OIP Travel Grant: Faculty Report

Official Version for Public Review

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Proposal title: Creation of (1) “Semester Abroad Programs” at Kyushu University (Fukuoka), (2) “Semester Abroad Program” at Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto), and (3) “Internship Opportunities” at GMI Japan (Merrill Lynch) in Tokyo.

Country/ies visited: Japan

Institution visited: Kyushu University
Ritsumeikan University

Additional Activities:
- Visit to Rikkyo University
- Meetings with faculty of (1) Hosei University, (2) Waseda University, (3) Chuo University, (4) Nanzan University, and (5) Seisen University
- Creation of an Internship at DivX/Rovi

Dates of travel: 16 days between Thursday, July 5, and Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Number of student participants: None
Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded
(list titles, countries and dates):

**Granted Proposal #1**
**Proposal Title:** Visits to Oita University and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan to secure 10 slots for our Exchange Programs

**Place and date of Travel:**
Oita and Beppu, Japan
11 days between Friday, March 20, 2009 – Thursday, April 2, 2009

**Granted Proposal #2**
**Proposal Title:** Visits to Hosei University, Hirosaki University to secure 10 slots for our Exchange Programs and (3) Kyoto Sangyo University to create a new “Summer Study Abroad Program” for 10-15 students.

**Place and date of Travel:**
Tokyo, Hirosaki, and Kyoto, Japan
13 days between Tuesday, July 14 – Friday, August 14, 2009

**Granted Proposal #3**
**Proposal Title:** Visits to (1) Doshisha University to create a new Exchange Agreement and discuss the feasibility of creating a new “Summer Study Abroad Program,” and (2) Hosei University to develop the Faculty Exchange Agreement

**Place and date of Travel:**
Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan
8-10 days between Tuesday, December 29, 2009 – Friday, January 14, 2010

**Granted Proposal #4**
**Proposal Title:** Visits to (1) Chuo University and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies to create a new Exchange Agreement and discuss the feasibility of creating semester abroad program and (2) GMI Japan (Merryl Linch) to develop internship opportunities.

**Place and date of Travel:**
Hachioji, Tokyo, Nagoya, Yokohama, Japan
16 days between Sunday, July, 2011 – Monday, August 8, 2011

**Have all required reports been submitted?** Yes
Other funding for this activity available/applied for:
Assistance from SDSU American Language Institute

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):
I wish to negotiate with two new institutions in the areas free from radioactive contamination concerns, and create semester exchange opportunities for our students required to study in Japan. I would also like to continue negotiations with Merrill Lynch in Tokyo regarding internship opportunities. I expect 6 ~ 8 semester students will participate in the new exchange programs during the academic year of 2013-2014 and 2 students in the internships during the summer of 2013.

Travel Report

I had a very productive visit. I visited Kyushu University in Fukuoka and Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto and met all key administrators necessary to initiate the discussion on the exchange agreements as I proposed in this travel grant. I am happy to report that they are eager to work with SDSU. It is highly likely that we can start exchanging students in the Fall of 2014.

The communication with GMI Japan broke down again. The new manager in charge of intern recruitment left the office suddenly without notifying me of anyone I can contact. This happened twice. Thus, I concluded that SDSU cannot/should not send our students to an irresponsible company like GMI Japan. Instead, I created an internship for our students with DivX/Rovi upon return from Japan.

In addition, I did the following which were not included in the proposal:
- I visited Rikkyo University in Tokyo and met with their key administrators at their request. Although I must observe their classes and visit facilities some time soon, it is highly likely that we can start exchanging students in the Fall of 2014.
- I met with a professor of Seisen University in Tokyo and discussed possible ways to exchange students. Her boss, the Director of the International Center, is now requesting a meeting with me, as a result of this initial meeting.
- I visited Kyoto Sangyo University in Kyoto at the request of ALI. There are issues to be discussed.
- I met representatives with Hosei University and Chuo University, our current exchange partners: There are issues to be discussed in order to continue our agreements.

I am grateful that Dr. Sweedler wrote official letters of introduction to Kyushu University and Ritsumeikan University. It helped my negotiation process immensely.
(1) **Kyushu University (prospective exchange partner)**

**Background Information**

SDSU has been conducting an exchange program with Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka. However, the performance of our students returning from Seinan makes us wonder year after year if Seinan’s academic program is running smoothly. In addition, I believe that SDSU deserves a relationship with Kyushu University, an elite university.

Kyushu University, one of the seven Imperial Universities in Japan, was founded in 1911. It is considered a leader in research and education in Japan and Asia. It has a student population of 19,000 (12,000 undergraduate and 7,000 graduate). It places emphasis on superior education to future generations of world leaders. They recently created an International Master’s Program in Japanese Humanities for international students.

I plan to (1) meet with Professor Shin-ichi Ago, Vice President and Director of International Student Center, (2) meet with Professor Akihiko Takagi, Dean of Graduate School of Humanities, (3) observe both a Japanese course and a content course, (4) meet with the Japanese language faculty, and (5) meet with exchange students from U.S. institutions this summer. I am already in touch with Vice President Ago and Dean Takagi.

**Actual Visits and Activities**

**July 9-10, 2012**

A meeting with Professor Carey Benom who visited SDSU on February 29, 2012 (1 hour):
☆ Dr. Carey Benom, Associate Professor of Linguistics

A meeting with the Dean of Humanities (1.5 hours):
☆ Dr. Michiaki Takayama, Dean, Faculty of Humanities & Graduate School of Humanities
*Dr. Akihiko Takagi’s term expired.*
☆ Dr. Carey Benom, Associate Professor of Linguistics

A meeting with the faculty members who offer content courses to international students over lunch (1 hour):
☆ Dr. Ellen Van Goethem, Associate Professor of History
☆ Dr. Carey Benom, Associate Professor of Linguistics

A meeting with the International Student Center administrators (3 hours)
☆ Dr. Shin-ichi Ago, Vice President for International Affairs, and Director of International Student Center
Discussions and Recommendations
Vice President Ago gave me permission to initiate an exchange agreement with Dr. Takayama, the Dean of the Faculty (= College) of Humanities and the Graduate School of Humanities. Dr. Carey Benom, who visited SDSU on February 29, 2012, is willing to be the person in charge of the exchange with SDSU.

From SDSU’s point of view, whether we have an agreement only with the Faculty of Humanities or with the entire University does not make any difference, as far as the programs are available to our students. Our students will be taking Japanese language courses and content courses in the “Japan in Today’s World” program.

SDSU’s American Language Institute
Kyushu is very much interested in what ALI offers. They might send a group of students for four weeks or so during their summer or spring breaks. However, they would like to see “academic units” issued and printed on the official SDSU transcript, for their recruitment purposes.

2. Ritsumeikan University (prospective exchange partner)

Background Information
SDSU began exchanging students with Doshisha University in Kyoto this academic year. However, the term for exchange with Doshisha is for one full academic year. Therefore, I wish to create a semester exchange program with Ritsumeikan University, which is considered as the other top private institution in Kyoto.

Ritsumeikan was founded by Prince Kinmochi Saionji, an eminent international statesman in 1869. Ritsumeikan has a student population of 36,500 (33,000 undergraduate, 3,500 graduate) and offers a full curriculum (Japanese as a Second Language courses and content courses in English) to international students. There are 1150 international students. Its school spirit is liberalism and internationalism. It even offers the Dual Undergraduate Degree Program/Dual Masters Degree Program with American University, which is unheard of among other universities in Japan.

I plan to (1) meet with Dr. Naoki Ishihara, the Executive Director of the Division of International Affairs, (2) observe both a Japanese course and a content course, (3) meet
with the Japanese language faculty, and (4) meet with the exchange students from the
U.S. institutions this summer. Ritsumeikan’s classes will still be in session when I visit
them in mid-July. I have known Professor Shoji Azuma of Ritsumeikan for nearly three
decades since he was teaching in the U.S. He will help both parties to negotiate
smoothly.

Actual Visits and Activities

July 18, 2012

Class observation of Professor Yuko Ramzan’s Elementary Japanese class
(1 hour):

A meeting with the Director of the Japanese Program (1 hour):
☆Professor Hitoshi Sakamoto, Director, Japanese Language
   Education Center
☆Ms. Reina Yamamoto, Coordinator, Office of International Planning
   and Development

Campus Tour escorted by:
☆Ms. Reina Yamamoto, Coordinator, Office of International Planning
   and Development

A meeting with the following over lunch (1 hour):
☆Ms. Junko Nishida, Administrative Manager, Office of
   International Planning and Development
☆Professor Hitoshi Sakamoto, Director, Japanese Language
   Education Center
☆Ms. Reina Yamamoto, Coordinator, Office of International Planning
   and Development

Visit to International House (30 minutes) escorted by:
☆Ms. Reina Yamamoto, Coordinator, Office of International Planning
   and Development

A meeting with a top administrator (1.5 hours):
☆Dr. Toshiko Sakamoto, Deputy Director of Division of International
   Affairs, Director of International Center at Kinugasa Campus

A meeting with a staff in charge of incoming international students
(1 hour):
☆Mr. James J. Price, International Program Officer, Office of
   International Student Services
A meeting with a staff in charge of Japanese curriculum management:
(30 minutes)
★ Risa Shiraishi, Program Coordinator, Office of International Planning and Development

July 20, 2012
A meeting with my contact person at Ritsumeikan University (1.5 hours)
★ Dr. Shoji Azuma, Professor of Linguistics,

**Discussions and Recommendations**
I had a pleasant surprise. I was reminded that SDSU already signed the "Cooperation Agreement" with Ritsumeikan in Kyoto on December 11, 2007.

Former President Weber signed this Agreement when Teresa Donahue's Office of the College of Business Administration initiated the exchange agreement with Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) in Oita. This means that SDSU already agreed to work with Ritsumeikan in Kyoto as well, and vice versa, although the relationship between SDSU and Ritsumeikan in Kyoto has not advanced to the level of an exchange agreement. Thus, it is easier for Ritsumeikan in Kyoto to proceed with the paperwork for an exchange agreement.

3) **GMI Japan (Merrill Lynch Japan)**

The communication with GMI Japan (Merrill Lynch Japan) broke down again. Mr. James Hulik, Japan Campus Recruitment Manager of Merrill Lynch Japan, left the office suddenly without notifying me of anyone I can contact regarding internship opportunities. This happened twice. His predecessor and my former student, Mr. A. Douglas Butcher, became impossible to reach last summer and I learned later that he left the office.

I concluded that we cannot/should not send our students to an irresponsible company like GMI Japan.

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This is all I originally planned to do when I submitted my OIP Travel Grant Proposal in January. However, after it was granted, ALI asked me to visit Kyoto Sangyo University. I also received a request from Professor Chika Maruyama of Rikkyo University in Tokyo to meet her boss. Furthermore, I received a request from Professor Chizuyo Kojima of Seisen University in Tokyo to meet with her regarding an exchange agreement.
I met with Professors Rebecca Fukuzawa of Hosei University and Kazuyoshi Fukuzawa of Waseda University, Wakako Murakami of Chuo University and discussed various issues. I also met with Dr. Matsuo Soga, Professor Emeritus of the University of British Columbia and Nanzan University for consultation.

Since my attempt to create an internship with GMI Japan did not bear fruit, I created an internship with DivX/Rovi when I came back to San Diego.

4. Kyoto Sangyo University (current exchange partner)

Background Information
Kyoto Sangyo University (KSU has not been able to find any students who could clear even 500 points of TOEFL (SDSU requires 550). KSU began sending a group of students to ALI from late August to mid September annually in 2009. They also sent two students to ALI for the academic year of 2011-2012 and asked me to take care of them as if they were exchange students. They also sent two students to ALI from April to July of 2012.

ALI asked me to visit KSU, meet with 33 students who were scheduled to study at ALI from August 20 to September 14, and answer any questions and concerns they might have.

Actual Visits and Activities

July 19

A meeting with:
☆ Dr. Masanori Sato, Director of the Center for International Programs (CIP)
☆ Mr. Shinichi Koyabashi, Executive Assistant to the President
☆ Mr. Kohei Hotta, General Office
☆ Mr. Paul Churton, Program Coordinator, Center for International Programs
☆ Ms. Michiko Yoshioka, Program Coordinator, Center for International Programs

A meeting with:
☆ - Mr. Keita Fujita, student, ALI (2011-2012)
☆ - Ms. Hiroko Fukuda, student, ALI (2011-2012)

Discussions and Recommendations
It turned out that KSU decided to have a meeting with their university representatives, instead of having an orientation meeting, because their students were too busy taking the final examinations.
KSU is sending along Mr. Kohei Hotta of their General Office to stay for the entire four weeks. He is coming as a staff member who will participate in the English program.

As I mentioned earlier, SDSU owes 7 semester students. They know that SDSU will not be sending its students because of this imbalance. I assured them, however, that SDSU will keep renewing our exchange agreement so that whenever they find a student who can clear SDSU’s TOEFL requirement, they can send him/her to us.

Mr. Paul Churton, Program Coordinator, mentioned that KSU should start accepting one SDSU student for a semester or a year every year or every two years, even if KSU has not sent any student to SDSU. He is afraid that the exchange program will eventually die if KSU does not accept an SDSU student. He later sent an e-mail to Ms. Rebekah Fuganti of OIP, confirming that KSU would like to accept one SDSU student for a semester.

5) Rikkyo University (prospective exchange partner)

Background Information
Rikkyo University was established by Bishop Channing Moore Williams in 1872 as a small private school to teach English and Christian bible studies. It currently has nearly 22,000 students (19,500 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate) studying in 10 Undergraduate Colleges and 13 Graduate Schools.

Professor Maruyama of Yokohama National University moved to Rikkyo and became the Director of the Center for Japanese Language Education there effective April 1. At her request, I visited Rikkyo and met with Professor Nobuko Ikeda, the Dean of the College of Intercultural Communication,

Actual Visits and Activities
July 13, 2012
A meeting (30 minutes) with:
Dr. Chika Maruyama, Director, Center for Japanese Language Education

A meeting (1 hour) and dinner (3 hours) with:
- Dr. Nobuko Ikeda, Dean, College of Intercultural Communication
- Dr. Mark E. Caprio, Professor of History
- Dr. Chika Maruyama, Director, Center for Japanese Language Education

Discussions and Recommendations
Professor Ikeda, who became the Dean on April 1, is interested in developing (1) a regular exchange program and (2) an undergraduate Dual Degree Program with SDSU.
Since the Communication Department belongs to the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts, it might make more sense to offer a degree in Linguistics. Both the linguistics program and the Japanese language program belong to the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages. I consulted with the Chair of my Department. She advised me to present it at the Department’s Retreat on August 24.

6. A meeting with Dr. Rebecca Erwine Fukuzasa of Hosei University (current exchange partner) and Dr. Kazuyoshi Fukuzawa of Waseda University (CSU-IP exchange partner)

I met with Professor Rebecca Erwin Fukuzawa, the Director of International Exchange Programs of Hosei University, and Kazuyoshi Fukuzawa of Waseda University on July 14.

I wanted to have their thoughts on the Dual Degree Program. A dual degree program will be a strong selling point. Another issue discussed with Professor Rebecca Fukuzawa is about the deadlines of application paperwork. She said that it would be nice if her Office can hear SDSU’s decision before their academic year is over at the end of March.

7. A meeting with Dr. Wakako Murakami of Chuo University (current exchange partner)

I met with Professor Wakako Murakami of Chuo University on July 15. The academic year of 2012-2013 is our first year to exchange our students. I wanted to see if there were any issues related to recruitment. She was not aware of anything but she agreed that it would be nice to hear from SDSU regarding its decision on acceptance of Chuo students by the end of March.

Regarding the Dual Degree Program, she advised me to start very slowly with a limited number of students, if SDSU decides to pursue this program.

8 A Meeting with Dr. Matsuo Soga in Sendai

Professor Soga is a well-known linguist in Japan and North America. He took an early retirement from the University of British Columbia in order to create a graduate program in Teaching Japanese as a Second Language at Nanzan University. He currently lives in Sendai. Thus, I visited him in Sendai on July 21 to have his thoughts on a Dual Degree Program. I also asked him about Nanzan University because the academic year of 2012-2013 is the first year to recruit students to study at Nanzan as exchange students.
9. A Meeting with Dr. Chizuyo Kojima of Seisen University
(prospective exchange partner)
Professor Chizuyo Kojima of Seisen University in Tokyo requested a meeting regarding an exchange possibility with SDSU. I met with her on July 23.

Seisen University is a small private Catholic liberal arts college in Tokyo. Its student population is approximately 1,930 (with 1,900 undergraduate students and 30 graduate students.) The predecessor of the school was founded in 1938, and it was chartered as a women's four-year college in 1950. They accept only women for undergraduate programs, but their graduate programs (MAs and Ph.D.s) are co-ed.

I learned after I met with Professor Kojima that Professor Fumihiko Takeda, the Director of the International Exchange Center of Seisen, wanted to meet with me. I thought that I should meet with him and but our schedule did not work out. Thus, I must wait until I visit Japan next time.

10. Creation of a New Internship with DivX/Rovi instead of GMI Japan
Since my attempt to create an internship with GMI Japan did not bear fruit, I created an internship with DivX/Rovi when I came back to San Diego.

I met with Mr. Jeremy Park, the Technical Support Manager of DivX/Rovi, at his office in San Diego on August 7. I learned that DivX/Rovi has offices all over the world including Japan: our student will have opportunities to work for the Japanese clients in the San Diego community. He/she will also have opportunities to work with the staff in their Tokyo office. I think that this is going to be an excellent internship opportunity for our students.

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In sum, I was able to initiate official discussions on exchange agreements not only with Kyushu University and Ritsumeikan University, but also with Rikkyo University. I was also able to stimulate their interest in the English programs at SDSU’s ALI for their short-term study-abroad programs. I also attracted interest at Seisen University.

Although I was not able to create an internship at GMI Japan, I created an excellent internship at DivX/Rovi.

I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to help SDSU internationalize its academic curriculum. It has been fulfilling and rewarding.