

Newsletter

International Exchange Center

09

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SHOWA University

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Halloween display at Hatanodai campus using pumpkins grown at the Fujiyoshida campus

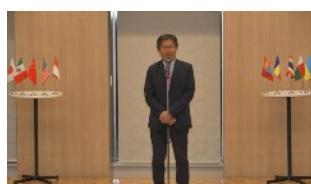


2023 Welcome Ceremony for International Fellows



On May 23, 2023, Showa University celebrated the new international postgraduate fellows at our 2023 Welcome Ceremony for International Research Fellows. This is the first group of fellows to participate in the international postgraduate program in two years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

From this April, 5 fellows from Indonesia, Madagascar, Mongolia, Thailand, and Romania arrived at Japan and had already started their research and/or training when this ceremony was held. Showa University's President Tadashi Hisamitsu provided opening remarks and commended all the fellows for taking a chance to study abroad in spite of the ongoing difficulties due to the pandemic. Indeed, to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, this year's ceremony was only open to a few immediate guests, and our traditional post-ceremony party was cancelled. After President Hisamitsu's greetings, each fellow and faculty representative from his/her department came up and introduced themselves in English to the audience.



Finally, the General Director of the International Exchange Center, Dr. Takashi Miyazaki, provided closing remarks to the ceremony. He encouraged the fellows to take full advantage of their time at Showa University and to make many friends with the faculty and students.



ATTENDING 2023 INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

NAME	COUNTRY	DEPARTMENT/DIVISION
Amartuvshin Ganbold	Mongolia	Respirology & Allergology
Achim Ion Florin	Romania	Esophageal Cancer Center
Gede Wara Samsarga	Indonesia	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Jandee Sawangpong	Thailand	Digestive Disease Center, Koto-Toyosu Hospital
Andriniaina Florian Adelis	Madagascar	Orthodontics

Visit to Mahidol University & New MOU

From February 14-16, 2023, a delegation from Showa University including our Dean of the School of Pharmacy Graduate School (Dr. Koji Nobe), Chairperson of the School of Pharmacy International Exchange Committee (Dr. Hiroyuki Itabe), Chairperson of the School of Medicine International Exchange Committee (Dr. Miki Izumi), Vice Director of the International Exchange Center (Dr. Miyuki Hashimoto) and Associate Professor at the International Exchange Center (Dr. Michael Myers) visited Mahidol University in Thailand to discuss exchange opportunities between our medical and pharmacy schools.



Our delegation first visited Mahidol University's two medical schools at Siriraj Hospital and Ramathibodi Hospital, then the Faculty of Pharmacy, and finally, the International Relations Division at their main campus. At Siriraj Hospital, they met the Deputy Dean for Corporate Communication and International Relations, Professor Prapat Wanitpongpan, as well as Assistant Professor Chainaraong Phalanusitthepha, who was an international research fellow at Showa University. During a tour of their hospital, our delegation visited the Siriraj Diabetes Center of Excellence, and then had a chance to talk with current medical students and residents in the Surgery Internal Ward. At Ramathibodi Hospital, they met Dr. Suchin Worawichawong, Assistant Dean for International Relations and Research Collaboration, and received a tour of their medical school's facilities, including their medical simulation center, student recreation center, and student housing.



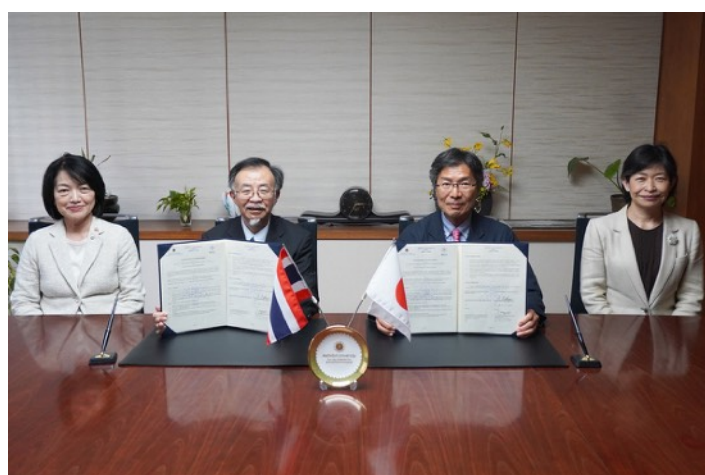
At the Faculty of Pharmacy, they met the Dean, Associate Professor Surakit Nathisuwan, and Associate Professor Vilasinee Hirunpanich

Sato, who was also a previous international fellow at Showa University. Our delegation also toured the faculty's Medicinal Plant Information Center, Drug Information Center, and community pharmacy.

Finally, on the last day our delegation met the Vice President for International Relations and Corporate Communication, Associate Professor Dr. Nopraenue Sajjarax Dhirthiti, to discuss our plans for exchange with the medical and pharmacy schools.



After returning to Japan, Dr. Worawichawong from Ramathibodi visited Showa University and met the faculty at the International Exchange Center in February. Finally, in June, 2023, the School of Medicine signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi. With an official exchange agreement now in place, we plan to send our first group of medical students to Ramathibodi Hospital to participate in an international clinical clerkship in Spring 2024.



Visit from Walailak University & Signing Ceremony

On October 10, 2023, Showa University's Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences and the International Exchange Center hosted a group of 27 faculty and 34 medical technology students from Walailak University at our Yokohama campus. The purpose of this visit was to continue student exchange that started last summer when our nursing and rehabilitation sciences students visited Walailak University in Thailand, and to sign exchange agreements with their School of Allied Health Sciences and School of Nursing.



occupational therapy to discuss potential areas for collaborative research.



Finally, all faculty and students participated in two cultural activities hosted by Showa University faculty and student instructors: Wearing a yukata and creating a kaleidoscope. For the yukata activity, a Walailak faculty member first volunteered as a model to show how to put on a yukata, and then all students were able to try one on themselves and take photos. Afterwards, a dinner party was held at the Yokohama campus. Students and faculty from both universities could interact with each other in a more relaxed environment. Gifts were exchanged between the faculty, and the Walailak University guests could try traditional Japanese sushi made by a chef on site!



In the morning, opening remarks were made by representatives of Showa University, including the Dean of the School of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences, Dr. Hisayoshi Suzuki, and Director of the International Exchange Center, Dr. Takashi Miyazaki, as well as from Walailak University. Then, Associate Professor Akira Yoshikawa of the Division of Health Science Education in the School of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences gave an introduction to interdisciplinary education at Showa University.



Afterwards, the Walailak students (IE) were separated into groups and went with Showa University faculty and students to observe an IE course on geriatrics care and home care clinical training, while the Walailak faculty participated in a signing ceremony with the School of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences and discussed future exchange ideas with our faculty. Later, the Walailak faculty were separated into their respective areas and talked with faculty from the departments of nursing and physical/



MOU with Claude Bernard Lyon1 University

In October, 2023, Showa University concluded an cooperation agreement with Claude Bernard Lyon 1 University in France. Discussions to established such an agreement first started when one of our 6th-year medical students visited Lyon for an elective clinical clerkship in May, 2023, and we accepted one of their medical student the following July. Then, a delegation from our university that included Dr. Miki Izumi, Chairperson of the School of Medicine International Exchange Committee, Dr. Miyuki Hashimoto, Vice Director of the International Exchange Center, and Dr. Ryotaro Ohkuma, Assistant Professor of Division of Medical Oncology and visiting researcher at the Cancer Research Center of Lyon, visited Lyon1 University at the end of August, 2022, to meet with the deans and other representatives of the medical schools at Lyon Est and Lyon Sud.



Next, the pharmacy schools began to discuss an exchange collaboration as well. In October, 2022, faculty from the two universities' pharmacy schools met online to talk about this topic, and from that meeting, Showa University School of Pharmacy agreed to accept a pharmacy student from Claude Bernard Lyon 1 University the following year in 2023.

Currently, the pharmacy schools have signed a specific exchange agreement in addition to this general, university-level MOU, and our School of Pharmacy is preparing to send their first group of students to Lyon in 2024. The medical schools are also in the process of finalizing their own annex, and our School of Medicine will again send some students to Lyon for elective clinical clerkships in Spring, 2024. Additionally, Showa University is looking forward to accept new medical and pharmacy students from Claude Bernard Lyon1 University in 2024.

Hertford College Summer Program

In the summer of 2019, the International Exchange Center started a new summer program called the "Medicine in Oxford Two Week Programme", which was organized by the international programs department at Hertford College, Oxford University. After a 3 year hiatus due the coronavirus pandemic, we re-started this program.



From August 6~19, 2023, 7 students from schools of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing and rehabilitation sciences joined 3 students from Taiwan to learn about British culture and its medical system while

living and dining in the historic Hertford College campus. Activities in the program included lectures on the national health care system in the UK, herbal medicine and alternative therapy,

traditional afternoon tea, gala dinner, and trips around Oxford and England. This time, students visited London and some of its famous museums.

While most Hertford College students were away for summer vacation, some served as "Resident Advisors" (RA's) in the program, providing our students with a chance to interact with local students. These RA's also planned social/cultural events for our students and developed friendships with them. Our students also interacted with the Taiwanese students, providing another opportunity to learn about a different culture and its people.



The resumption of this program was a great success and we already making plans to offer it again next summer!

PSU Summer Program



Since 2007, Showa University has organized a summer exchange program through Portland State University (PSU) in Oregon, USA, for our 1st-year students. The summer of 2023 saw the return of our students to the PSU campus for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic!

From July 27~August 9, 2023, 29 1st-year students from all four schools (medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing and rehabilitation sciences) spent two weeks in Portland to improve their English communication, learn about the U.S. medical system, and to experience American culture. Students lived in PSU dormitories and attended ESL classes on campus in



the morning. In the afternoon and evening, they then attended lectures or went on tours and field trips that taught them more about the medical system in the United States and culture of Portland and the Pacific Northwest. For example, students toured the simulation medical education building at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), a top-ranked health science university in Portland, and talked with some of the OHSU students. They also volunteered at a local food bank to learn about homelessness, food loss, and sustainability.



On the weekends, students went on excursions outside of Portland to experience Oregon's natural beauty. At the end of the program, students demonstrated what they have learned by giving groups presentations. Afterwards, a farewell lunch and certificate ceremony were held.

Walailak Summer Program

In collaboration with Walailak University in Thailand, the International Exchange Center created a new summer exchange program for students in the Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences. 14 students and 3 faculty participated in this inaugural program for 9 days in August, 2023.



students introduced Japanese culture, the characteristics of Showa University, and Japanese medical care and medical professional qualifications to the Walailak University students.

This program provided an opportunity for students from both universities to improve their English communication and presentation skills, to learn about each other's cultures and medical systems, and to think about their future as a medical professional.



Through lectures, exercises, field trips to local communities, and tours of several medical facilities at Walailak University, our students learned

about Thailand's medical system. They also participated in activities to learn about Thai culture and nature, such as Thai food and cooking, traditional Thai dancing and dress, and Thai flower and fruit decorations. Additionally, our



Student Group “IEIG” Activities

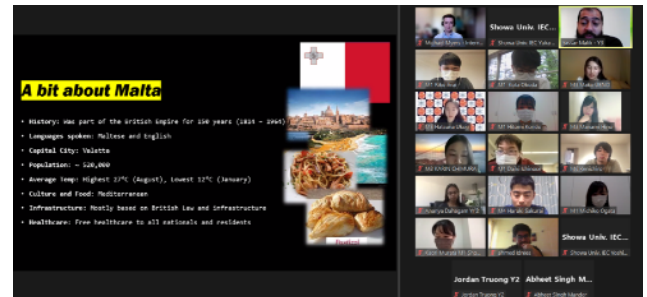
In 2022, the International Exchange Center created the “International Exchange Interest Group” (IEIG) student groups as a way to identify and coordinate with students who are interested in international exchange. Currently, we have IEIG groups for all four schools (medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing and rehabilitation sciences) with a total of nearly 300 enrolled students!



Each IEIG works with the International Exchange Center to plan and host activities related to international exchange in their

own school, as well as coordinate with IEIGs from the other schools to host larger events. As one example, the IEIGs this year have helped us re-start our “Chat Club” events by recruiting Showa University students each week and leading group activities to encourage discussion between our

students and the exchange students. Individual IEIGs have also helped organize “welcome parties” for the new exchange students studying at their school, as well as both in-person and online joint seminars where Showa University students and international students give presentations on topics related to their university’s education and country’s medical system and culture. Larger, collaborative exchange projects between IEIGs from several schools have included a IEIG poster presentation at our Hatagaoka school festival.



Hatagaoka Festival

Every autumn, Showa University holds the “Hatagaoka” school festival on the Hatanodai Campus. This event is traditionally a chance for student clubs to showcase their activities by giving performances on stage or selling food at small booths. Since 2019, the International Exchange Center has also held an exhibit in one classroom for our International fellows, exchange students, and graduate students to display posters that they made about their home countries. For the 2023 Hatagaoka festival, we displayed posters on different countries such as Austria, China, France, Germany, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Spain, and Ukraine.

Another purpose of this exhibit was to showcase the activities of the International Exchange Center to current and potential students. To that end, our center created its own poster that described our study-abroad programs, exchange opportunities on campus, and other programs sponsored by our center. This year, student members from our International Exchange Interest groups also created a poster about their IEIG activities, and gave presentations in both English and Japanese every hour.



Additionally, several of the international fellows and students came to our classroom and gave presentations of their posters to interested guests who visited our exhibit during the festival.



IEC Satellite Offices

Showa University International Exchange Center is located in our the main campus at Hatanodai, Tokyo, but our campus for 1st-year students is located in Fujiyoshida city near Mt. Fuji, and our campus for nursing and rehabilitation sciences students is located near Yokohama. Consequently, it has been difficult for our center to engage with these students.



Therefore, in 2023 the International Exchange Center opened “satellite” offices in both campuses, which are operated by Dr. Yoshiko Kudo, Professor at our center. The purpose

of these satellite offices is to provide information and consultation for students at these campuses who want to know more about the study-abroad

programs and international exchange activities offered by our center, as well as for those who want to discuss future goals of living/studying abroad. Dr. Kudo is also able to directly communicate with the staff and faculty working at these campuses, which has contributed to an increase in international exchange activities at both sites.



The Fujiyoshida campus's satellite office is currently opened during lunch time on days when Dr. Kudo is already there to teach a course for the 1st-year students, and the Yokohama campus's satellite office is opened once a month for the full work day, 9:00am~5:30pm.

Upcoming IEC events

January 5 - February 7, 2024

Start of international elective clinical clerkship for pharmacy students

February 21, 2024

4th School of Pharmacy online joint seminar

March 5, 2024

Certificate award ceremony for international fellows

March 14 - 27, 2024

PSU (Portland State University) Spring Program

March/April, 2024

Start of international elective clinical clerkships for medical and dental students

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