmission electron microscopes.

The UQ-KU Project in 2022
As another challenging year draws to a close, we can still take pride in the learning outcomes and diverse experiences that we have provided our students at KU and UQ.

The pandemic is still presenting challenges, but hopefully we will meet these with the same strength and resilience that we have shown in the past two years. The future is definitely much brighter!

A Happy New Year to Everyone!
Hello, I'm Takaharu Kuraki. I'm a sophomore student at department of Civil and Structural Engineering in KU. I had many unforgettable experiences through this program.

There are many personal changes to happened to me through this program.

For example, before I participated in Q2PEC, I was very shy and I was afraid of asking questions, but after Q2PEC, I found that asking someone questions or talking with someone in English is very enjoyable. In the Q2PEC program, we enjoyed not only the UQ-KU Engineering Sessions, but also the English classes at TAFE Queensland. I was in the General English course at TAFE and although the classes were offered online this year, I enjoyed interacting with the many students from foreign countries and I found it fantastic to talk with people in foreign countries by using English! I was also very happy when I asked questions to some of the professors in the UQ-KU Engineering Sessions.

Also, I came to enjoy increasing my English vocabulary. I checked the meanings of some words in advance before the lectures of the UQ-KU Engineering Sessions In addition, the "Video Dictionary Project" in TAFE, where students introduce an English word and explain the meanings, synonyms, and example sentences of the word by using their own gestures or PowerPoint slides was helpful. I introduced a difficult English word, which I checked through the preparation for the UQ-KU Engineering Sessions and thanks to this flow, I found learning new words (especially technical words) very enjoyable!

I want to make the most of those memorable experiences through internships, another short term English program ELEP, studies in abroad, and so on.

Thank you so much!

Takaharu Kuraki
Department of Civil and Structural Engineering
Department of Earth Resources
Marine and Civil Engineering
School of Engineering
Kyushu University
The University of Queensland - Kyushu University (UQ-KU) Engineering Sessions 2021:
Mon 6th Sept to Fri 17th Sept 2021.
All presentations will be delivered by ZOOM and recording.
Lecture time 50 min + 10 min Q&A + 10min Spare time
MC: A/Prof. James Cannon (Kyushu University) and Prof. Kazuhiro Nogita (The University of Queensland)

### WEEK 1 - Brisbane time

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<td>Session 2 (Ultrasonic)</td>
<td>Session 3 (International Institute for Carbon-Nanotube Energy Research, FCNRE)</td>
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<td>Session 5 (Center for Organic Photonics and Electronics Research, OPERA)</td>
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<td>Prof. Kazuhiro Nogita</td>
<td>Prof. Syo Matsumura</td>
<td>A/Prof. Stephen Matthew Lyth</td>
<td>Prof. David Mee</td>
<td>Prof. Chihaya Adachi</td>
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<td>Dr. Stuart McDonald</td>
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### WEEK 2 - Brisbane time

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<td>Session 6 (Chemical Engineering)</td>
<td>Session 7 (Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology - AIIN)</td>
<td>Session 8 (Nano Materials)</td>
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<td>Prof. Lianzhou Wang</td>
<td>Prof. Yusuke Yamazaki</td>
<td>Prof. Jin Zou</td>
<td>Prof. Peter Knights</td>
<td>Prof. Kazuhiro Nogita</td>
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<td>Dr. Jung Ho Yun</td>
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<td>Dr. Mohammad Jafari</td>
<td>Dr. Xinh Yan</td>
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Closing remarks

Booking link: A ZOOM link will be provided via email prior to the presentation for those who have booked.
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yYo6ww1x1jo1o79620TgV8y7OGt6NoEEYSj05ueOwUNdO33JCM0tRMFTCUQDD2OVFpTNUKG4Bk
For many years, I've been taught in and out of school that in order to be an ‘international person,’ it is important to be able to communicate in English with people from different cultures and backgrounds. There is a need for ‘international people’ all over the world. Ironically, to me, the education system does not seem to have caught up with this policy. I did learn the language itself, but not how to “use” the language to communicate well, share ideas, discuss a matter, and tell my opinions with convincing facts.

This summer vacation was totally different from all the English education that I had received so far, and it was filled with wonderful experiences that constantly stimulated my brain with TAFE IELTS class and UQ-KU Engineering Sessions.

As a general rule of thumb, when we are with people from the same country, we lean towards speaking our native language. Therefore, before this course started, I was concerned that the class I'd attend would make no difference from regular English class in Japan, if the class had many Japanese students in it. However, the IELTS class was completely different; we had 4 Japanese out of 11 students and the rest were literally from around the globe and from various age brackets. They came from every continent except for Africa, Australia, and Antarctica. What impressed me the most was how hungry they all were to improve their academic English skills, eager to learn more appropriate and powerful ways to express their thoughts. Their curiosity and perseverance could even give Darwin a run for his money. It also influenced me in a positive way and the four and a quarter hours felt very short.

In the Engineering Sessions, it was not so easy to understand the lectures, but at least I could grab the images of topics and ask questions that came up in my mind and where I didn't understand well. In Japan, students rarely ask questions in the lectures even when the teacher asks, “Do you have any questions?” So, honestly, this was the first time that I stopped feeling ashamed that I didn’t understand or had many doubts, and had asked so many questions. But by asking several questions, it made me realize the benefit of questioning, and I truly felt that asking questions is very helpful to test and boost my total understanding; and this is very important since I would have kept misunderstanding which is more shameful than asking a stupid question. Also, Professor Nogita’s advice ‘Study hard and then “forget”’ left a deep impression on me because I had never looked at it that way.

Therefore, I've learned a lot from this fruitful experience with TAFE IELTS class and Engineering Sessions. And I’m really tempted to utilize what I've learned, including new vocabularies, various useful expressions, effective strategies for persuasive writing and so on. So, I’ll keep studying hard and try to take as many opportunities as possible to make use of them.

Sophie Kimura
Kyushu University