



# newsletter

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



## 知らないことと出会う楽しさ

秋津 元輝

農学研究科教授  
生物資源経済学専攻  
農学原論分野

国際交流に限らず、私のこれまでの活動の歩みは心底から行き当たりばったりでした。なかでも 2017 年度から 2022 年度までの 6 年の間、国際担当の副研究科長を務めたことなどはまったく予想していなかったことでしたが、この立場に就いたがゆえにたくさん新しいことに出会いました。また、その時から国際交流室長は国際担当の副研究科長が兼務するという体制が導入されたため、その 6 年間、国際交流室の仕事も含めて農学研究科の国際関係の業務に身近に接することになりました。このニューズレターもこれまでは執筆をお願いする側だったのをお願いされる立場となり、ああ退職するんだなという実感が湧いてきます。

そもそも、国際担当というのは私にとってコンプレックスでしかなく、6 年間経験してもいまだにその感覚が抜けません。私が国際交流に劣等意識をもつ最大の理由は、海外への留学経験がないことです。これまで一度だけ海外留学のチャンスがありました。それは 30 歳代半ばのことで、その頃も現在と同じく農学研究科の教員をしていて、そこで募集される文科省の在外研究員事業に応募する予定でした。しかし、毎年続いていた募集がその年にはなくて、準備していた英国への留学は消えました。まあ、暇ができたので、もう一人子供でも持つかと挑戦して、念願の女の子が生まれたので、あとの人生を考えるとそれはそれでよかったのかもしれません。

したがって私の国際経験はもっぱら海外での研究調査活動によって培われました。私の専門分野は永らく農村研究で、近年では食に重点を移して都市にも調査に出かけています。研究対象は主要には日本ですが、ぶらぶらして新しいことに会おうのが好きなので、楽しさを求めて海外にも足を延ばしてきました。世界中どこにいても大概は農村があるし、近代化の過程においてなにがしかの固有の問題を抱えているので、農村研究を看板にしているとどこに行ってももっともらしい調査課題を設定できます。その特権を活かして、時にまじめに調査をしたり、時には物見遊山程度で出かけたりしていろいろな国や地域、場所を訪ねてきました。

ざっと振り返ってみると、院生時代の 3 ヶ月の中米バックパッカー旅行はさておき、農村調査としては 1990 年代初頭の韓国が最初で、1990 年代半ばには 3 ヶ月のタンザニア農村調査、2000 年代初めにはハンガリーで農村調査をおこないました。さらに 2000 年代の半ばには北部タイに何度か出かけてフィールド調査を実施しました。この 4 カ国での研究もまったく行き当たりばったりで、取り立てて関連性もないのですが、結果的には農村の多様性を知るよい経験になったと自賛しています。その後は歳を取るにしたがってゆっくりと海外調査に出かけられなくなりますが、米国、カナダ、英国、イタリア、ドイツ、ベトナム、中国などの都市部や農村部を訪ねてきました。学生たちには大学の研

究でこんなに新しい出会いが得られるんだから、研究者っておいしいよと折にふれて伝えています。

学生たちを連れて海外に出向くようになったのは、2015 年から開始されたスーパーグローバル大学創生事業からです。大学を国際的な研究水準に高めるにあたって、理系分野ではすでに世界水準の研究成果が出ているけれども、文系分野では研究の国際的な広がりがないということで、その当時に国際化が進行していた文学研究科と経済学研究科のプログラムが合同で、人文社会系ユニットとしてこのグローバル化事業に参加することになりました。私はその前に文学研究科のプログラムに参加していたことから、農学研究科の文系分野を代表するかたちで、メンバーとなりました。

この活動についても、社会学を専攻していたので文学研究科のグローバル COE プログラムにたまたま誘っていただき、その流れでスーパーグローバル事業に関わったわけで、川に流されながらたまたま辿り着いたという印象です。しかし、この事業を通じてドイツのゲッティンゲン大学と交流関係を結んだり、学生を連れてドイツだけでなく、タイやインドネシアの大学と研究交流できたりしたことは、その度に新しい出会いがあり、楽しみの多いものでした。さらに、この事業をきっかけとして外国人教員を雇用することになり、そのポストが運良く定員編入されて、生物資源経済学専攻と私の研究分野の国際化が予期した以上に進展しました。これもまた、流れてきたフックに偶然に荷物を掛けるという感覚でした。



ガジャマダ大学との院生ワークショップ (2024/3/2 見学前にて)  
前右から 2 人目が筆者

しかし、人の一生というのは所詮そんな行き当たりばったりのなかで、何とか対応しながら進んでいくのかもしれない。退職後に専念する医療系私立大学での農学部創設の仕事も当然ながら突然降ってきたもので、その話が来る前は生まれ故郷の香川県あたりで仕事がないか探していました。京都府南丹市にあるその小さな医療系大学では有機農業に特化した学部を創る計画ですが、その準備のために欧州でいち早く有機農業学部を開設したドイツのカッセル大学を 2024 年に訪問してきました。それが実現したのも、ゲッティンゲン大学がたまたま農学系ではカッセル大学と姉妹校的な関係にあったからで、本研究科での蓄積が役に立ちました。

いろいろな国に行って農村調査をするとなると、言語的な準備も本来必要になります。これまで、スペイン語、韓国語、スワヒリ語などをちょっとまじめに勉強してきましたが、もちろん調査ができるほどに上達するには至っていません。その他のタイ語やマジャール語などは開始する年齢が遅かったこともあってほとんどものになっておりません。中国語にいたっては開始すらしていない状況です。海外生活経験がないことから英語だって中途半端で覚束ないのですが、今後も知らないことに会おう楽しさを求めて、海外や日本の中でも外国の社会や文化に積極的に触れていきたいと考えています。

## Ookini for a once-in-a-lifetime experience

Peter Schausberger

University Docent, University of Vienna, Austria  
Visiting Professor at the Laboratory of Ecological Information, Division of Environmental Science and Technology  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024



The idea to spend some time at Kyoto University with my fellow scientists from the Laboratory of Ecological Information dates back to December 2021, when Norihide-san (Hinomoto) and I began to entertain possibilities to bring me over for an extended period of time. The idea grew out from decades-long collaborations and my wish to revisit Japan and temporarily live and work in Kyoto. Ultimately it was also based on the very pleasant memories of a previous 10-months stay with Yukie-san (Sato) at Tsukuba University in 2018. When I left Japan at that time, I knew that I would like to come back someday, if a similar occasion arose. Due to the worries with Covid-19 and pausing of the visiting researcher program, it took a bit more than two years until the invitation from the Graduate School/Faculty of Agriculture, to teach and research at Kyoto University, dropped into my mailbox. I did not hesitate a second to accept the offer to serve as Invited Professor and live in Kyoto from mid-May until the end of October 2024.

My stay in Kyoto had everything needed to call it a time of heydays. I taught, educated, researched, explored the city and its surroundings, traveled within Japan and to Greece and Australia, and enjoyed the get-togethers and fantastic food and drinks. My activities were more than usually done in an entire year. I gave a weekly lecture that was well attended and received by the students and another special lecture before leaving. I gave talks at three international and one national scientific event, three of which were invited. I also got the chance to revisit the places of my 2018/2019 stay in Sugadaira (in the Nagano alps) and Tsukuba with Yukie Sato (my keycard is still active there) – it was a pleasure recollecting memory. In research, we (Norihide-san, two MSc candidates Shogo Usugi and Chenhao Wang, and me) conducted a highly successful and forward-looking study on the personalities of predatory mite females as influenced by their mates. Animal personalities have become an exciting and hip research topic in recent years, with our findings being at the forefront of this field. Our findings suggest that the personalities of predatory mite females are driven by their residual reproductive value - the research outcome is already in the public domain and can be accessed at <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.12.23.630184v1>.

In my free time, I enjoyed bike-cruising the streets, alleys and backroads of Kyoto, exploring temples, shrines, green places, and small shops in my neighborhood, and visiting gorgeous museums and exhibitions (highlight was Takashi Murakami - Mononoke Kyoto 2024) and more hidden gems and sites. Not to forget the roof-top bars and the various kinds of eateries that I explored - I love the diversity of Japanese food and drinks. Kyoto was not new to me, I have been there before several times but always just for a few days or weeks. The extended stay and work there allowed me a deeper insight in the functioning of this city and country. During my stay, I enjoyed two longer trips by rental car, touring Kyoto Prefecture including Tango Hanto with Amanohashidate, Ine and fantastic beaches, and the Kii Peninsula with its beautiful coast and inner mountains, great onsens and world-renowned temples and shrines such as Kinpusen-ji, Koya-san, and the Kumano Sanzan and Ise Grand Shrines. Also, food was remarkably good there; my tip is the Michelin-mentioned Gojo Genbei, which has also some nice accommodation. I will not forget the ordered six-course Kaiseki not ending but turning into a nine-course Kaiseki, accompanied by delicious sake, served by the pleasant and entertaining chef

himself – i.e. I ate my first swim bladder.

I was fortunate of having been taught a bit of Japanese by my fabulous teacher Kayoko Maekawa. My Japanese allies found that my Japanese improved a lot. In the final days of my stay, I was taught (in a nice gin distillery and bar on Shichijo, my close neighborhood) my favorite Japanese word: among friends in Kyoto, I should say *ookini* instead of *arigato gozaimasu* for thank you. *Ookini* to Sakiko Imaeda, who was a most welcoming, attentive and always fun-to-talk-to administrative manager. She made my life easy by taking care of all formalities, starting from the CoE to visa, residence permit, insurance, key cards, lecture hall devices etc. Thanks also to my landlady Nancy Lee from koala apartments, who is both a colleague as a university teacher and runs a small apartment rental business. If you are a foreigner coming to Kyoto, check it out. A big *ookini* to Norihide-san (Hinomoto), my host, for the fruitful collaboration and his generosity, and to Shuichi-san (Yano) and all other members and students in the Laboratory of Ecological Information. I enjoyed every minute being part of this laboratory.

I am deeply honored and grateful to have been selected by the Graduate School/Faculty of Agriculture and feel extremely privileged to have been given the opportunity to live and work in Japan for the second time in my career. Japan is currently the country where I spent the 3<sup>rd</sup> most time of my life (1<sup>st</sup> being Austria, 2<sup>nd</sup> USA as a Postdoc, 3<sup>rd</sup> Japan as a Professor). I would not mind if Japan becomes number 2 in my personal lifetime. In German language we have the proverb *aller guten Dinge sind drei*; I would be delighted if a third Japanese era would follow sometime in the future. *Ookini, mata ne*



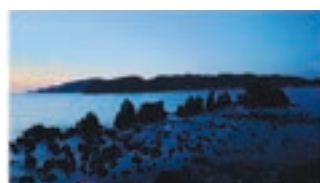
Kamo-gawa, my bike path to work



Dragon ceiling in Kennin-ji



Hokan-ji (Yasaka pagoda)



Hashigui-iwa rocks in Kushimoto



Kongobu-ji (Koya-san)



Farewell Party of the Lab





## The tale of my journey from India to Kyoto .....

**Monish KB** M1 student of special course in Agriculture from India  
Laboratory of Plant Genetics  
Division of Applied Biosciences  
October 2024 – present



As someone with a scientific background, I've always been skeptical of luck and superstitions, often viewing them as mere coincidences. However, sometimes life surprises you in ways that feel like fate, reminding you that you can end up exactly where you need to be. One such place for me is Kyoto, Japan—an idyllic city nestled in a picturesque valley, surrounded by rolling hills and lush greenery.



Under the cherry blossom tree

I arrived here in Japan during the first week of April, a time when cherry blossoms (Sakura) are typically in full bloom. To my surprise, Sakura began to flower only after my arrival, making me feel incredibly special as I began my master's research journey in this beautiful country. People here often tell me that I am lucky to have witnessed the blooming of not only Sakura but also Hydrangea, Maple, Genko, and even snow—all in such a short span of time. I embrace both the nature and the people of Kyoto with full love and joy.

Over the past year, I've visited this same place during different seasons and observed how time changes everything. Through this experience, I've learned many life lessons. For example, as the leaves fall during autumn, we may feel like we're hitting a low point in our research or our personal lives. But, like the Sakura, this is often a time for rebirth and renewal—an opportunity to rebuild ourselves and bloom again when spring arrives.

I am incredibly grateful to be part of my dream genetics lab at Kyoto University, where I enjoy a stress-free environment that nurtures learning, thinking, and collaboration. The faculty and senior students are always willing to help, providing invaluable support and guidance. One thing I've come to appreciate about Kyoto University is its emphasis on research over traditional classroom instruction. Although this approach is new to me, I am quickly adapting and finding it to be a great fit for my academic journey. I didn't fully understand the prestige of being a Kyoto University student until others spoke with such pride about its history and reputation.

Another pleasant surprise has been my involvement in one of the university's prestigious football clubs. At first, I thought

language barriers would make it difficult to join a sports team in Japan, but once again, Kyoto's "luck" factor worked in my favor. The team members have been incredibly welcoming, treating me like one of their own and helping me learn the game. This has been a unique opportunity to see how athletes approach the sport and analyze their opponents. The team is also very understanding of my academic commitments as a master's student, allowing me to focus on both my research and sports.

When it comes to Japanese food, I initially found it challenging to adjust to the relatively mild flavors and fewer spices. However, after a few days, I grew accustomed to the cuisine and now enjoy almost all of it. Recently, I've begun traveling to different regions of Japan on weekends, exploring local delicacies that are unique to each area.

One thing I truly believe is that surrounding yourself with inspiring people is key to personal growth. I find constant inspiration in the hardworking people of Japan, from my fellow researchers in the lab to the everyday individuals I encounter on the streets. The entire country, with its dedication and work ethic, encourages me to strive for excellence every day. My adventurous journey in Japan has just begun, and there is so much more to explore, learn, and experience. I am excited for the memories I will continue to make, the lessons I will learn, and the joy this journey will bring me.



Kyoto University Football team.



Inside the Kyoto Botanical Garden during the 100th anniversary light show event.

### ◆ 招へい研究員 Visiting Researcher ◆

First Semester, 2025

**QIN ZHANG: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

ワシントン州立大学名誉教授 (米国) Professor Emeritus,  
Washington State University, USA  
共同研究課題: 「農業のためのインテリジェント農業機械  
とAIシステムの開発」

Joint research title: "Development of Intelligent  
Agricultural Machinery and AI System for Agriculture"

受入れ: 地域環境科学専攻 飯田 訓久 教授

Host: Prof. Michihisa Iida, Division of Environmental  
Science and Technology

### ◆ 招へい研究員特別講演 Special Lecture by a Visiting Researcher ◆

◆ **Prof. Peter Schausberger**  
(University of Vienna, Austria)

**"Targeting environmentally-induced behavioral changes  
in predatory mites to advance biological control"**

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## ◆Doctoral Degrees Awarded to International Students and Researchers in AY2024◆

## 農学専攻 Division of Agronomy and Horticultural Science

**CHEN BINGYU:** Purification and Characterization of Allergens for Walnut Allergy Analysis  
(クルミアレルギー解析のためのアレルゲンの精製とその特性)

**Su Zhuo:** Identification of genetic resources resistant to wheat blast and mapping of the novel resistance genes by exploring tetraploid and hexaploid wheat core collections  
(四倍体および六倍体コムギコアコレクションの探索による、コムギいもち病抵抗性系統の同定と新規抵抗性遺伝子のマッピング)

**Nie Jilu:** Construction of a consensus map of a nested association mapping (NAM) population of Asian common wheat and its application in revealing recombination landscape and genetic analysis of flowering duration  
(アジアのパンコムギの NAM 集団のコンセンサスマップの構築と、その遺伝的組換えおよび開花期間の遺伝学的解析への応用)

## 森林科学専攻 Division of Forest and Biomaterials Science

**張 陽陽:** Preparation of Functional Materials from Cellulose/Lithium Bromide Solution by Emulsion-Gelation Method  
(エマルション-ゲル化法によるセルロース/臭化リチウム水溶液からの機能性材料の調製)

**XIE Yusong:** Land Use Management Strategies Based on Land Use/Land Cover Types and Assessment of Urban Ecosystem Services  
(土地利用/土地被覆タイプに基づく土地利用管理方法と都市生態系サービスの評価)

**秦 倩凝:** A spatio-temporal analysis on the regime shift of the below-ground system in degraded logged-over Bornean tropical rainforests  
(伐採後の劣化したボルネオ島熱帯雨林における地下部のレジームシフトに関する時空間分析)

**JIANG LINZI:** Ecology of soil microbial communities in degraded logged-over tropical rainforests  
(劣化した熱帯雨林における土壌微生物群集の生態学)

**Kyaw Kyaw Htoo:** Analysis of crown structure and evaluation of growth strategies of canopy trees using UAV-LiDAR in diverse natural forests of Japan  
(日本の様々な自然林における UAV-LiDAR を用いた樹冠構造解析による林冠木の成長戦略の評価)

**Luo Bei:** Structure, origin, development of inter-, intraxylary phloem, radial sieve tube, and their involvement in phloem network of *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops*  
(*Aquilaria* および *Gyrinops* における材内および内部師部、ならびに放射師部の構造、起源、形成とそれらの師部ネットワークへの関与)

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

**ZHU MENGSHAN:** Identification and characterization of proteins involved in extracellular membrane vesicle production of *Shewanella vesiculosa* HM13  
(*Shewanella vesiculosa* HM13 の細胞外膜小胞生産に関与するタンパク質の同定と特性解析)

**SUWANAWAT Nittikarn:** Biochemical characteristics and physiological functions of lysophosphatidic acid acyltransferases from *Escherichia coli* and *Thermus thermophilus*  
(*Escherichia coli* と *Thermus thermophilus* のリゾホスファチジン酸アシル基転移酵素の生化学的特性と生理機能)

**IP CHI HEI:** Applied studies on the docosahexaenoic acid production using plant biomass by *Aurantiochytrium* species  
(*Aurantiochytrium* 属による植物資源を活用したドコサヘキサエン酸生産に関する応用研究)

**Pingping Ji:** Studies on Metabolic Engineering Approaches to Manipulate Lignin Aromatic Composition in Grasses  
(イネ科植物におけるリグニンの芳香核組成を制御するための代謝工学的アプローチに関する研究)

**韓 俊文:** 植物の芳香族基質プレニル化酵素の触媒機構に関する酵素学的研究

## 応用生物科学専攻 Division of Applied Biosciences

**ZENG YIREN:** Diagnostic histone modification analysis of preimplantation embryos for animal production  
(動物生産のための着床前胚の診断的ヒストン修飾解析)

**LIU SHUYU:** Preventive effects of dietary marine organism-derived bioactive compounds against skin aging  
(海洋生物由来生理活性成分の摂取による皮膚老化の抑制作用)

**Wu Yao:** Asexual queen succession and dynamics of intracolony conflict in termites  
(シロアリの単為生殖による女王継承システムとコロニー内対立の動態)

**FU XIAJIE:** Studies on the roles of vitamin C as a conditional enhancer in myogenesis and brown adipogenesis  
(筋形成と褐色脂肪細胞形成において条件的増強剤として作用するビタミンCの役割に関する研究)

**Sri Wijanarti:** Study on small intestinal mucosa exopeptidases in association with the bioavailability of food-derived peptides  
(食品由来ペプチドの生体利用能に及ぼす小腸粘膜エクソペプチダーゼに関する研究)

**JIN CHUJIA:** Studies in disease resistance mechanisms of cucurbitaceous plants against plant pathogenic microbes  
(ウリ科植物における植物病原微生物に対する病害抵抗性機構の研究)

**LIU DAN:** The roles of RNA modifying enzyme genes in preimplantation embryo development in mice  
(マウスの着床前胚発生における RNA 修飾酵素遺伝子の役割)

**DO HANWOOL:** Studies on analytical methods to quantify plasma levels of amino acids and related metabolites and their applications in Japanese Black cattle  
(黒毛和種牛における血漿中アミノ酸および関連代謝物濃度の定量分析法およびそれらの応用に関する研究)

**WANG ZICAI:** Treatment with Trace Amines Ameliorates Metabolic Dysfunction and Hair Thinning in High-Fat Diet-Induced Obese Mice  
(微量アミンの投与は高脂肪食誘発性肥満マウスの代謝機能障害と薄毛を改善する)

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

**仲 若涵:** Soil Properties Controlling Status and Stabilization of Soil Organic Carbon in Neutral-to-alkaline Soils of Indo-Gangetic Plain  
(ガンジス平野の中性からアルカリ性土壌における土壌有機炭素の状態と安定化機構を制御する土壌特性)

**CHEN SIKAI:** Rice Lodging Detection in Rice Fields for Robot Combine Automation  
(ロボットコンバイン自動化のための水稲は場における稲倒伏の検出)

**CHEN SIYAO:** Microorganism Collection and Detection Method Based on a Dielectrophoresis-integrated LC-oscillator Array Sensor Chip  
(誘電泳動とLC発振器を統合したアレイセンサを用いた微生物の収集と検出方法)

**高 天 齊:** Non-destructive Quality Assessment of Avocado (*Persea americana* Mill.) Using Fluorescence Technology for Flesh Oil Content Determination  
(蛍光技術を用いたアボカド (*Persea americana* Mill.) 果肉の油含有量における非破壊的品質評価)

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

**YU XIAOYU:** Multipolar Rural Restructuring in China: Policy accommodation and local initiatives in the case of Anhui Province  
(中国農村再構築の多極的展開: 安徽省農村における政策受容と主体的対応を事例として)

**DINH THI THUC VIEN:** Social Practice of Culinary Adaptation of Vietnamese Migrant Foodways in Japan  
(日本におけるベトナム人移民の食事文化適応に関する社会実践論的研究)

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

**NUNTANUT POPUANG:** Studies on the Biological Functionality of Cellulose Nanofiber and Its Derivative as Possible Food Additives  
(食品添加物として可能なセルロースおよびその誘導体ナノファイバーの生物学的機能性に関する研究)



## ◆国際交流室スタッフ退職のお知らせ Retirement of IES Staff Members◆

Notice of Change in International Exchange Section Faculty and Staff

Ms. Sakiko Imaeda, who has devoted 10 years of her life to the International Exchange Section's international activities, including the management of international student programs, planning of events, and acceptance of researchers from abroad, retired in January 2025. Her contributions are deeply inspiring.

Associate Professor Dr. Garry Piller, who has provided a variety of classes to many international students including students from all departments, and Ms. Yoko Sakade, who has taken meticulous care of events and accounting, retired in March 2025.

We would like to express the deepest gratitude to Dr. Garry Piller, Ms. Sakiko Imaeda and Ms. Yoko Sakade for their dedicated contributions.

Ms. Yuko Imai has taken over from Ms. Sakiko Imaeda's position since December 2024.

### Message from Associate Professor, Garry John Piller



“Walking Backwards Into The Future”, a Māori proverb, is the position I find myself in now. A little over a decade ago I made the terrifying decision, at least for me, to return to academia. I was to teach scientific communication at both an undergraduate and postgraduate level, as well as other courses of my own design. I did not have confidence in these untested skills at the time.

That decision did, however, turn out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. Without any real vision, I set up courses from basic science through to multidisciplinary topics related to sustainable/regenerative agriculture, as well as food systems. Though the course names have changed little, the contents have evolved as the students, and I explored these topics and went down many different rabbit holes.

This exploration was further stimulated by taking on numerous proofreading and editing tasks, participating in a joint three university course, and pre-undergraduate intensive biology course at Kyoto iUP. The physics of water, animal physiology (fish, chicks, cattle ...), sensor engineering were among the fields I was introduced to. As a result, what started out as siloed courses became an ecosystem, with increasing understanding of basic biology enabling further exploration of sustainable agriculture, scientific communication creeping into plant ecology, horticultural and agricultural examples littering the scientific communication classes ...

In the end I realized that I have had the privilege of living the “Kyoto University Experience”: the enabling environment, freedom and opportunities to explore the inter connections of life (biology) with my fellow explorers. As I now turn my attention to the future, the KUE has taught me I will need to continue to stay awake to curiosity and open to opportunities that may arise.

Wishing you all the joy of a fruitful KUE.

### 今枝咲季子さんからのメッセージ Message from Ms. Sakiko Imaeda



In January 2025, I left my job at the International Exchange Section. If I were to choose one word to describe my ten years there, “encounters” would be the perfect choice.

Through my work, I had countless encounters with professors and staff within Kyoto University as well as researchers and students from all over the world. I always strived to make their lives in Japan as comfortable and enjoyable as possible, but more often than not, it was they who comforted and encouraged me. Whether it was a casual chat in my office, an invitation to lunch, or a weekend outing, these moments brought me great joy. Some of these connections have lasted even after they returned to their home countries, and knowing that someone out there in the world is thinking of me means so much.

I am deeply grateful to everyone I met and interacted with during my time at IES. Thank you very much.

After leaving IES, my family and I moved to my hometown, Beppu City in Oita Prefecture, where we are now enjoying our new life. Beppu offers many unique attractions that are different from those of Kyoto, so please come and visit me!

### 今井優子さんからのメッセージ Message from Ms. Yuko Imai



My name is Yuko Imai, and I have been appointed to the Office of International Exchange Section since December 2024. This will be my 13th year at Kyoto University, and I have been involved in international relations work and international student projects at the Kyoto University Headquarters, Graduate School of Business Administration, Graduate School of Economics, Faculty of Engineering, and Graduate School of Medicine.

There are many international students in the Faculty of Agriculture and the Graduate School of Agriculture, and the International Exchange Office holds many events (Rice cake pounding, one-day bus tour, International Café Meeting, etc.).

International exchanges with partner universities are also very active through symposiums, conferences, and other global events. I am very much looking forward to being involved in international events at the Graduate School of Agriculture and supporting international students in the future !

## 2024 年度後期行事 / Events in the Second Semester, AY2024

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

参加人数 48 名



行事 新入留学生・チューターガイダンス & 歓迎パーティー  
Orientations for New International Students and Tutors & Welcome Party

会場 農学総合館大会議室・旧演習林事務室ラウンジ  
Meeting Room, Agriculture Main Bldg. and Former Head Office of Forest Research Station

October 30<sup>th</sup>

参加人数 15 名



行事 日帰り見学会  
One-Day Study Trip

会場 ヒガシマル醤油と姫路城  
Higashimaru Shoyu and Himeji Castle

November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

参加人数 35 名



行事 茶道体験  
Japanese Tea Ceremony

会場 国際交流室  
International Exchange Section

November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

参加人数 80 名



行事 リサイクルイベント  
Recycle Event

会場 国際交流室  
International Exchange Section

January 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

参加人数 10 名



行事 書道教室  
Japanese Calligraphy

会場 日本語教室  
Japanese Class

January 10<sup>th</sup>

参加人数 19 名



行事 第 24 回ほっこりカフェ  
24th International Café Meeting: "Exploring Nigeria's Food Culture: Insights from Lagos State and the Jollof Rice Debate"

会場 国際交流室  
International Exchange Section

January 28<sup>th</sup>

参加人数 318 名



行事 第 15 回餅つき大会  
15th Mochitsuki

会場 農学研究科 2 号館東隣空地  
Lot next to the Graduate School of Agriculture Bldg. 2



## 2025 年度前期行事予定 / Event Schedule in the First Semester, 2025

日付 / Date	行事 / Event	会場 / Venue
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	新入留学生・チューターガイダンス & 歓迎パーティー Orientations for New International Students and Tutors & Welcome Party	農学総合館大会議室・旧演習林事務室ラウンジ Meeting Room, Agriculture Main Bldg. and Lounge in the Former Head Office of Forest Research Station
May	日帰り見学会 One-Day Study Trip	未定 To be announced
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
未定 TBA	茶道体験 Japanese Tea Ceremony	国際交流室 International Exchange Section
未定 TBA	書道教室 Japanese Calligraphy	日本語教室 Japanese Class

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