



Kyoto University European Center
Heidelberg Office



Frohe Weihnachten

Warmest Greetings from Kyoto University European Center Heidelberg Office



Christmas market at Kormarkt in Heidelberg with castle view

In the Chinese 60-Year-Cycle Calendar 2016 was the Year of the Ape (*saru doshi*), which is said to be a “turbulent” one. And truly a lot of “turbulent” things happened all over the world.

This year the Kyoto University European Center Heidelberg Office was involved in events of HeKKSaGOn-Network and conducted activities like briefing sessions for German students going to study abroad in Kyoto. But even though the Heidelberg Office was busier than last year, we are looking forward to participate in and organize bigger events, make many new contacts and build networks as well as start new projects to foster internationalization and the exchange of people and ideas for a better future.

We thank you for your friendship and collaboration over the year and wish you all a peaceful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely, Chiyoko Kanno, Taro Sonobe, Tamaki Suzuki, Mai Nishiura,

Chiaki Nakamura, Keisuke Iida, Bernd Kirchner

HeKKSaGOn

In 2010 the HeKKSaGOn network was founded as an alliance between six Universities in Germany and Japan: Heidelberg University, Kyoto University, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Tohoku University, University of Göttingen and Osaka University.



Signing Ceremony for future collaboration projects 2016

In October 2016 the 5th Japanese-German University Presidents' Conference, the so-called HeKKSaGOn Conference, took place at the KIT in Karlsruhe. Under the slogan “Increasing Student Mobility for the Scientists and Pioneers of Tomorrow” rectors and presidents of the six universities presented their concepts for the proliferation of young researchers.

In addition to the presidents around 120 researchers from the consortium universities gathered and lively discussed topics from nine interdisciplinary working groups ranging from life and physi-



Participants of the 5th presidential conference at KIT (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology).

cal science, disaster risk to data science with the focus on solutions for global challenges.

Parallel to these senior working groups 10 students from Germany and Japan had the chance to discuss student mobility in a student workshop. In the following event they presented the outcome and share their perspective on the topic with the presidents and the other participants of the conference.

On the occasion of this year's conference the official Mission Statement was enacted. It clearly expresses the HeKKSaGOn partners will to “combine the complementary strengths and fields of expertise of different members and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration”.

In 2018, HeKKSaGOn will have made its circuit touching all six corners. There are and will be further common tasks to be challenge and to be solved for both Germany and Japan. The participants were encouraged to step forward together and build a better future.

The HeKKSaGOn Coordinators

The HeKKSaGOn Conference was organized by the three German coordinators Oliver Schmidt, Oliver Ehrhardt and Tanja Falkowski since November 2015. In this process the Heidelberg Office was involved in the preparation meetings, which took place once in two month.

This meetings in Heidelberg, Karlsruhe and Göttingen were very fruitful because ideas for new collaborations were born and the solving of problems by coming together and exchange ideas was a nice experience.

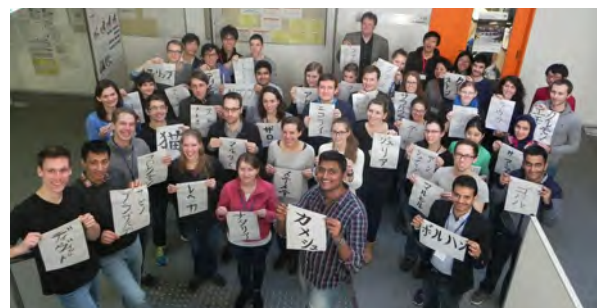
Though the time a relation of mutual trust developed between the participants which without a doubt contributed to the success of the Conference as a whole, which further strengthen the relationship between the universities within the HeKKSaGOn-Network.



Oliver Schmidt (left), Oliver Ehrhardt (middle) and Dr. Tanja Falkowski (right)

HeKKSaGOn Winter School

The Winter School “From Materials to Live: Multidisciplinary Challenges” in the frame work of HeKKSaGOn was meant to inspire talented doctoral students by showing them the living examples of “how to create new cross-disciplinary breakthroughs in science”. The lecturers selected from various disciplines gave introductions of their research field such as chemistry, biology, medicine, the material sciences and experimental physics to the students and explained how they initiated and established scientific networks across the fields. Finally, they showed the students what would be the general impact such studies can bring in. Students also presented their Ph. D. projects and visited various research institutes in Kyoto. Such a setup provides students with the “living” examples of how top level researchers collaborate across the fields, which help them a lot for designing their future career.



Students at the HeKKSaGOn Winter School doing Japanese Calligraphy

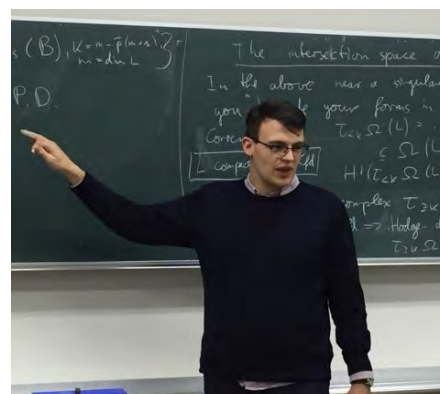
HeKKSaGOn Internship Programme

In March 2016 the Ph. D. students Francesco Silvestri (Heidelberg University), Timo Essig (Heidelberg University) and Michael Färber (Karlsruhe Institute for Technology, KIT) took part in an Internship Programme within the Framework of HeKKSaGOn. The Internship Programme aims to promote foreign language and different cultural studies for students of Kyoto University utilizing the HeKKSaGOn Consortium by inviting German researchers among three universities in Germany to Kyoto University for several weeks.

As part of the Programme Francesco, Timo and Michael assisted in a project for developing digital teaching materials in German for Kyoto University students coordinated by Professor Masatake Dantsuji and Associate Professor Hiroki Nanjo utilizing the multimedia equipment of the Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies in Kyoto University. During their time in Kyoto they also had the chance to experience the university life in Japan and provide information about German university life to Japanese exchange students. Moreover it was possible for them to research together with researchers from Kyoto University and even lecture in their specific field of study.

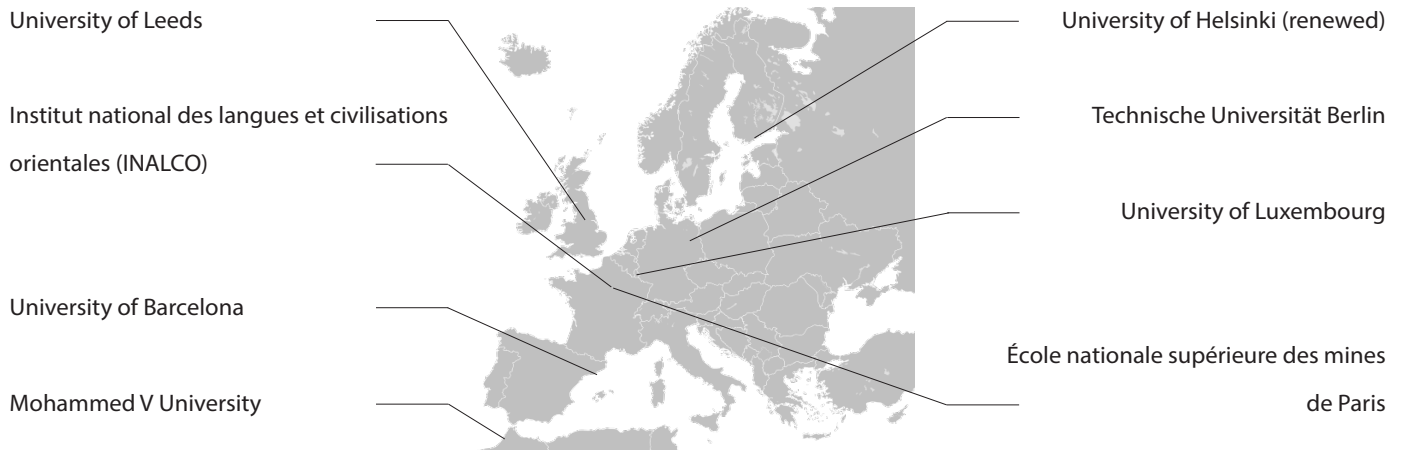


Timo Essig (left), Francesco Silvestri (middle), Michael Färber (right)



Timo Essig lecturing at Kyoto University

New Partnerships 2016



Main Events & Activities 2016

Research

- International Conference "Challenges in Data Science" (Matera, Italy)
- 2nd Kyoto-Swiss Symposium (Kyoto)
- 5th HeKKSaGOn Conference (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology [KIT])



KU Office Presentation at Matera, Italy

Education

- Preparation Meeting for Exchange Student (Heidelberg)
- European Association for International Education [EAIE 2016] (Liverpool)
- German Rector's Conference 2016 (Berlin)



Kyoto Representatives at EAIE Liverpool

Outreach

- 3rd & 4th Stammtisch der Kyoto Universität in Heidelberg
- Kyoto University Alumni Seminar (Zürich)



4th Stammtisch der Kyoto Universität

Internationalization

- "Experience Japan" (Lausanne)
- "Experience Japan Exhibition 2016" (London)
- "Studium in Japan" (Study in Japan) (Heidelberg & Freiburg)



"Studium in Japan" Presentation by KU

The 2nd Kyoto-Swiss Symposium

On October 31st– November 1st 2016, Kyoto University and the University of Zurich (UZH) jointly held the 2nd Kyoto-Swiss Symposium at the International Science Innovation Building on the Yoshida Campus.

The 2nd Symposium aimed to consolidate and build on the existing KU-UZH collaborations, as well as to create new opportunities for researchers to meet, share knowledge, and explore possibilities of cooperation in new areas.

The event began with remarks by KU President Juichi Yamagiwa and UZH Vice-President Professor Christoph Hock followed by an address by the honoured guest, Dr Matthias Frey of the Science & Technology Office Tokyo of the Embassy of Switzerland in Japan. Dr Kayo Inaba introduced the Kyoto University including the status of its recent collaboration with UZH. Dr Yasmin Inauen then introduced her own university.

Dr Nagahiro Minato, Kyoto University's executive vice-president for research, planning, and hospital administration, delivered a keynote lecture entitled "A Breakthrough in Human Cancer Therapy", drawing on his twenty-plus years of research experience in the field. Professor Christoph Hock then gave a keynote based on his own field of research specialization: "Antibody Therapy of Alzheimer's Disease". Research sessions, held in parallel on the afternoon of the first day and the morning of the second day, investigated the following topics:

- Healthy Aging
- Primate Morphology and Behaviour
- Plants in Changing Environments: Systems in Action

Student Activities

Preparation Meeting for Exchange Students

The Kyoto University European Center Heidelberg Office offered a Prep-Meeting for Exchange Students who went to study at the Kyoto University in 2016. This event provided basic information on living and studying in Japan ranging from administrative affairs to matters of daily life.

The Liaison Offices in Heidelberg and Kyoto as contact points in Germany and Japan were introduced as well. This meeting was also a platform to meet Japanese Students from Kyoto as well as former Kyoto University Exchange Students to exchange experiences and get first-hand information on life in Kyoto. The event was very much appreciated by the students, which come from diverse academic backgrounds.

- Digital Society and Big Data Era
- Investigations into the Disciplines of Japanese and East Asian Art Histories
- Regenerative Medicine for Cardiac and Neural Diseases

In each session, researchers from both institutions gave presentations, shared their latest findings, and explored possibilities for collaboration. The results of the parallel sessions were reported in a wrap-up session, and the symposium was brought to a close with remarks by UZH Vice-President Christoph Hock and Professor Masao Kitano, Kyoto University's executive vice-president for education, information infrastructure, and evaluation. Some of the sessions included laboratory tours, and one featured a trip to the Kyoto University Museum.

In total, approximately 150 researchers, students, and staff of the two universities attended the symposium, which is anticipated to lead to significant new developments in research collaboration.



President Juichi Yamagiwa giving the welcome address

Study Abroad Fairs

November is a season for study abroad fair, and Kyoto University European center Heidelberg Office participated in two big events. On November 12th, we exhibited at "Experience Japan in Switzerland" held at Lausanne University in Switzerland and introduced Kyoto University. Furthermore, on November 19th, we exhibited at "Experience Japan Exhibition in London" held at the Royal Society as well. Both events are full of students interested in Japanese universities, so we could directly provide them with the information for study abroad in Kyoto.



Students at the "Experience Japan in Switzerland" Exhibition

