



# Close Up YNU 2013

YOKOHAMA National University NEWS English

A Community Magazine That Bonds the Alumni & the University Closer Together

## NEWS

### YOKOHAMA Creative-City Studies (YCCS) Program Commenced on October 1!

University's first all-English undergraduate program "YOKOHAMA Creative-City Studies Program" commenced on October 1, 2013, and seven students from Brazil, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyz, Norway, Russia and Vietnam attended the entrance ceremony on October 3, 2013. With students from other programs, they received congratulations and warm greetings from President Suzuki. They all looked full of hope for the campus life ahead of them.



Welcome songs from YNU Mixed Chorus



Seven YCCS students with President Suzuki

Website(Eng): <http://www.yccs.ynu.ac.jp/eng/yccs/10381/>

<http://www.yccs.ynu.ac.jp/eng/yccs/10381/>

## TOPICS

### YNU International Symposium "Revisiting Okakura Kakuzo's Achievements: Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

On January 25, 2013, the International Division held YNU International Symposium "Revisiting Okakura Kakuzo's Achievements: Lessons for the 21st Century." Okakura was born in Yokohama 150

years ago and played an active role in the world as an art critic, thinker, and philosopher. It was an attempt to revise his achievements from the standpoint of regarding him as a model case of "global human resources." Some 200

YNU students and local citizens attended the symposium and listened eagerly to keynote lectures and panel discussions.



Panel Discussion Part 1

Website(Eng): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/eng/kokusais/9150/detail.html>



Panel Discussion Part 2

## Other International Exchange Projects

### 23 Students from George Mason University (US) Visited YNU

On May 23rd, 2013, 23 Students from George Mason University visited YNU for "KAKEHASHI Project – The Bridge for Tomorrow." 28 YNU students participated in discussions with them, and they also experienced wearing Japanese Yukata. The aim of this project is to heighten potential interest in Japan

and increase the number of overseas visitors to the country.



In front of the monument

Website (Eng): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/9604/detail.html>



Tried wearing the Yukata

### 27 Students from Universiti Sains Malaysia Visited YNU

On Friday, July 5, 2013, YNU welcomed 27 students and 2 officers from its partner university, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). After greetings by YNU Deputy Executive Director for International Affairs Professor Ichiro Araki and USM Student Affairs and Development Division Director Dr Nazaruddin Zainun, two YNU Student International Volunteers, Ms Yang Huan and Ms Xu Ting (both from Graduate School of Environment and Information Sciences), made a pre-



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resentation to introduce YNU. After the presentation, 30 YNU students joined the USM students, and listened to an introduction to USM and Student Rep-

resentative Council. The students then separated into five groups and had discussions, lunch and campus tour within the groups. With this visit as a start, the two universities have opened up a discussion for concluding the memorandum of understanding on student exchange. It is expected that the relationship between USM and YNU will be further strengthened in the future.

Website (Eng): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/10039/detail.html>

### The Star Festival Party 2013 was held

On July 4, 2013, the Star Festival Party 2013 was held at Rengakan, Cafeteria I and over 350 faculty members, students, and staff participated. Hosted by the President, this event is held every year for international researchers and students to

develop closer ties with Japanese faculties, students, and staff. The highlight of the party was traditional arts performed by Japanese and international students. This year, there were the performances of "Wadaiko (Japanese drums), Chinese dance of an ethnic

minority "Dai", performance of the erhu (Chinese two-stringed fiddle), Aikido club's demonstration, and Cameroonian "Koung" dance.

Website (Eng): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/10036/detail.html>

### The First Global Café was Held

The first "Global Café" was held on July 17th at the first floor lounge of the Central Library. It was organized by YNU Student International Volunteers to provide Japanese and international students of YNU with an opportunity for cross cultural experience and deepening the understanding on cultures and histories of different countries. The first Global Café focused

on China and invited a Chinese student of the Graduate School of International Social Sciences Zhang Xiaoming as a presenter. He started off with the greetings in Chinese and introduced Chinese geography, history, and culture. In between, he taught the participants how to do "the exercises for the eyes and the body" which are recognized to be effective for eyes and nearsightedness and

introduced by most Chinese primary schools in their daily timetable. Everyone enjoyed learning what they do not normally learn in the classes.



Website (Jap): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/koho/10002/detail.html>

## YNU Signed on Academic Exchange Agreement with UFPE (Brazil)

On Tuesday, August 27, 2013, Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) President Anisio Brasileiro de Freitas Dourado, Director of International Office Professor Maria Leonor Alves Maia, Director of Engineering Professor Antonio Carlos Dantas Antonino, Professor Armando Hideki Shinohara, and Lecturer Ayako Ono visited YNU to hold a signing ceremony for an academic exchange agreement with YNU. At the president's office, Vice-

President YAMADA Hitoshi, Deputy Executive Director for International Affairs Professor ARAKI Ichiro and International Office Manager Ms. ITO Yoko were present to see the two presidents signing on the Agreement written in Japanese, Portuguese, and English, in a friendly atmosphere.

Website (Eng): <http://www.kokusai-senryaku.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/10742/>



## University of Oulu (Finland) Visited YNU

On May 27, 2013, Vice-Rector Olli Silven and Prof. Pentti Leppanen from University of Oulu, Finland, made a courtesy visit to YNU. YNU has achieved many good academic results with the University of Oulu in joint research programs based on the academic exchange agreement

concluded in 2009, mainly in the discipline of Graduate School of Engineering. The two Oulu members visited Vice President KOKUBUN Yasuo at Executive Director's Office, also welcomed by Prof. KOHNO Ryuji, Faculty of Engineering Division of Intelligent Systems Engineering, and Ms. ITO Yoko, Head of Interna-

tional Office. With a good atmosphere of friendship, people had a talk with further development of joint researches, students, faculty & staff members exchanging, and other challenges for the fruitful relationship of both universities.

Website (Eng): <http://www.kokusai-senryaku.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/9704/>

## Queen's University (Canada) visited YNU

On Thursday October 10, 2013, Queen's University Vice-Principal (Research) Professor Steven N. Liss visited YNU. Queen's University is the counterpart institute of YNU Faculty of Engineering for "Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation" which was selected by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). Vice-Principal

Liss made a campus tour around YNU and then made a courtesy visit to President SUZUKI Kunio. At the president's office, Vice President YAMADA Hitoshi, Deputy Executive Director for International Affairs Professor ARAKI Ichiro, Faculty of Engineering Professor WATANABE Masayoshi, and International Office Manager Ms. ITO Yoko also attended the meeting to greet him. After presen-

tations on introduction to YNU and to Green Material Innovation (GMI) research bases, they had a talking session. Since YNU and Queen's had just signed an academic exchange agreement a week before, discussions on the future academic exchange between the two universities went on in a very friendly atmosphere.

Website (Eng): <http://www.kokusai-senryaku.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/10745/>

## Sejong University (Korea) visited YNU

On Wednesday, October 23, 2013, Sejong University College of Liberal Arts Japanese Language and Literature Chairperson Professor LEE Byung-Jin, visited YNU. Sejong University and YNU have an academic exchange agreement between colleges since 2012, under which "Yokohama National University International Program

- Sejong University Japan Exchange Program" (Sejong Program for short) is conducted. Students from Sejong University learn Japanese language and culture in the classes held mainly by the College of Education and Human Sciences. Professor Lee visited YNU as the person in charge of the program from Sejong. Professor Lee made a courtesy visit to

Vice-President YAMADA Hitoshi at his office, which was also attended by International Student Center Professor YOMOTA Chie, and Educational Affairs Division Fundamental Education Section Chief Mr. KURIHARA Atsushi. They discussed on the future improvement of the program.

Website (Eng): <http://www.kokusai-senryaku.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/10746/>

## YNU Sailing Team Participated in Intercollegiate All Japan Sailing Tournament

On November 1 – 4, Yokohama National University Sailing Team participated in the 78th Intercollegiate All Japan Sailing Tournament held at Shin Nishinomiya Yacht Harbor, Hyogo Prefecture, and left great results. This tournament is quite prestigious for its history, like that of “Koshien”, the Japan National High School Baseball Tournament. The student yachting has two events of 470 Class and Snipe Class with 3 boats

each to run. YNU Sailing Team got the combined 6th places by getting places in both Classes, the 5th place in 470 Class and 6th in Snipe Class in Intercollegiate All Kanto Sailing Tournament for the first time in these 39 years, to get the ticket to participate in the national intercollegiate tournament. Ogawa and Okamoto’s boat made the great impact by running in the 2nd place temporarily to result in the combined 12th place. It is, at the same time, the remarkable

result of the 3rd place in the national & public universities.

Website (Jap): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/sien/10639/detail.html>



## “Mochi-tsuki,” or Pounding Boiled Rice into Rice Cake by President Suzuki

A testimonial was given to President Suzuki at “Thanksgiving Festival.”

“Exhibition of ‘Urban Development along with Fireflies’” was held again this year, which had been co-hosted by YNU and Nomura Real Estate Development Co., Ltd. since 2008, as a part of YNU’s orientation to the environmental education. Trials to rice growing by elementary school children form a part of such education and the thanksgiving festival was observed in Yokohama Business Park (YBP) on Friday, November 15, 2013.

The testimonial was given by Nomura to President Kunio Suzuki on the continuous cooperation from the start of



the exhibition. Approximately 10 student volunteers from Graduate School of Environment and Information Sciences of YNU also participated in the events to work hard.

As the main event of the festival, rice cake pounding was held with participation of the elementary school children who managed to pound the boiled rice with a big pestle but enjoyed doing so. President Suzuki also showed his physi-



cal robustness by helping pounding with the yell by the children, “Yoisho! Yoisho!”

“Exhibition of ‘Urban Development along with Fireflies’” is highly estimated as a part of local and social contribution by YNU to be still kept up.

Website (Jap): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/koho/10629/detail.html>

## A Certificate of Commendation Was Given to Vice President YAMADA Hitoshi by the Education Minister of Vietnam.



Vice President Yamada has made big efforts to empowerment of education and culture of Vietnam for long years to result in contribution to overall development of Vietnam. For his significant results, the certificate of commendation and also a commemorative medal were

Website (Jap): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/koho/10620/detail.html>

given by Mr. Pham Vu Luan, the Education Minister of Vietnam.



## Reunions Held in Brazil, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Dalian, and Myanmar

**Brazil:**

On May 24, 2013, YNU Alumni Reunion was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. President Kunio Suzuki and Graduate School of Engineering Assistant Professor Yoshiaki Hirakawa, and Emeritus Professor Toshiichi Tachibana (University of Sao Paulo) participated among twenty alumni.

Website (Eng): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/alumni/9773/>

**Uzbekistan:**

On Saturday, September 7, 2013, YNU Alumni Reunion was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. In addition to 9 alumni from Uzbekistan, 3 alumni from Japan, guests from the Embassy of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency Uzbekistan

Office, JDS Project Office in Uzbekistan, and Nagoya University Office for Central Asia participated in the event making the number of participants 22 in total.

Website (Eng): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/10371/detail.html>

**Kyrgyz Republic:**

On Tuesday, September 10, 2013, YNU Alumni Reunion was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. A total of 17 participants including 8 alumni guests from the Embassy of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency Kyrgyz Republic Office, Japan Center for Human Development, and JDS Project Office in the Kyrgyz Republic were present at the event. After Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Takayuki Koike's greeting, the alumni shared their memories in Yokohama and present careers and lives.

Website (Eng): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/10374/detail.html>

**Dalian:**

On September 14, YNU alumni reunion was held in Dalian, China. There were 50 participants including YNU students studying at Dalian University of Technology (DUT), DUT students learning Japanese, and staff.

Website (Eng): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/kokusais/10439/detail.html>

**Myanmar:**

On October 30, 2013, YNU Alumni Reunion was held in Mandalay and 14 YNU alumni and staff participated; on October 31, 25 including guests from the embassy of Japan, JICA Myanmar Office, and JDS Project Office participated in Yangon. There were large turn-outs at both reunions.

Website (Eng): <http://133.34.28.181/hus/kokusais/10786/>

## The 8th YNU Home Coming Day

On October 26th, 2013, the 8th Yokohama National University Home Coming Day was held. Total of more than one thousand people visited and participated in 18 events. This year's theme was "Watching the atmosphere and tradition of YNU." Mr. Masuo Aizawa, YNU alumnus and an advisor of Japan Science and Technology Agency gave the main lecture "Scientific Technology Innovation Challenging for the Future Society," especially on and "Japan should chal-

lenge attainment of global excellence that attracts the world and the expectation towards YNU." Mr. Shiro Muramatsu who graduated from Yokohama Higher School of Technology also gave a lecture on "Master SUZUKI Tatsuji Pen name: Enshu and Meikyo-Shizen"\*1 and mentioned YNU traditions of "Sanmu-Shugi."\*2.

Website (Jap): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/koho/10557/detail.html>

\*1: Suzuki's way of thinking and principle about education. So to say, "Study as it is, that is, to be educated by one's own will, freely and voluntarily."

\*2: Suzuki's "Three 'No' ism" on evaluation. "No exams, no marks and no reward & punishment."



## The 7th International Seminar Was Successfully Held at Pukyong National University on October 17th - 20th.

The 7th international seminar of Port-city Universities League (PUL) was held on October 17 - 20 at Pukyong National University, Korea, under the theme of "Green Port, Sustainable City: Green Technologies, Transportation and Other Issues of Port."

PUL has held the first general meetings in Yokohama, Japan in 2006, initiated by Yokohama National University, as a unique international league of universities located in the worlds' preminent

port cities. After that, it has held the international meetings in Chennai, India (the second), in Lisbon, Portugal (the third), in Yokohama again (the fourth), in Shanghai, China (the fifth), and in Southampton, England before Busan.

On the first and second day of the seminar, over 100 researchers from 8 institutes of universities, enterprises, and local governments had presentations from the representatives on subject of ship building, ocean and harbour from perspectives of engineering, policy-

making, and laws as well as ecology, along with several open-talk sessions, to have discussions eagerly. On Oct.19 and 20, people visited Port of Busan (New Port & North Port), and made an eco-tour of the city.

The next annual meeting will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in October of 2014. It will be hosted by Istanbul Technical University.

Website (Eng): <http://www.pul.ynu.ac.jp/index.html>



## YNU Ranks as the 2nd Best University for Nurturing Real Vocational Abilities

The Nikkei Career Magazine "From entrance examination to career — A clever way for parents and students to choose universities 2014," ranked YNU in the 2nd place in Japan for nurturing real vocational abilities in its students. The result

proves that YNU not only provides its students ability to find jobs but also acquire vocational ability to sustain it at high level. It reflects one of the strong points of the university that all colleges and graduate schools are located on the same campus, which enables stu-

dents to interact with students from various colleges and graduate schools as well as with many international students.

Website (Jap): <http://www.ynu.ac.jp/hus/koho/9870/detail.html>