



Kyushu University Selected as a Venue for the Globalization of University Education in Japan

Fukuoka, Japan – July 3, 2009 – Kyushu University was chosen as one of the thirteen venues for the “Global 30 (G30) Project,” planned and funded by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The selected sites will receive an annual government grant of up to JPY 400 million for the next five years so as to supplement their on-going efforts to meet a global standard in higher education.

The major aim of the G30 Project, announced by the MEXT last April, is to further promote the “globalization” of Japanese higher education by assisting a select number of universities through a prioritized allocation of grants. The recipient schools are expected to build and improve a system whereby overseas students may study and engage in research with minimal cultural and linguistic barriers. This more focused approach to budget allocation is also expected to help realize the government's public commitment to accommodate more than 300,000 international students on Japanese campuses by 2020.

Kyushu University – one of the thirteen universities chosen for the Project, and the only institution from the Kyushu region – has long been recognized for its academic and collaborative research focus on Asia, and for educating a number of internationally renowned Asian figures over time. The University already has a system in place that provides a variety of services to students and researchers from overseas, and it offers several graduate programs in English that enable their participants to obtain a Master's degree without any knowledge of Japanese. The G30 Grant will significantly boost the University's on-going efforts to “globalize.” In Fall 2010, Kyushu University will start offering undergraduate programs in agricultural science and engineering, as well as graduate programs in 17 of its 18 graduate schools, all of them to be taught exclusively in English. The University, adding to its 14 overseas offices already in place, also soon will open an all-purpose office in Cairo, Egypt. That office, although established and managed by the University, will allow all other Japanese colleges and universities wishing to recruit students from, and promote academic projects in, Egypt to have access to its services and facilities.

By implementing these measures, Kyushu University is hoping to raise the number of its international students to 3,900 in a decade, up 300 percent from the current number. By the time the five-year grant terminates, the University will also have laid the foundation for a new interdisciplinary department (tentatively, the “International School of Arts and Sciences”), which is expected to launch by 2020.

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