

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To all international students looking forward to studying in Japan

Warm greetings from Kobe!

First, I would like to express sincere gratitude to all our partner universities for continued support and cooperation in this challenging time of COVID-19. Konan University restarted its study abroad programs on a limited basis in August 2021 after MEXT announced JASSO's resumption of financial support for students who go abroad for more than 9 months. Also, now that the 2022 academic year is underway, we have resumed dispatching students to our partner universities for shorter-term programs. And following last month's long-awaited reopening of Japan's borders to foreign students, we are glad to announce that we too have opened our doors to accepting students from our partner universities.

International exchange plays a fundamental role in providing students with opportunities to broaden their understanding of the world, and this goal is as essential as ever. Beyond deepening their awareness, we aim to equip students with the skills needed to counteract ongoing discrimination, unjust divides, unfairness, and violence in order to make our world a better place for all. I hope that our continuing dialogue serves to further strengthen our relationship in order to help achieve this worthy goal.



**President**  
Prof. Itsuko Nakai

## INBOUND PROGRAM UPDATES

### Students coming from Korea and Taiwan

We are excited to inform you that two exchange students from our partner universities in Korea and Taiwan arrived in April for a semester-long study at Konan. During their stay in Japan, these students work under the guidance of the professors of the designated faculties and a language center advisor; they also take classes alongside Konan students.

Additional good news is that two students from the University of Leeds will soon arrive in Japan in order to participate in the Year-in-Japan program. Even though the pandemic previously forced us to start the program online, students are now very excited to start their university life here in Kobe.



## SUMMER INTENSIVE JAPANESE PROGRAM

### Intensive Japanese Language Course 27th May -17th July 2022

Although we were unable to provide our Summer Intensive Japanese Language Program in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, we are pleased that we can now reopen our doors to international students following the Japanese government's relaxation of the COVID-19 border controls. Thus far, 30 students from our partner universities have applied for this summer's program. Although the program lasted 6 weeks before the pandemic, this year we are conducting a 7-week program which includes a one-week hotel stay to prepare for possible self-quarantine.

We are looking forward to welcoming summer students to campus for the first time in two years, and we'll work to ensure that they will have plenty of lively exchanges with Konan students.

# KONAN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CENTER



**Manager**

**Mr. Masashi Obata**

**Deputy Director**

**Prof. Shintaro Nakagawa**

**Director**

**Prof. Kyoko Matsukawa**

It is our pleasure to issue this newsletter, KIT (Konan International Times). I would like to express my sincere thanks to all for your continued support. One year has passed since I took over the position of Director in April 2021. It was truly a challenge for us to manage KIEC in the middle of COVID-19 crisis since we could not send students abroad nor receive international students at that time. However, thanks to the efforts of our staff, we could continue international exchange activities by providing various online programs to students. In August 2021, we resumed dispatching students to partner universities. Japan opened its borders last month, and we started to receive international students again. Although not all is back to normal, we have more in-person classes now. Okamoto campus is full of students enjoying nice spring weather. I really look forward to welcoming your students to our campus. See you, soon!

**Director** Prof. Kyoko Matsukawa

International exchange requires as well as promotes multilateral cooperation. These days, I reaffirm my recognition of the need for peaceful dialogue and mutual understanding. I am grateful to welcome international students again and looking forward to seeing you in Kobe.

**Deputy Director**

**Prof. Shintaro Nakagawa**

Because of the pandemic of COVID-19, it was so unfortunate that we were unable to see international students here at Kobe. At the same time, however, I was very happy to see so many of you online – total 327 students virtually participated in our programs such as Short-term Programs, Nihongo Café, Online Chat etc. See you soon on campus this year!

**Manager** Masashi Obata

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