



# TAKING OFF

Vol. 13 Summer, 2011



## 1. International Fair 2011

We hold the International Fair 2011 on May 11 and 12, 2011. This fair consisted of a variety of activities: a presentation on the International Center activities, returnees' presentations, a lecture by Mr. Stephen Dalton given in English, introductory presentations on their country and school by international students, a private travel booth by a travel agent, STA travel, and much more.



(Top) Students taking a look at partner university information  
(Bottom) A returnee presentation



Students listening to the lecture by Mr. Suzuki

Furthermore, as we did last year, we invited Mr. Nobuyuki Suzuki, president of Estrellita Co., Ltd., who gave students a lecture on the relationship between study abroad and job hunting. It seems that many of OGU students wonder if study abroad would really be useful for them or whether study abroad would be even necessary for them. Those who attended his lecture learned what kind of skills companies expect university graduates to have since Mr. Suzuki deals with students looking for a job on a regular basis. Please refer to the next article for more details of his lecture.

Although the weather was not very good on these two days, many students visited the fair site. We would like to thank teachers for encouraging them to come. We sincerely hope that OGU students try to experience and encounter overseas no matter what way they take. It will definitely change the world you are looking at now!

## 2. Wondrous Relationship between Study Abroad and Job Hunting

CEO and President Nobuyuki Suzuki, Estrellita Co., Ltd.

Estrellita Co., Ltd. has been holding seminars and lectures targeting Japanese who have experience studying abroad (both students and workers) since October of 2007. The number of participants has reached over 15,000 in the past three and a half years. In these seminars and lectures, I always try to convey how the study abroad experience is related to job hunting and why Japan needs those who have studied overseas based on four specific points; however, I would like to examine just one of them in detail here.

You probably know that the current job-hunting situation for university graduates is worse than ever through newspaper articles and TV news. However, there are few people who understand that one-sixth of the labor force population in Japan will disappear by 2030, about 20 years from now. How many people would see that this long-term problem

is even more serious than the present situation we currently face?

From now on, foreign workers will come to a variety of business scenes to add to the labor force and play a substantial part in the Japanese companies who move from domestic to international operations. In this situation, it is indispensable for the companies to have someone who can connect Japanese and foreigners, who speak different languages, and have different cultures and viewpoints.

In the field of corporate personnel in 2010, the biggest key word was "Global Human Resources", and there were two big news



Trivia  
Estrellita means  
a small star  
in Spanish.



pieces related to that.

One is adopting English as an official corporate language in Rakuten and UNIQLO. It is said that there are two major reasons: increasing speed in the global business, and hiring top-class personnel. It is not surprising that other Japanese companies may follow this trend in order to survive in the global market.

The second news item is the number of foreigners newly hired in Panasonic exceeded that of Japanese. It may not be really reversed in most cases, but leading Japanese enterprises have tended to increase the ratio of foreigners among new graduates hired. It is no exaggeration to say that when Japanese students look for a job, being a Japanese is not a great advantage any more in this country.

In order to be successful in job hunting in Japan, being a “global human resource” is

the most crucial quality in this great transition era. It is worth considering how much you can invest your time and money in becoming a “global human resource”. Lastly, I would like to conclude my article by quoting the definition of “Global Human Resources” stated by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

**What are “Global Human Resources”?**

**In this world where globalization is in progress, global human resources can think independently; make themselves easily understood by their colleagues, business acquaintances, and customers having various backgrounds; overcome difficulties in values and characteristics arising from culture and historical backgrounds; understand others and consider their standpoints; further take advantage of their differences to build synergy; and create new values.**



Students receiving an individual advice from Mr. Suzuki

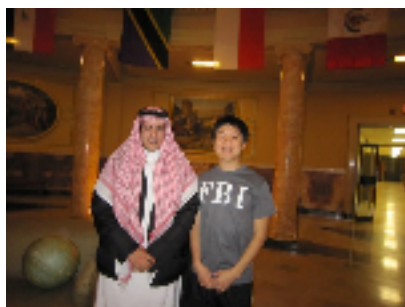
President Suzuki gave three classes for our outbound exchange students last year: a lecture on “What you can and should get from your study abroad”, self-analysis, and evaluation by others. We also asked him to do the same this year. His talk is always interesting and convincing, so it is impressive to see how seriously and attentively students listen to him and sincerely attend his class. During this summer vacation, Mr. Suzuki will have a career-related workshop for OGU students for five consecutive days from September 12 to 16. Because it is a very difficult time for university students to find the job they want, learning how to market oneself is very important. We hope you can learn what you have to do now through this workshop and get hints to survive in this era. Don't miss the notice from the Career Center!

### 3. “What My Study Abroad Experience Taught Me”: Mr. Tomohiro Baba (Foreign Languages, 4th year student)

I studied English at Marywood University in Pennsylvania, the U.S.A. from August 2010 to May 2011. I would like to share my experiences there.

**I had hard days continuously.**

I had a mentally hard time in the first six months in the U.S. There were very few international students at Marywood University, and besides that, most of the students in the English program had either a family or a job. Thus, they left the campus as soon as the classes ended. During the first month, I managed to use my time wisely



Saudi Arabian student who studied in the English program together

using the Internet, but soon I could not bear the situation. It was quite stressful for me, a person who loves to communicate with people. I tried to talk to American students, but they were not interested in spending time with me, a student who was not fluent in English. There was a time I thought of coming back to Japan, but I became stronger mentally and physically after passing the hard period and was determined to concentrate on study in the second semester.

However, another problem rose in the second semester. I did not get along with my teacher. In fact, she was hard on me. We studied many things related to art just because her husband was an art teacher. I understand we could learn English no matter what we do, but English learners need knowledge from a variety of fields. I believe that this is what English teacher is for. Furthermore, she constantly picked on me and especially commented on my insufficient English ability. I was well aware that my English was not good enough, but I thought she should have told me how I could improve my English skills. She just told me,

“Your English is not good. Please follow my instructions.” Here is one example of the situation. I chose a theme I was interested in for my final paper, but she told me to write a paper on the theme she chose. Similar things continuously happened to me during the second semester.

**I became mentally strong after overcoming a difficult time.**

You may think that it is better not to study abroad after reading this. However, I confidently say that being mentally strong after overcoming a difficult time was the best accomplishment of my study abroad. My teacher neglected my language ability until the end, but because of this experience, I strongly felt the importance of mastering English and determine to make efforts to achieve this. Moreover, I now feel that I want to study more and enter an American business school someday. There were numerous difficulties I needed to deal with during my time in the U.S., but I met good friends there, who still continue studying to reach their future goals. I can say without a doubt that I did what other students may have never ex-



perienced. In order to make use of the precious experience in the future, I feel that how I live my life from now is extremely important.

#### **I not only studied, but also did job hunting in the U.S.**

The study abroad started in the second semester of my third year and lasted for 10 months. This means I was away from Japan when other third year students try hard to go about getting a job. Thus, I participated in the Career Forum for Japanese students in Boston, and visited a company in New York and had an inter-

view. At the Forum, I met Japanese students who speak English as fluently as native speakers and felt my command of English was not good at all. I even tried to do an internship in New York during the Christmas break, but it did not work out due to the time constraint. The results did not turn out as I wanted them to, but I tried everything I could in the U.S. I truly believe what I did in the U.S. will definitely be useful in my job hunting and future career. I will probably have many more difficulties from now on, but I want to overcome one by one and try to get closer to my dream.

## 4. Next Steps for the Exchange Program

Students can study for a semester (approx. 4 months) or two semesters (approx. 10 months) in our existing exchange program. However, this year, we started offering students new options after their regular study period. Therefore, I would like to introduce them to you here.

Firstly, exchange students now have options to continuously attend a summer program at the same host university or at a



Mr. Daichi Tanabe who received a master's degree from the University of Mississippi last May (Graduate 2009)

different university, even in a different country. For example, Ms. Shiori Fukuda (Foreign Languages, 3rd year student), who was studying at Providence University in Taiwan, attended a one-month summer program there right after the spring semester ended. Another example is that Ms. Akiko Koyanagi (International Studies, 3rd year student), who studied at University of St. Thomas until May, attended a summer program at ESCE in France for a month starting from the end of June. The advantages of attending a summer program are that students can study not only the language in the country, but also subject courses in English, and meet other international students from all over the world. Furthermore, the tuition is waived because this will be considered as a part of the exchange student agreement. Those who are studying as an exchange student will have a wide variety of options in addition to regular studies.

\* Please take a look at the International Center Blog for Mr. Tanabe's interview.

## 5. "I Really Love Osaka": Christina Müller (University of Trier, Germany)

I came to Japan last September. I had been studying Japanese before then and had Japanese friends before that, but it was the first time to come here. I didn't know much about my host family and was nervous because I didn't know if I could understand Kansai dialect.

Despite my worries, my host family was very nice and kind to me. And soon after my arrival to Osaka, the OGU program started, so I soon met many new good friends. I could meet not only Japanese, but

also international students coming from all over the world at OGU. Therefore, I became to understand different cultures and customs through spending time with them. They made my life here a lot easier.

In the OGU program, I had Japanese classes everyday. My teacher taught me new things in an easy-to-understand manner. I had only two classes a week in Germany, so I felt I studied a lot. I really enjoyed learning Japanese, but honorific expressions were so tough to master. They



(Top) Marywood University campus  
(Bottom) With other international students (fifth from left in the rare row)

Secondly, students will have an opportunity to study at a graduate school of our partners. In addition to the on-going TA program at The University of Mississippi, we now have two more graduate programs that offer OGU students a fellowship: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa and Providence University in Taiwan. One OGU graduate also started graduate study this fall at ESCE, although he does not receive a scholarship. Some students coming back from study abroad show an interest in continuing their study overseas, so our director Mike Matsuno has discussed with our partners new possibilities for OGU students; thus, some new programs started this year. We hope many OGU students will take these precious opportunities to study overseas.



With international students and ISST volunteers (Fourth from right in the front row)



still are.

Besides going to school, I had a chance to visit Tokyo, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Aomori during the winter break. I especially loved Aomori in winter. Hirosaki castle looked beautiful in snow. I like both winter and snow, so I thought Aomori was a must-see destination. However, Kansai is of course my favorite place. I got used to

the Kansai dialect, which I had a hard time understanding at first. I think people in Kansai are easy to get along with compared to those in other areas. They love jokes, so they look like they are performing a comedy show everyday no matter where they are.

Needless to say, I now understand why Osaka is called the Kitchen of the Kingdom. You can find cheap and

delicious food everywhere. Germans usually don't eat octopus, so I was scared to chew it when I first ate Takoyaki. But it was so delicious that I came to love it so much. I also eat Japanese dishes with my host family everyday, which sometimes made me miss German food, although I believe I will miss Japanese food when I go back to Germany.

## 6. International Student's Now: Chompoonuch Saelao (Bangkok University, Thailand)

I am ENG (nickname) living in Thailand now. I studied at OGU from September 2009 to July 2010, and graduated from Bangkok University last year. I am currently working for the Bangkok Office of JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization).

Why did I choose to work for JETRO? It is because I wanted to continue studying Japanese! I am an assistant for the investment advisor, so my main tasks are making appointments by phone or email, as-



At the venue for the mission (Second from left)

sisting guests, doing some research, interpreting easy things, preparing documents, and many more. I also help the Business Support Center there. For example, when we have a mission from Japan, I reserve a venue and have meetings with hotel people and clients. We will soon welcome a service-industry related mission from the headquarters of JETRO, so I am in charge of taking care of them. Because I have lived in Japan, it made it easy to handle my job at JETRO. I had not had any major problems so far. I got used to communicate with Japanese and could make use of the most of what I learned about business manners at OGU such as exchanging business cards or souvenirs. In Thailand, the salary for new university graduates is not so high, but if you can speak one more language besides English such as Japanese or Chinese, you will be treated differently. Everything I learned while I was at OGU is very important for me.

My life greatly changed after I went to OGU. Before that, I could hardly speak Japanese and did not have a chance to go overseas. I never thought of working for a Japanese company back then. I experienced and studied a lot of things during my stay in Japan. Not only studying in the classroom, but also living there, made me grow up greatly. While I studied at OGU, I learned Japanese, and Japanese culture and business practices, had many good international and Japanese friends, and I became to know more about my own life. It was definitely the most precious experience in my life.

I am here today because of OGU. Studying abroad was the best thing that happened to me. Each person has a different way to live, but I believe it is important not to miss a chance that comes to you and to have a good life in which you have no regret.

## 7. Spring Japanese Culture Program

12 students from Medicine Hat College in Canada and 7 students from Khon Kean University in Thailand came to OGU from May 8 to 21, 2011. It was a two-week program, in which they learned Japanese, culture, business and tourism business in Japan. They also partook many activities to learn about Japan, and visited Kyoto and Nara with their language partners. It was a very short program, but they became good friends with OGU students and went back to their own countries with good memories.



(Top) Khon Kean University students with Dr. Arakaki in the Hospitality Management Division  
(Bottom) Students in front of Yasaka Shrine

### Editor's Note

The best part of working at the International Center is directly witnessing how much students grow up after they experienced study abroad. We make contact with OGU students coming back from overseas and international students studying at OGU on everyday basis, so we truly feel the study abroad experience greatly influences them. The students featured in this newsletter are their representatives. We hope many more students will experience the benefits of study abroad. We at the International Center will do everything in our part to make dreams come true. (M)

### International Center, Osaka Gakuin University/Osaka Gakuin Junior College

2-36-1 Kishibe-Minami, Suita City, Osaka 564-8511

TEL: 06-6381-8434

FAX: 06-6381-8499

Email: inoffice@ogu.ac.jp

Please check out our blog "Taking Off"  
<http://inoffice.blog102.fc2.com/>