

MESSAGE from the Director

To all international students looking forward to studying in Japan

Warmest greetings from Kobe, Japan! It is my great pleasure to share KIEC's latest news with you. Time flies. Our 2024/25 YiJ students successfully completed their program in May. We are grateful to Resident Director (RD), Dr. Atsushi Hasegawa of the University of Hawaii, for his dedicated work. In July, the new RD, Prof. Stephen Luft of the University of Pittsburgh arrived, and we then welcomed the 2025/26 YiJ students on September 3. I hope that they will have a great time in Japan. This is the 50th anniversary year of our YiJ program. It was implemented as the Konan-Illinois Program in 1976, thanks to the joint effort of Prof. David W. Plath of the University of Illinois and Prof. Kokichi Masuda of Konan.

Since then, Konan's international exchange programs have continued to expand. We are thankful to everybody for their efforts and support in developing our programs. Additionally, KIEC has kicked off an initiative to create networks of past international students. So please register yourself with the form that can be accessed by this QR code!



Director

Prof. Kyoko Matsukawa

INBOUND Year-in-Japan Program (YiJ)

Welcoming students from our YiJ Partner Schools

Greetings from RD: It is my great pleasure as this year's Resident Director of Konan's YiJ program to welcome 34 new inbound students to Kobe. The students arrived on September 3rd and since then they have been settling into life in Japan. This diverse group of students came together from 13 different universities in Canada, France, Germany, and the United States to learn Japanese and experience Japanese culture. During their time in Japan they will participate in various field trips and study tours, and have many opportunities to directly learn about Japan and participate in Japanese life through homestay and other experiences. This is my second time serving as RD of YiJ, and I am very excited to once again be part of our students' experience in Japan!



**Resident Director
/ Vice Director**

Teaching Professor
Stephen D. Luft



INBOUND 2025 Fall Exchange Program

Welcoming students from our Partner Schools in Asia

Exchange students from China, Taiwan and Korea arrived in September for six-month and one-year programs of study at Konan. We've welcomed 5 students in total, two from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (China), one each from National United University, and Tunghai University (Taiwan) and one from Kyung Hee University (Korea).

During their stay in Japan, these students work under the guidance of professors of their designated faculties, as well as a language center advisor. They take classes alongside Konan students.

