



newsletter

京都大学 農学研究科・農学部国際交流室
International Exchange Section



40 年前の思い出と 「留学生 vs 日本人学生」

土井 元章

農学研究科教授
農学専攻
蔬菜花卉園芸学分野

過去 40 年間の大学での教員生活のなかで、私の気持ちは結構「留学生 vs 日本人学生」というテーマで揺れ動いてきました。

私が初めて留学生を指導したのは、今から 40 年近く前、当時の農学科蔬菜花卉園芸学研究室の助手になって間もない頃でした。留学生はフィリピンからのホスエ・ジャック・ファリン・マラムグ君で、学部から京都大学に入学した文部科学省の国費留学生です。彼が日本に留学し将来を決めてしまうような大きな決断を 18 才の時にしていることに、私は驚き彼を指導することに戸惑いがありました。18 才時の自分のことも含め、はたして日本人の同年の学生が同じような覚悟をもって農学部に入ってきているのか、疑問に感じたからです。彼が研究室に所属してきたころには、日本での生活にも慣れ、英語はもちろん日本語もそれなりにできたのですが、この留学生にどのように接して指導すればよいのか正直よく分かりませんでした。私もまだ若かったこともあり、結局のところ研究に関してはスーパーバイザーとして接し、それ以外の部分では指導者ではなく対等の個人として彼の人格や判断を尊重する立場で接することにしました。彼が 4 回生の時、ベニグノ・アキノ氏の暗殺に端を発するマルコス政権崩壊があり、コラソン・アキノ大統領が誕生するという政変が母国で起こりました。これについても、彼とどんな会話を交わすべきか悩みました。結局近所の飲み屋へ連れて行って、彼の思いを聞き出すようなことをしました。よかったかどうかは分かりません。ただ、この頃彼は不眠症になってしまい、朝から研究室に来て実験することが難しくなっていました。おそらく自国のことも含め、大きなストレスがあったのだと思います。同じようなことは、天安門事件の時の中国からの留学生の場合でも経験しました。

残念ながら、ジャック君が修士課程 1 年の終わりの時点で、私は他大学へ転出しましたので、修士課程の半分と博士課程の指導は行っていませんが、彼は矢澤進先生のもと学位を取得して帰国しました。その後長らく消息不明になっていたのですが、5 年ほど前に何の前触れもなく奥さんと子供さんを連れて私の部屋にひょっこりと現れました。私は大いに驚くとともに、帰国後の彼の消息を知ることができました。

彼は帰国後園芸学の研究の道には進まず、フィリピン大学の留学生センターの立ち上げや、日本企業のフィリピンへの誘致、両国企業の間を取りもつようなコンサルタントの仕事をしてきたとのことですが、なかなか大学へ足が向かなかったとのことでした。これは、思うに矢澤先生の指導が厳しかったことや、研究を続けられなかった後めたさが彼にはあったのでしょうか。ただ、彼への私たちの教育が適切だったかどうかは分かりませんが、彼の留学後のキャリアについては、これでよかったのではないかと考えていま

す。一緒に来た子供さんには、お父さんと同じように学部から留学する吉田カレッジを勧めておきました。

私が助手の当時の蔬菜花卉園芸学研究室教授であった浅平端先生から、留学生や外国人にはできるだけ親切にするように、また日本人の考え方や研究の仕方を押しつけないようにと言われていました。そのことの大切さが当時の私には今ひとつ理解できなかったのですが、自分自身がアメリカの UC Davis へ留学することになり、留学先の研究室の人たちの親切さとこちらの考え方ややり方を尊重してくれる接し方がいかに留学生にとって有り難いかを実感することになりました。私が何かに困って悩んでいても彼らは私の世界には決して踏み込んで何かをしてくれるということはありません。しかし、私がその問題を相談すると本当に親身になって考えてくれ、労を惜しまず解決に動いてくれます。

大阪府立大学（現：大阪公立大学）、信州大学、そして現在の京都大学と私は結構大学を転々と移動してきましたが、その間何人かの留学生を受け入れて指導してきました。私の留学生の受け入れ基準や指導方針は、①奨学金等きちんとした経済的な生活基盤があること、②1 国から同時に複数名を受け入れないこと、③大学内の他の先生からの紹介だけでは受け入れないこと、④日本の学生に溶け込ませた研究・教育をすること、⑤留学生基準を設けないこと、の 5 つです。③については一度だけミスがあり、結局その学生はうまく育ちませんでした。これは、私にとっても留学生にとっても厳しい基準だと思いますが、留学生が日本の大学に来て、本当に自らのキャリアを切り拓く力を得るには外せない基準です。留学生を受け入れたことで日本人学生に負担や不満が生じたのでは、それは本末転倒ではないかと考えるからです。「留学生に手厚い教育を」と言いますが、それは日本人学生とて同じことで、限られた教育・研究資源の中でそれを対等に分かち合うことを前提に留学生を受け入れることで、留学生と日本人学生に win win の関係が築ければよいと思うからです。その上で受け入れた留学生にはできるだけ親切に接し、我々の考え方や研究の仕方を押しつけないようにすれば、どんなことがあってもきっと自ら考えて学び、未来を切り拓くことのできる国際人材が育つのではないのでしょうか。

今、私の分野にはインドネシアからのダブルディグリープログラムの留学生である Tinaさんと中国からの共同研究者の徐さんがいます。2 人とも日本人学生と机を並べて、勉学と研究に打ち込んでいます。やってきてすぐに、日本人学生と冗談を飛ばし合うまでに親しくなり、その親交は将来も続いてくれることを期待しています。

留学生はこちらが悩むよりはるかにたくましく、特別扱いをされることを決して望んでいません。結局は一個人としての人格を尊重することだけ気をつければよいのだということなのでしょう。



2022 年研究室対抗ソフトボール大会で久々の優勝を喜ぶ修士学生（左から Tina さん、奥田さん、卯川さん）

Suming Chen Professor, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
 Visiting Professor, Laboratory of Bio-Sensing Engineering
 Division of Environmental Science and Technology
 September 17th, 2021 – September 15th, 2022

Memorable Life in Kyoto



When I came to Kyoto University as a visiting professor in September 2021, the epidemic situation of COVID-19 was serious at that time. In addition to two vaccinations and a negative PCR certificate, the passengers were required to be self-quarantined at hotel for 14 days. I stayed at Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport for quarantine. The large window of the hotel's room just faced the Kansai Airport (KIX). It was really hard to imagine that KIX was one of the busiest airports in the world, but at that moment, it turned out to be so deserted and quiet. In order not to gain weight, I made gymnastics and slow jogging (ジョギング) in the hotel room for exercises, which was invented and promoted by a Japanese doctor and it is a suitable indoor sport. Here I would like to particularly thank Sakiko Imaeda-san (International Exchange Section) for her delicate help of numerous administrative affairs including visa throughout the year.

During my stay in Kyoto University, I taught courses "Special Lecture on Comparative Agricultural Studies (Applications of Spectral Sensing to Smart Agriculture)" in both semesters of Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. Classes were taught face-to-face with face masks in the classroom. In consideration of students who couldn't come to school due to illness and students who were still overseas and had obtained the admission from Kyoto University but couldn't obtain a Japanese visa due to Covid-19 epidemic, the class lectures were recorded web-synchronously and uploaded to the teaching website to facilitate the provision of synchronous and asynchronous teaching. This was a very special teaching experience for me under the epidemic.

Thanks to my host professor, Naoshi Kondo-sensei, he invited me to get involved in all the activities in his laboratory, including lab seminar, group meeting and team meetings every week. There were many international students in Kondo-sensei's laboratory, so the presentation, communication and discussion for research events were delivered in English. I think it is good to train Japanese students to gain international experience and communication skills, and it turns out that it is very successful. Kondo-sensei and his research groups have elaborated the research of fluorescence sensing to substances in agricultural, livestock and aquacultural products, and have been developing the fluorescence database. Fluorescence sensing has been successful for the evaluations of freshness of fish, freshness of fruits and vegetables, tea quality, protein and oil contents in soybeans, fruit browning and more; and it becomes a very powerful method to nondestructively measure many aspects of agro-products. Kondo-sensei's laboratory is vibrant, diverse and highly competitive.

A Joint Class named "Introduction to Foreign Literature on Bio-Systems Engineering" is featured as a remote distance learning course conducted in English among Kyoto University (KU), National Taiwan University (NTU) and University of Tsukuba (UT). The course was established in 2013 for NTU and KU students by myself and Kondo-sensei; and UT joined this course in 2017. It provides simultaneous, interactive learning

experience for students in an international context. In the past, I always taught this Joint Class from NTU side and Kondo-sensei from KU side; however, since I was here for visiting, both I and Kondo-sensei taught from KU side in the Fall semester, 2021.

I would also like to share my personal observations regarding preservation of historic sites in Japan. In many countries, historic sites are often damaged first and then maintained or repaired later. However, in this way, besides the difficulty of restoring the original appearance of the damaged monuments, serious problems such as lacking of materials to maintain and repair the historic site and the losing of skilled maintenance masters will also be encountered. Japan has been very successful in maintaining historic monuments. Temples and shrines in Kyoto and other parts of Japan often undergo routine maintenance once every certain period of time, and the maintenance site is covered by a surrounded structure, which is not afraid of the influence of weather. One maintenance project often lasts for several years. Because there are many maintenance projects in the whole country, by doing the way just mentioned, the factories which manufacture ancient building materials (such as roof tiles) will have purchase orders, and the skillful repairers or masters of historic sites will have jobs, and the technology and experience can then be passed on. This is a win-win virtuous circle. Regarding the means of fund raising for heritage maintenance is also very creative, friendly and getting involved from the public.

In addition to the rewarding work, we spent time to experience the historical richness of Japanese culture, especially in Kyoto. We had also enjoyed the beauty of season changes in Kyoto from red maple leaves (もみじ), white snow, blooming sakura, and to chirping of cicadas. Our Kyoto experience was wonderful, we appreciated all who helped and made it possible; it was really a memorable and fruitful stay.



Window view of beautiful garden in Eikando



Sakura blossoms at Keage Incline

Etti Or Professor, Volcani Center, ARO, Israel
 Visiting Professor, Laboratory of Pomology
 Division of Agronomy and Horticultural Science
 May 1st, 2022 – July 31st, 2022

Dreams may come true...

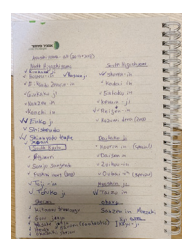


During my postdoctoral training in Tucson, Arizona, 30 years ago, my supervisor visited Japan regularly, and my lab bench neighbor was Koichi San - a visiting scientist from Tokyo Gas. They both made me dream of a postdoc period in Japan. I wished to experience Japanese science, art and social culture, which seemed significantly different and very interesting. Unfortunately, family and work constraints did not allow me to fulfill this dream.

Many years later, I became a known bud dormancy expert and had the privilege of meeting and collaborating with a leading Japanese scientist in that field, Dr. Hisayo Yamane. Among other things, our connections resulted in an international plant dormancy conference in Kyoto in 2018, a recent special issue of *Frontiers in Plant Sciences*, and a dear friendship. Several years ago, Dr. Yamane asked if I would consider serving as a visiting professor at Kyoto University, and sharing some of my knowledge with research students. It was my sign that dreams may come true...

After a lengthy bureaucratic procedure, beautifully orchestrated by Mrs. Sakiko Imaeda (my guardian angel at the Graduate School of Agriculture's International Exchange Section), I planned to land on April 30, 2020. However, COVID-19 had another plan for me... and my dream had to await better times. Astonishingly, COVID-19 was still an issue two years later, and though I was scheduled to start teaching in May 2022, I did not have a permit to enter Japan until the very last minute. Eventually, I landed in Kyoto on April 29, 2022, at the very beginning of 'golden week'. My subjective conclusion: Dreams sometimes do come true!

Objectively, I was lonely (my family members could not join me due to COVID). I was one of the very few foreigners allowed to roam Kyoto's streets in the summer of 2022, with extremely limited ability to communicate due to language barriers and embedded in a very different world in so many aspects. Subjectively, this lemon situation became a delightfully sweet lemonade. I was a scientist on weekdays and a devoted wanderer during long and free weekends, in which I passionately inhaled the special unique aroma of Kyoto. The students in the pomology lab claimed they had never been to most of the places (temples/markets/street/ museums/festivals) I discovered during my wonderful walks all over town.



The "Or" list to Kyoto wonders - confirmed in person

To blend in and experience authentic Kyoto, I insisted on living in a Japanese neighborhood. I owe a big thank you to my Japanese guiding angels - Imaeda San and Yamane Sensei - for their outstanding efforts to fulfill this wish. My beautiful home, nestled between the Philosopher's Path and Shinnyodo temple, allowed me to walk daily to campus, through gardened streets and serene temples, feeling the heartbeat of Kyoto. Every day, I adoringly watched the disciplined kids on their way to school, the life of elderly people, the fascinating esthetics, the wonderfully operating builders, the seasonal flowers, and so much more. A Japanese local may wonder why do I claim that everyday life is so interesting. My "news" is that ordinary life in Japan is quite extraordinary, far removed in many ways from daily life in other places. The uniqueness of Japanese culture is maybe best realized by a foreigner or Japanese that have been outside Japan for a while. In light of this, I highly recommend Japanese students to travel abroad. I guarantee that you will gain both valuable exposure to other worlds and a more objective perspective of Japan's uniqueness when you return.

Opposite to the new world I experience outside, my scientific "new" world felt almost like home, since research subjects of the pomology lab are very similar to those at my pomology department in the Volcani center, ARO, Israel. This was an advantage, which allowed fruitful discussions, information exchange,

and technology transfer.

On the research front, my stay allowed us to refine together our working models related to the regulation of bud dormancy, which will serve as fertile ground for future collaboration.

On the teaching front, my stay allowed to hold "one on one" sessions with each of the research students at the pomology lab. Such meetings are valuable since (1) discussions with an outsider, which is an experienced expert in the research field, always supply fresh/alternative investigation perspectives; (2) the interaction between scientists from different cultures exposes new approaches to practice science; (3) the students build confidence by practicing presentation and discussion with a foreign expert in English. This is true for all visiting scholars, but perhaps I was an extreme case, a "strange bird" that landed in the lab, with no distance or hierarchy habits, willing to chat with students freely at her station, and with a growing number of art objects hanged above her computer. After adjusting to my oddities, some students claimed that they found my different approach interesting and some ended up wandering the streets of Kyoto with me on weekends.



My painted version of a Kyoto waterway

In class, I devoted my time to exposing the students to the strong connections between energy status and molecular mechanisms that regulate fruit tree development. Regarding cultural differences, the class atmosphere I experienced was different from the one I know, serene and full of respect for the teacher. While this is very positive, I wish to encourage the students to feel comfortable asking questions and raising ideas during class - it enriches class experience of both the students and the teacher.



Pomology lab weekend activity

Based on my experience, I believe that the International Exchange policy of the Graduate School of Agriculture is a true blessing for its students.

Outside the lab, I had the opportunity to visit vineyards and peach orchards around Okayama and Osaka. Here, I was again exposed to a completely different world, compared to mine, where the attitude towards fruit growing clearly favors size and appearance over yield and price. This attitude results in different products, different price range and different capability of the consumers to blend fruits into daily diet. Since I travel the world regularly, I can attest that the Japanese approach to fruit growing is unique, and I think that there is room for an exchange of ideas and methodologies around fruit growing.

Being back at home is always comforting, but part of my heart stayed in Kyoto, and thanks to the students, I enjoy a steady supply of photos to follow seasonal changes, cultural events, and scientific news. Yet, with a smile, I confess that I am rather happy that I no longer need to change my shoes before I enter my lab ☺



Huge berries, very low berry number and cluster number - so different from what I know

I thank all those individuals who made my dream come true, both in the pomology lab and International Exchange Section. I want to express special thanks and gratitude to Hisayo (Dr. Yamane), Sakiko (Mrs. Imaeda), Hasiang (Dr. Hasiang Tzufan), and Miku (Ms. Sugimori) that served as my eyes, ears, and family during my stay - I could not have made it without you.

◆外国人留学生(研究者)博士号取得状況 2022年度◆

◆Doctoral Degrees Awarded to International Students and Researchers in AY 2022◆

農学専攻 Division of Agronomy and Horticultural Science

楊 颯 : Studies on the postharvest morphological and physiological characteristics of cut dahlias
(ダリア切り花の収穫後の形態的および生理的特性に関する研究)

Olusegun Idowu: Characterization of Yield Production and Grain Quality of Erect Panicle Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) under Varied Nitrogen Fertilizer Application
(異なる窒素施肥下における直立穂イネ品種の収量生産ならびに子実品質特性)

Mohammad Jan Shamim: Genetic Variations and Physiological Mechanisms Underlying Photosynthetic Capacity in Soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill)
(ダイズの光合成能力の遺伝変異とその生理的機構に関する研究)

Giuseppe Pezzotti: Raman molecular fingerprints of rice nutritional quality
(米の栄養価のラマン分子フィンガープリント)

Hsiang Tzu-Fan: Molecular and genetic basis of bud dormancy regulation in Japanese apricot (*Prunus mume*)
(ウメ (*Prunus mume*) 越冬芽における休眠制御に関する分子生物学的・遺伝学的研究)

Zhang Jiuning: Studies on green stem disorder and vegetative storage protein dynamics in field-grown soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.]
(圃場条件下におけるダイズの青立ち現象と栄養器官貯蔵タンパク質の動態に関する研究)

森林科学専攻 Division of Forest and Biomaterials Science

May Thet Su Kyaw Tint: The Study of Molecular Composition of Dissolved Organic Matter in Two Different Ecosystems: Inle Lake and Bago Mountains in Myanmar
(2つの異なる生態系における溶存有機物質の分子組成に関する研究: ミャンマー, インレー湖およびバゴ山地)

Wikantyo Bramantyo: The sensory setae morphology and behavior in the soldier caste of subterranean termite, *Coptotermes* spp. (Blattodea: Rhinotermitidae)
(地下シロアリ *Coptotermes* 属兵蟻の感覚毛の形態と行動)

Ku Ting-Hsuan: Mechanical Fibrillation Capability of Kraft Pulp for Obtaining Cellulose Nanofibers
(セルロースナノファイバー製造におけるクラフトパルプの機械的フィブリル化特性)

Jiao Linjie: Study on evapotranspiration and canopy photosynthesis during and after rainfall in a Japanese cypress forest
(降雨中・直後のヒノキ林における蒸発散および群落光合成に関する研究)

Hairi Cipta: Wood identification and anatomical investigation using X-ray CT and image analysis
(X線CT法と画像解析による木材識別と解剖学的調査)

応用生命科学専攻 Division of Applied Life Sciences

Alhussin Mohamed Abdelhakeem Megaly: Characterization of bioactive peptides without disulfide bridges from the venom of *Lycosa poonaensis* species inhabiting the Egyptian environment
(エジプト地域に棲息する *Lycosa poonaensis* の毒液に含まれるジスルフィド結合を持たない生理活性ペプチドの構造決定)

Osama Ahmed Gamaleldin Abdou Ahmed Afifi: Studies on the roles of 4-coumarate: coenzyme A ligase and 4-coumarate 3-hydroxylase in lignin biosynthesis in rice
(イネのリグニン生合成における 4-coumarate:coenzyme A ligase 及び 4-coumarate 3-hydroxylase の役割)

Sui Yu-An: Screening of fatty alcohol dehydrogenase and its application on alkane production
(脂肪族アルコール脱水素酵素の探索とそのアルカン生産への応用)

Takeuchi Daniel Makoto: Studies on astragaloside IV metabolism in lactic acid bacteria and bifidobacteria
(乳酸菌およびビフィズス菌におけるアストラガロシド IV の代謝に関する研究)

Hao Li: Studies on the regulation of secondary metabolism in *Lithospermum erythrorhizon* using genome editing
(ゲノム編集技術を用いたムラサキの二次代謝制御に関する研究)

応用生物科学専攻 Division of Applied Biosciences

Martin Morales Agustin: Study on glyceraldehyde content and its novel reactants on collagen in the body
(生体内のグリセルアルデヒド含量とコラーゲンとの新規反応物に関する研究)

Zhang Ru: Studies on virulence-related effectors and transcription factors preferentially expressed at the pre-invasion stage in *Colletotrichum orbiculare*
(ウリ類炭疽病菌の侵入前に優先的に発現する病原性関連エフェクターおよび転写因子の研究)

Matthew Tatsuo Kamiyama: Assessment of the biological control complex and seasonal phenology of *Halymorpha halys*
(クサギカメムシの生物的防除およびその季節消長に関する研究)

Saliza binti Awang Bono: Acoustic behaviour of small cetaceans in northwest Peninsular Malaysia in relation to behavioural, environmental and anthropogenic factors
(マレーシア半島北西部における小型鯨類の発声と行動、環境及び人為的要因の関係)

Basavaraj: Genetic dissection of resistance of two rice cultivars against blast fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*
(イネ 2 系統が保有するいもち病抵抗性の遺伝学的解析)

地域環境科学専攻 Division of Environmental Science and Technology

Apuntree Prueksapong: Soil Fertility Status and Factors Controlling Rainfed Rice Yield in Northeast Thailand
(東北タイにおける土壌肥沃度状況と天水イネ収量の規定要因)

Le Dinh Huy: Water erosion process on sloping cropland in Central Vietnam - A case study in A Luoi district, Thua Thien Hue province
(ベトナム中部地方の傾斜農地における水食プロセストゥアティエンフエ県ルオイ地区の事例研究)

Omwange Ken Abamba: Selection and development of algorithms based on surface fluorescence compounds of fish for non-destructively monitoring freshness during storage
(貯蔵段階における魚体表の蛍光物質を用いた非侵襲的な鮮度評価のためのアルゴリズムの選定と開発)

Tsay Lok Wai Jacky: An Acoustic Indoor Localization System for Unmanned Robots with Temperature Compensation and Co-channel Interference Tolerance
(温度補償および同一チャネル干渉耐性を備えた無人ロボットのための屋内音響測位システム)

張 明軍: 農村地域におけるインバウンド観光の推進と観光関連主体の意識に関する研究

生物資源経済学専攻 Division of Natural Resource Economics

Jung Hyun Hee: A Valuation Study on Multifunctionality of Agriculture and Multifunctional Agriculture in South Korea: Beyond 6th Industrialization
(韓国における農業の多面的機能と多面機能型農業に関する価値評価研究: 6次産業化を超えて)

Chika Kondo: Practicing Solidarity between Farmers and Eaters: Understanding the diverse economies of Alternative Food Networks in Japan
(農業者と食べ手を結びつける実践の諸相 - 「多様性経済」の概念からオルタナティブフードネットワークを読みとく)

李 欣儀: Agricultural Development in China through the Promotion of Land Rental Markets and Agricultural Cooperatives
(農地貸借市場と農民專業合作社を核とする中国の農業発展)

食品生物科学専攻 Division of Food Science and Biotechnology

Ying Qiao: Studies on inhibition of α -amylase and α -glucosidase by components of *Morus australis*
(シマグワの成分による α -アミラーゼと α -グルコシダーゼの阻害に関する研究)

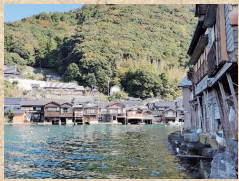
留学生の
眼
(54)

How I started a liking for Kyoto

Anton Laurens Christian Wehr Special auditing student from Germany
Lab. of Comparative Agricultural Science
Division of Environmental Science and Technology
October 2022 - Present



I started planning an exchange year in Japan during my undergraduate program. Back then, I definitely wanted to live and study in one of the biggest metropolises in the world, Tokyo, in order to experience the city's liveliness which would have been a big contrast to the quiet town of Bonn. My plans got crossed by the corona-pandemic and Japan locked themselves in for nearly two years. Then, during my graduate program, I tried applying again and decided that Kyoto University would be a good destination for doing an exchange year since the courses aligned well with my curriculum. To be honest, I was not entirely thrilled about going to Kyoto at first as I was told beforehand that it is full of tourists, the people are cold, and the weather is not that good (some of it might be true).



Not far from Kyoto: the town of Ine. I really liked their sake which is pinkish in color. Apparently, it is made out of an ancient strain of red rice.

However, when I finally made it to Kyoto in September, the amount of tourists was quite limited and I was able to explore the city peacefully. I just started walking around in the city and on the way I would spontaneously end up at some world heritage site since Kyoto is so rich in history and well-preserved. Just taking a stroll through my neighborhood in Nishijin, which has a lot of Machiya, was very exciting for me. Most of the time, I visited the beautiful temples and gardens and enjoyed a chilled tea from the many vending machines (it was almost the end of September and the weather was still hot for me, so I cannot wait for the Summer to arrive). Although Japan is so far from home, I was able to quickly get accustomed to my new surroundings which was also greatly supported by the great hospitality and kindness of the people in Kyoto. Besides my studies, I have developed a strong interest in traditional craftsmanship and being in Kyoto offered me the opportunity to experience a wide range of Japanese crafts, such as woodworking and pottery. As a student in Kyoto, I felt it was my obligation to see one of the traditional Japanese theaters, so I went to watch the famous Noh play Do-joji. Not being the biggest theater enthusiast in general, I was more fascinated by the beautiful kimono and especially the masks. Recently, I gave it a try and started making my own Noh masks and hope that at least one mask will be finished by the end of my exchange year. In general, I enjoy Kyoto very much because a lot of traditional Japanese culture is being cherished here and there are plentiful opportunities to learn about it. Whenever I had the time, I tried to travel around and get to know different regions within Japan. Even if it is just a small

village, there would often be something unique to it. On my travels, I experienced hospitality to a degree I rarely encountered before coming to Japan. Coming from a region in Germany, where treating others around you with a great amount of kindness is not that common, I want to do my best to take some of the Japanese hospitality back to my home country.

Within Kyoto University, I was also surprised by the great variety of activities organized by student associations. Through that, I could also experience helping some farmers and thereby get a feeling of agricultural practices in Japan. Since most farmers do not understand English and my Japanese is not good enough to have a decent conversation, oftentimes you rely on sign language. In October, I went to a mikan farm in Wakayama, and despite the cultural differences between the farmer and me, we mutually understood each other through the farm work and after one day it almost felt like I had never been doing anything other than farming mikan. After such a long, laborious workday in the steep hills, I would also enjoy going to the onsen even more than usual as it felt very rewarding and cured any muscle fatigue.



Not in Kyoto, but still very beautiful: Himeji Castle.



Harvesting delicious mikan in Wakayama.

After my little story, I want to wrap up this report with some concluding remarks: Because of the language barrier, encounters especially in more remote parts of Japan always seem a bit scary, but once you overcome your fear you will most certainly gain a memorable moment (hopefully in a good way). In general, I feel like doing an exchange year in a foreign country is quite a rewarding experience as you will face many challenges and overcoming them can help your further development both in your personal and academic life. But whenever I would face challenges that I felt like not being capable of handling on my own, I was very grateful that the international exchange section provided a safe harbor where one could return to in search of help.



View over Lake Biwa in winter. I was surprised that one can go skiing there.

◆ 招へい研究員特別講演 Special Lectures by Visiting Researchers ◆

◆ **Associate Prof. Daniel Montereescu**
(Central European University,
Austria)

“The Uses and Abuses of Terroir: Wine Across Imperial Borders and Colonial Frontiers”

October 24th,
2022



Assoc.Prof. Montereescu (right)

◆ **Prof. Wang Shaodong**
(Northeast Agricultural University,
China)

“中国大豆産業における発展及び傾向”

February 22nd,
2023

*The lecture
was given in
Japanese.



Prof. Wang Shaodong (center)

◆ **Prof. Wang Lei**
(Soochow University, China)

“農村振興策転換期における中国農村
景観づくりの実務的な課題～日中両国
比較の視点より～”

March 29th, 2023

*The lecture was given
in Japanese.



Prof. Wang Lei

日本語講師 前川佳世子さん着任のお知らせ Introducing our New Japanese Teacher Ms. Kayoko Maekawa



2022年10月、新しい日本語講師として前川佳世子さんが着任されました！前川先生は、火曜日と水曜日に、初級・上級クラスで外国人留学生と研究者に日本語を教えてください。ゲームなどを交えながらの授業は大好評です。4月から新年度のクラスが始まりますので、興味のある方はぜひご参加ください！

Our new Japanese teacher, Ms. Kayoko Maekawa, has been teaching Japanese to international students and researchers since October 2022. Maekawa-sensei now offers elementary and advanced classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Her classes, which include games and other activities, are very well-received by the students. New students are welcome to join in April!

前川先生からのメッセージ Message from Maekawa-sensei

みなさん、こんにちは！渡部真理先生の後任として、昨年10月より日本語教室に着任しました前川佳世子です。
この日本語教室は、ふだん授業や研究に忙しくて日本語の勉強がなかなかできない人や日本人とあまり話す機会がない人、もっと日本語の能力を高めたいという人のために開かれています。授業時間は70分で週に1回来ることができます。
いつもみんなで和気あいあいと楽しく日本語を学習しています。みなさま、お気軽にどうぞ。S-414のお部屋でお待ちしています。

Hello everyone! My name is Kayoko Maekawa, and I have been teaching in the Japanese language class since last October, succeeding Ms. Mari Watanabe. This Japanese language class is open to those who are usually too busy with classes and research to study Japanese, those who do not have many opportunities to talk with Japanese people, and those who want to further improve their Japanese language skills. The class time is 70 minutes and you can come once a week.
Everyone always enjoys learning Japanese in a friendly atmosphere. I am looking forward to seeing you in room S-414.

2022年度後期行事 Events in the Second Semester, AY2022

October 5th, 2022

参加人数 34名



行事 新入留学生・チューターガイダンス & 交流会
Orientations for New International Students and Tutors / Meet & Greet

会場 農学部総合館大会議室
Meeting Room, C-102, Agriculture Main Bldg.

November 1st

参加人数 26名



行事 日帰り見学会
One-Day Study Trip

会場 京北エリア (京都市)
Keihoku Area (Kyoto City)

November 29th & 30th

参加人数 27名



行事 茶道体験
Japanese Tea Ceremony

会場 国際交流室
International Exchange Section

December 13th & 14th

参加人数 86名



行事 リサイクルイベント
Recycle Event

会場 国際交流室
International Exchange Section

February 17th, 2023

参加人数 10名



行事 ほっこりカフェ：“ペルーには誰が住んでいる？”
International Café Meeting: “Who Lives in Peru?”

会場 農学部総合館 W-102
W-102, Agriculture Main Bldg.

March 14th & 15th

参加人数 12名



行事 書道教室
Japanese Calligraphy

会場 日本語教室
Japanese Class

2023年度前期行事予定 Event Schedule in the First Semester, AY2023

日付 / Date	行事 / Event	会場 / Venue
April 5 th	新入留学生・チューターガイダンス&交流会 Orientations for New International Students and Tutors / Meet & Greet	農学部総合館大会議室 Meeting Room, C-102, Agriculture Main Bldg.
May 16 th & 17 th	茶道体験 Japanese Tea Ceremony	国際交流室 International Exchange Section
June	日帰り見学会 One-Day Study Trip	未定 To be announced
July 4 th & 5 th	七夕 Star Festival	日本語教室 Japanese Class
未定 TBA	ほっこりカフェ International Café Meeting	国際交流室 International Exchange Section
未定 TBA	リサイクルイベント Recycle Event	国際交流室 International Exchange Section
September 12 th & 13 th	書道教室 Japanese Calligraphy	日本語教室 Japanese Class

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*Newsletter バックナンバーをホームページに掲載しています。

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