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President views exchanges as important learning tools

by JIU Times

Josai International University President Kenji Sugibayashi said JIU has established its brand image of being global in the 25 years since its foundation and the 50 years since the foundation of Josai University Educational Corporation.

"We now have many (about 170) sister schools in the world and have established strong exchange relations with them," Sugibayashi said at the university's Kioicho Campus in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, on March 7.

He took the post as of April 1 after his predecessor Hakuo Yanagisawa finished his term on March 31.

Sugibayashi also stressed the benefits of having foreign students on campus.

"Japan is a homogeneous country and Japanese living in remote areas can live their entire lives without even seeing foreigners. Studying and living with foreigners is a very good experience for students," he said. "What is important for students is to have many different experiences and acquire interpersonal skills. It is very meaningful to have exchanges with people different from you."

JIU will continue to expand its collaborations with overseas schools to facilitate student and teacher exchanges with them.

"Japan's role in Asia is important and Asia



of the university, "Character building through learning," which was coined by the founder of Josai University Educational Corporation, Mikio Mizuta.

"It's important for young people to have their own opinions, listen to other people and empathize with them," Sugibayashi said.

He also stressed the importance of the university contributing to the local community, noting that a university should be an academic center for the area around it.

The Kioicho campus is significant as it is in the center of Tokyo and functions as a showcase for JIU. It also offers convenient access for people who come from overseas, he said.

Sugibayashi biography

A graduate of the University of Toyama Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Sugibayashi obtained his doctorate in pharmaceutical science at Gifu Pharmaceutical University. He began his academic career as an assistant professor at Josai University's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Spending 16 months studying at the University of Michigan and the University of Utah, he pursued his academic career at JU, becoming a professor in 1998 and the faculty dean in 2009. Sugibayashi is also a board member of Josai University Educational Corporation.

cannot be ignored. That said, we should also have close relationships with Europe and the U.S. Internationalism has reached a turning point and JIU will maintain a good balance and continue to have such exchanges," he said. "The sooner you know about people of different backgrounds, the better."

Another characteristic of JIU is that it has many different departments so that students are able to interact with people from different majors.

All these points come down to the mission



New hall commemorates founder's efforts

by JIU Times

A ceremony was held March 28 at Josai University's Sakado Campus to mark the opening of the Mizuta Mikio Memorial Hall and a new building for the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

It was attended by about 400 people, including mayors and assembly members of Sakado and neighboring municipalities, those involved in the design and construction of the two new structures, local residents, teachers and students.

It began with a Shinto priest's prayer, followed by greetings from Josai University Educational Corporation Chancellor Ad Interim Motoyuki Ono, a tape-cutting ceremony and a tour of the new buildings for the attendees.

"We are happy to be holding the opening ceremony for the Mizuta Mikio Memorial Hall and the new building for the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on such a beautiful day, an aus-

picious start for something new at Josai University," Ono said. "We would like to learn from and respect founder Mizuta's achievements."

The two-story memorial hall, with 1,800 square meters of floor space, features an arched roof mirroring the silhouette of a hill. Located at Josai Hill - the highest point on campus - the hall, which will be open to students and members of the community, has an auditorium, multipurpose spaces, the Founder's Room and other facilities.

The Founder's Room showcases founder Mikio Mizuta's life and the history of Josai University, and displays 100 items, including medals and other honors he received, a desk and formal suits he wore.

The Founder's Room can also accommodate large groups, and includes a guest area for receiving distinguished overseas visitors and VIPs. It also has multipurpose spaces for holding receptions, exhibitions, workshops and many other activities.

The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences building, with 12,000 square meters of floor space, has nine stories above ground and one basement floor. It is located on the southeast edge of the campus, and functions as the gateway and landmark of the university. The research floors have no walls between rooms, which helps to stimulate exchanges between students and teachers.

At a reception after the ceremony, there were congratulatory speeches from architect Hitoshi Abe of Atelier Hitoshi Abe, who designed the two new buildings, and other prominent guests.

"I hope the new building for the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will become a milestone for expansion of the campus," Abe said. "Connecting the local with the global is big challenge for every university. The memorial hall will be useful as a platform to connect the university with local and global activities."

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Shunpei Yamazaki scholarships awarded to 10 students

by Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

The fourth ceremony awarding the Shunpei Yamazaki Scholarship was held on March 8 at JIU's Kioicho Campus. Scholarships were given to 10 students of the Graduate School of International Administration after a screening of academic records and interviews. Motoyuki Ono, head of research and chancellor ad interim of Josai University Educational Corporation presented the awards to the students. Those 10 dedicated students said that they would use the

scholarships to further their research.

Shunpei Yamazaki - a friend of Ono, inventor of flash memory, holder of many patents and one of the leading researchers in the world - donated in 2013 to create this scholarship program. The scholarship fund was created in accordance with the teaching policy of the graduate program in international administration: "Acquiring international management and administration theory, as well as high-level specialized knowledge and business skills, to nurture internationally minded talents." Through this program, the graduate program



of international administration seeks to achieve excellent results and bestow Yamazaki Shunpei scholarships to second-year graduate students who have the potential to become active as internationally minded talents in the future.

The ten awardees are Masahiro Tojo, Daiki Katagiri, Liu Zhen, Lu Xiaoman, Zhang Xiaofang, Ma Jun, Xu Lanshi, Dong Min, Shin Dong Yeon and Sirin Leelasermkul.



Collaboration deal formalized with Chiba Agricultural College

by JIU Times

Josai International University and Chiba Prefecture Agricultural College on March 6 signed an official accord for collaboration in educational programs. At the ceremony, Chiba Prefecture Agricultural College President Mi-

noru Igaki and JIU's previous President Hakuo Yanagisawa promised mutual cooperation for regional development. Chiba Prefectural Assembly member Kiyotaka Ishibashi and Togane Mayor Naoharu Shiga were among those at the ceremony. The two expressed encouragement, saying, "We are expecting the collaboration to

lead to the development of local human talent, have a positive impact on local communities, and develop new regional brands utilizing local resources."

JIU started an alliance with the college when the university formed the Faculty of Social Environmental Studies, sending teachers and shar-

ing facilities. With the collaboration accord, the university will allow the college students to use the university's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science facilities for experiments on microorganisms. The university will also consider commercialization projects using blueberries, utilizing assays on the fruit's nutrients.

V4 plus Japan seminar addresses immigration

by Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the four Visegrad Group (V4) countries, and Josai University Educational Corporation jointly hosted a V4 plus Japan seminar in the basement hall of Building No. 1 at Josai University Educational Corporation's Kioicho Campus in Tokyo on Feb. 22. About 70 people, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, representatives from the embassies of more than 16 countries in Japan, university researchers, media representatives, specialists and students, took part.

This is the fifth time Josai University Educational Corporation has hosted this seminar for the V4 countries of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. At the suggestion of Poland, currently the V4 president, the theme of this year's seminar was immigration issues.

At the start of the seminar, Motoyuki Ono, chancellor ad interim of Josai University Educational Corporation, gave an opening speech, followed by Motome Takisawa, parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs, who spoke on behalf of the government. Subsequently, Piotr Szostak, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Polish embassy in Tokyo, spoke. Szostak stated that

last year was a historic one, marking the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the V4, but due to the withdrawal of the U.K. from the European Union and other factors, the V4 countries are facing a difficult situation.

In sessions following the speeches, researchers from Japan and the V4 countries presented the results of their studies, followed by a lively exchange of opinions with participants regarding the "The Origins of Current Migration Crises," "Policies of V4 Countries Migration Issues" and "Migration Issues from Japan's Perspective."

The percentage of Polish people among the population of foreigners in the U.K. has increased recently, and Brexit has created instability. It was pointed out that under these circumstances, European countries, which are sending immigrants, are generating political protests in the countries accepting them. Moreover, the Central and East European countries see migrants entering Europe as immigrants, not as refugees, meaning they are not in the position to be officially accepted as they are seen as "illegal immigrants." This overlaps in many ways with Japan's situation and policies. Given these factors, this seminar was very significant.

What is the V4 and what is its relationship with Josai University?

The four Central European countries formed the Visegrad Group, also called the Visegrad Four or V4, to provide a framework for cooperation aimed at promoting friendship and alliances among the countries and the integration of Europe. For Japan, the V4 are important partners sharing common universal values and principles on the basis of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, liberty and a market economy. Japan and the V4 are also enhancing their cooperation in the areas of security, the economy, science and technology and innovation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has held various seminars on topics such as the economy, the environment, development cooperation and energy efficiency for the V4 plus Japan.

Josai University actively promotes international exchanges with various universities around the world, based on its medium-term goal of strengthening international exchange activities for the purpose of developing global human resources. In particular, Josai University is strengthening educational exchanges with the Central European region. Currently, 43 students from the V4 countries are studying at Josai University and Josai International University. The Hungarian, Polish, and Czech languages are also taught at the universities.

Seven goals toward becoming a leading university in the world

« 7 J-Vision » (2016-2020)



1. Expanding the capabilities of our students to serve society
2. Developing human resources with an international mindset and extensive knowledge of Japanese culture
3. Continually improving the quality of our educational programs, in collaboration with local and international communities
4. Improving our research capabilities and promoting innovation
5. Enriching the campus environment through internationalization and networking
6. Establishing a stronger university governance system to support the dynamic development of teaching, research and contributions to the community
7. Strengthening the impact of our communication capabilities and social presence

About Josai University Educational Corporation's Medium-Term Goals
The Josai University Educational Corporation Medium-Term Goals (2016-2020) are comprised of seven "J-Visions." These seven visions are inter-related, multiplying their synergism, to further our commitment to becoming a leading university in Japan, Asia and the world.

The corporation established Josai University in 1965, and it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015. Josai International University was established in 1992, and will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2017. We are determined to bring to bear all of our mental energies, capabilities, accumulated knowledge and experience on the tasks that will define our future.

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