**Port-City University League (PUL)** is a network initiated by YNU in 2006 as a new exchange project with universities located in port cities around the world, building upon our characteristic international spirit and taking advantage of the location of Yokohama as world-class port.

The 2nd seminar hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (abbreviated as IITM in later passages) was held in Chennai from 3 to 5 December 2007. Around 80 people participated in the seminar. The participants were as follows: PUL member universities, new universities (the University of Lisbon and The University of British Columbia) and port city personnel from many parts of India. From YNU Executive Director Nagashima, Prof. Ichiro Araki (International Graduate School of Social Science), Prof. Makoto Arai and Associate Prof. Yasumi Kawamura (Graduate School of Engineering), Associate Prof. Motohiko Murai (Graduate School of Environment and Information Sciences) and Mr. Atsushi Kurihara (Science and International Affairs Division) attended. Throughout the 3-day seminar each participant was able to have first hand information related to research on bay areas and maritime studies in India as well as other countries. Moreover, they were able to strengthen relationship with participants and local personnel. Further expansion of the PUL is expected in the future. Below is the outline of the 3-day seminar and field trip.

At the opening ceremony of 3 December YNU Executive Director Nagashima presented a welcome speech on behalf of the mayor of Yokohama city. In the later session, YNU, IITM, University of Southampton gave a brief introduction of each university and did presentations on their marine research respectively. In YNU presentation the research at the Center for Oceanic Studies and Integrated Education attracted attention of the participants. The afternoon session was a field trip of Chennai, which became the perfect time for participants to get to know each other and exchange views.

In the morning sessions of 4 December, IITM presented on the catastrophe of Chennai and other coastal cities of India which were struck by the destructive tsunami in 2004. UBC presented on Vancouver port. The afternoon session was another field trip, which included the observation of the catastrophe along the coastal areas by the tsunami in Pondicherry city.

On the last day, the University of Lisbon proposed to be the next host of the seminar. IITM proposed the training program for port related personnel as exchange project, which would be further discussed in the future. The afternoon program began with a visit to coastal areas near Chennai that suffered catastrophe by the tsunami as well as the experiment tank facilities in IITM.

For further information on PUL, please visit our website at http://www.pul.ynu.ac.jp/index.html

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**Commemorative Symposium — Establishment of the Center for Oceanic Studies and Integrated Education**

On 3 November 2007 the commemorative symposium for the establishment of the Center for Oceanic Studies and Integrated Education was held at the University Hall at YNU. Around 80 participants attended. The Center was established in June 2007 by teaching staff who conduct Oceanic studies with the aim of graduate school’s courses integrated between humanity and science. YNU is the first Japanese university with such a practical approach.

Starting with the greeting speech by President Iida, it is followed by warm congratulation from our honored guest speakers Mr. Masami Zeniya (administrative vice-minister of Japanese Government), Mr. Yuji Imai (representative of Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture) and Mr. Takashi Satake (representative of Mayor of Yokohama city). After that, the keynote lecture was conducted by the following guest speakers: Mr. Masahiro Akiyama (Chairman of Ocean Policy Research Foundation), Prof. Masahiko Isebe (the University of Tokyo) and Mr. Takaichi Someya (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Secretariat Technical Councilor). The title of their talks were “Enactment of Maritime Law and Security of Ocean,” “Oceanic Role as Front Country,” and “Development on Marine Administration for Oceanic Country.” As the final speaker, Prof. Yoichi Sumi (Director of Center for Oceanic Studies and Integrated Education) spoke on “Strategy of the Center.” This was followed by a Q&A and participants exchanged opinions with guest speakers. The symposium was summed up by Executive Director Kisugi, who made a closing speech on the outlook of the center in the future.
On 15 November 2007 Prof. Masatoshi Koshiba, winner of The Nobel Prize in Physics in 2002, was invited to YNU and held a special lecture on "Neutrinos, Neutrinos and Neutrinos" as part of "Physics Career Up Course" (Dept. of Physics, School of Engineering) at the Education and Culture Hall. Over 300 people including students and YNU staff participated. The stimulating lecture was followed by a Q&A session and Prof. Koshiba attentively gave answers to all the queries YNU students had. The students found the lecture informative and enlightening. Indeed the lecture from the Nobel Prize winner was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the students.

Before the lecture a luncheon with Prof. Koshiba was held and YNU President Iida, Executive Director Watanabe, Prof. Kokubun, Dean of Graduate School of Engineering and Prof. Ohno, Director of Department of Physics joined and exchanged opinions.

--- School of Engineering

On 5 December 2007 the 9th YNU Science Café was held at the Bank ART NYK Galleria in Yokohama. Associate Prof. Ryue Nishizawa (Graduate School of Engineering) did a presentation on the theme of "Drive for a New Architecture". Associate Prof. Nishizawa's works are not only recognized for their individuality and creativity, but also for practicability – he is taking care designing in such a way that the environmental surroundings can fit with the existing society and city structure. Unlike the public lecture, the feature of Science Café gave the participants the opportunity to exchange opinions with the lecturer directly. Mr. Nishizawa explained his extensive range of works from designs of residential units to campus of overseas universities. For further details, please visit the YNU website at http://www.ynu.ac.jp/society/sa_17_H19.html

--- Science and International Affairs Division

Prof. Tsushikio Baba of Graduate School of Engineering was awarded the IEEE/LEOS Distinguished Lecturer Award 2007. IEEE and LEOS stand for the Institute of electrical and electronics engineers, Inc and the lasers and electro-optics society respectively, which included the field of technology on lasers and optical fibers communication. Every year 4-5 researchers among this field are supposed to be selected and give a lecture in different countries more than 6 times in fiscal year.

This year this award is the 23rd anniversary. Prof. Baba is the fifth Japanese to be given this award after Prof. Shinji Nakamura (ex-staff of Nichia Kagaku Corporation, currently a professor in University of California). Prof. Baba received the award for his great achievements on his research, "Pioneer Structure of Photonic Nano Optical Devices" and gave twelve lectures in six countries in 2007. On 22 October 2007 the IEEE LEOS 30th memorial annual international conference was held in Orlando, Florida, where Prof. Baba was honored and awarded the trophy from the hands of the LEOS President.

--- Graduate School of Engineering

On 26 November 2007 President Tomas Cermak and Vice-President Bohumir Strnad of VSB Technical University of Ostrava, a YNU partner university paid a visit to YNU. Located in Ostrava city in the eastern part of the Czech Republic, VSB Technical University of Ostrava is a traditional university established in 1849. It has a total of 7 faculties including Civil Engineering, Mechanics, Electronics, and Engineering Safety with over 20,000 current students. Since the academic exchange agreement was conducted with YNU in 2003, both universities have been promoting exchange programs in academic research and student exchange mainly in the Graduate School of Engineering.

During their visit the wife of President Tomas Cermak also participated and exchanged views on higher education of both countries and further exchange activities with Executive Director Kisugi, Executive Director Nagashima and Associate Prof. YaQing (Graduate School of Engineering). Vice-President Bohumir Strnad talked about the launch of scholarships for foreign teachers and researchers in VSB Technical University of Ostrava and he asked for visiting professors from YNU International Student Center to teach Japanese.

Afterwards Prof. Hiroshi Fukutomi (Graduate School of Engineering) joined the luncheon and exchanged opinions. Further exchange activities are expected between both universities in the future.

--- Science and International Affairs Division

On 20 November 2007, 38 members of "Remote Medicine and Nursing Care Delegation" from Taiwan visited Center for Future Medical Social Infrastructure Based on Information Communications Technology (MICT Center). The delegation was organized by East Asia Relations Association of Science and Technology Exchange Committee of Taiwan. The delegation consists of many members holding an important post in the field of medicine, biology, welfare, IT, industry, etc. During the week starting from 19 November the delegation visited NICT, NTT DoCoMo, Keio University, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, as well as YNU.

On 20 November the brief introduction was conducted alternately in MICT Center. Afterwards the following research activities of the center were introduced to the delegation. The fruitful exchange of information and views was conducted in a friendly atmosphere. The visit of the delegation from Taiwan was beneficial for international cooperation and contribution.

--- MICT Center

During five days starting from 5 November 2007, YNU conducted "Euro-Japan University Dialogue 2007" in Cardiff University (England) and Pisa University (Italy), which are the YNU Partner Universities. This time title of the dialogue was "Energy Problems: Can Nuclear Power be considered as a sustainable energy?" From YNU 8 students (Faculty of Economics) including leader Tomohiro Maruyama accompanied by Prof. Daisuke Arie and Prof. Kenji Watanuki participated in this event. The delegation of YNU visited London School of Economics (LSE) and University of Oxford and exchanged opinions about future activities. Both universities are strongly promoting internationalization.

Through "Euro-Japan University Dialogue 2007" the delegation of YNU greatly improved their presentation and discussion skills in English, and gained confidence. We hope that in future English Discussions of Faculty of Economics will develop and become overall program of YNU.

--- Faculty of Economics

On 8 to 9 December 2007 "Japan Education Fair 2007" sponsored by the Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Prof. Hideo Hayashibe (Faculty of Education and Human Sciences) and Ms. Saori Okafuji (Student Exchange Division) participated as representatives of YNU.

This fair is "FACON Education Fair" with more than 120 universities and educational institutions. In the section "Study in Japan" JASSO established 28 institutions set up their own booths and advised visitors about studying abroad in Japan. Around 240 visitors dropped by the YNU booth. Their questions included research content of undergraduate and graduate school, entrance procedure, scholarships, dormitories, etc. During the fair the interpreter, an alumnus of Faculty of Economics of YNU contributed to appeal PR activities of YNU, which made it a meaningful fair.

By making use of the opportunity in Malaysia we visited Sunway Campus of Monash University to collect information about English Training Program for short-term overseas students.

--- Student Exchange Division

On 3 December 2007 the 40th Japanese Speech Contest by International Students was held in the Media Hall of the YNU Library. The organizing committee which consisted of voluntary international students of Faculty of Business Administration is in charge of planning and execution of the contest every year. All speakers delivered speeches from their unique viewpoints. According to the vote among the audience, Lian Xiaolin, freshman from China, won the Grand Prix of the speech contest and received the certificate and trophy from Prof. Mogaki, Dean of Faculty of Business Administration. Her speech "The Path (道)" described the course of her life through which she chose her own "Path" (to study abroad and be independent of her parents). She gripped the attention of the audience not only with the content of speech but also with her fluent Japanese.

--- Faculty of Business Administration
Noh Performance for International Students
On 29 November 2007 Noh Performance was conducted by Mr. Yoshinari Shimizu, Kanze School Noh Actor in the Yokohama Noh Theater.

The event is held in order to give international students of YNU the chance to be in touch with traditional Japanese culture and deepen their understanding of Japan. Mr. Yoshinari Shimizu performed the dance (Mai) and the chanting of Noh text (Utai) on the stage and explained the history of Noh by using gestures and English in an intelligible way. International students, sitting on cushions on the side of the stage, were asked many questions to the instructor, touching and trying on Noh-masks with a great interest.

Though the Noh performance was short, international students were impressed with the performance and history of Noh.

— Student Exchange Division

Winter Party for International Students
On 7 December 2007 a Winter Party for welcoming the international students enrolled in October was held in YNU International House, the dormitory located in Gumyoji. Around 200 people including residents and guests participated in the party.

Prof. Sumi of the Faculty of Education and Human Science and Mr. Nakazawa, Chairman of Rotary Club of Yokohama South greeted guests. Afterwards Mr. Kato, Chairman of Rotary Club of Yokohama Nanryo made a toast, which served as start of the party.

In the friendly atmosphere guests and international students gathered around the tables with meals set by Resident Assistants (Japanese students who support the international students lived in the House). Following the dinner, a bingo game was held. At the end of the party, a dance party was held under the live performance of the music band. Overall, the international students had a great time.

— Student Exchange Division

YNU Original Cabbage Wine Sold
Original cabbage wine was developed by the members of “YNU Original Goods Development Project” which consist of young administrative staff on December 2007. Cabbage is the number one agricultural produce of hodogaya-ku, Yokohama, it was selected as the ingredient under the concept of “Local production for local consumption”. Indeed, the cabbages used in the wine have been grown by local farmer Mr. Yoshiaki Fujimaki in the cabbage field which is quite familiar to the students and YNU staff. The wine has the faint sweet flavor of cabbage and was named by Executive Director Watanabe: “Mon Petit Chou”. YNU sells two types of bottle wine in Suzukiya, the local store near the University.

In addition, the original goods with YNU logo such as “Kala–chi–no” (Instant noodle), T-shirt, Clear Folder, Wrist Band, Mobile Phone Cleaner, Strap for mobile phone are available in YNU Co-op.

— YNU Original Goods Development Project

~ Comments and Contributions Welcome ~
This newsletter was first published last year and has been distributed to YNU alumni, overseas international students associations as well as the universities with YNU partner universities. We would like to know your impressions of YNU Newsletter.

If you would like to comment on our articles or contribute your own articles, you are most welcome to do so. Please feel free to contact us via the email below. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

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