

7th TMDU International Summer Program (ISP2015) Report

The 7th International Summer Program was held from August 28th to September 3rd, 2015. The purpose of this program is to raise the profile of TMDU in the world and at the same time promote international understanding within TMDU. This year 32 participants from 16 countries all over Asia participated in ISP2015. In the program, the participants were involved in a variety of activities, both academic and cultural, such as attending lectures and presentations, and visiting TMDU departments.

“GLOBALIZATION” HAS BECOME a critical buzzword in discussions concerning the role of universities in Japan. The International Exchange Center (IEC) here at TMDU organizes and hosts a variety of events and activities, including ISP, with the understanding that being global means being able to be “connected and collaborative” with others across social, cultural, and linguistic borders. In this respect, ISP has played a pivotal role in bringing not only students from abroad but also TMDU students together for fascinating and thought-provoking conversations.

In an effort to make ISP more effective and meaningful, IEC took a more “student-centered” rather than “teacher-centered” approach to the program. We established the student-run Student Working Group comprised of 14 TMDU Japanese and international students, along with the Faculty Working Group chaired by Prof. Junji Tagami, Executive Director / Executive Vice President of Education and International Student Exchange, whose focus was on supporting student activities. We were pleased to see that the student-run approach, in which students shared responsibility

for hosting ISP2015 events, did much to foster student autonomy.

One of the highlights of ISP2015 was the Student Symposium. This two-day symposium was organized and facilitated by the Student Working Group. The purpose of this symposium was to engage TMDU students in conversations with students from all over Asia. The Student Working Group worked very hard, starting in February of 2015, to prepare for the symposium.

The symposium included two lectures by Prof. Takashi Zaitzu (Oral Health Promotion) and Prof. Md. Sofiqul Islam (International Exchange Center), and oral and poster presentations by ISP participants and TMDU students, which showcased their hard work and considerable talents in academic research. Moreover, the student presentations provided an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas and information as well as to expand their networks socially and professionally. In addition, many TMDU students kindly joined in helping organize the program and provide useful information as presenters. The results of the questionnaire survey indicated that the symposium



1 Participants from China asking a question at TMDU Faculty and Institute Introductions
2 A participant from Indonesia giving her presentation at the ISP2015 Oral Presentation
3 A participant from Bangladesh giving his presentation at the ISP2015 Poster Presentation

participants very much appreciated the chance to learn about the research of others and find out more about TMDU and life in Japan directly from current Japanese and international students. TMDU students and faculty members also pointed out that the symposium provided a wonderful opportunity for participants to present their work to an international audience.

Another key change this year was the decision to expand the laboratory visit portion of the program. Thanks to TMDU students who volunteered to help guide participants on campus, as well as thanks to the various departments that welcomed program participants, we were able to offer tailored tours to departments that participants were interested in. With the increased amount of time for lab visits, program participants were able to learn significantly more about departments and the research they conduct. Both participants and department staffs mentioned that they were able to communicate with each other about what the participants were interested in and what the departments could offer.

This year more company visits were added to ISP2015. The participants chose a company to visit based on their personal interest. The compa-

nies ranged from Horiba (Japan Analytical Scientific Instruments Show), Dai Nippon Printing, GC, Shimadzu Corporation to SONY (TMDU Open Laboratory).

The participants also responded favorably to the other components of ISP2015, which had been successful in previous years. Socializing opportunities such as the Welcome Party were devised to create a space for networking, exchange, and friendship among the participants and TMDU students. ISP also provided various opportunities for learning about Japanese culture, including a visit to Kanda Myojin Shrine and Origami Kaikan. In addition, the members of A Cappella Circle sang Japanese songs and those of Taiko Club performed Japanese martial arts at the Farewell Party, which added lots of fun and excitement to the party.

The ISP program is now bearing fruit. At the symposium, we were pleased to present Best Presentation Awards to an alumni of the ISP program who is also a current TMDU student. In addition, we are very proud that three alumni of the ISP program have already graduated with a degree from TMDU, and many other alumni are now studying hard at TMDU while being passionate about contributing to the globalization of TMDU.

ISP2015 Working Group
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ISP2015 participants at the Welcome Party



TMDU students performing Japanese martial arts at the Farewell Party



ISP Participants at the ISP2015 Lab Visit (Dentistry)

General information about the ISP can be found at:
<http://www.tmd.ac.jp/english/international/program/isp/index.html>
The voice of the participants can be found at:
http://www.tmd.ac.jp/english/international/artis-cms/cms-files/IEC_Newsletter_3_2015.pdf