

Hi! from SAGA

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SUISA Newsletter Team
& Center for Promotion of International Exchange, Saga University



Welcoming Party 2022

After 2 years of restrictions imposed by Covid-19, in 2022, Saga University is back again to welcome more international students and SUISA finally held a face-to-face welcoming party.



International Week 2022

"International Week" was held to deepen our understanding and knowledge of other cultures and get to know people. We participated in some events.



Friendly Visit from Universitas Negeri Malang Indonesia

On July 22nd, 2022, Saga University welcomed guests from Malang University, a partner university from Indonesia. One of SUISA Newsletter team members from Malang National University luckily joined the part of the courtesy visit.

Center for Promotion
of International Exchange, Saga University

+81-952-28-8169



ryugaku@mail.admin.saga-u.ac.jp



<https://www.irdc.saga-u.ac.jp>



Welcoming Party 2022

After 2 years of restrictions imposed by Covid-19, in 2022, Saga University is back again to welcome more international students. The university has resumed most of the activities that have been suspended for a long time and the "Welcoming Party" was one of them. After a long wait, on 3rd June 2022, SUIISA (Saga University International Students' Association) hosted a welcome party in collaboration with the Center for Promotion of International Exchange.



For SUIISA, this was the first face-to-face event attended by more than 50 students from China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea, Myanmar, Kosovo, Lithuania, Zimbabwe, Benin, Cameroon, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, France, and the host country, Japan since the coronavirus pandemic. The event was held on the first floor of the international house building A.

The event started with an opening speech from Professor MISHIMA, the Director of Center for Promotion of International Exchange. After that, Rami Derbel, the co-founder of SUIISA gave a cheering speech which was followed by the presentation from the main organizations; SUIISA, LIFE, and Global Supporters. The main purposes of those organizations are to serve as a bridge between Japanese and International students from all over the world, to provide a broader community where students can enhance their understanding and appreciation of diversity, and to create a healthy environment, and a helping hand to students to facilitate their life and studies in Japan.



Playing games is the most effective way to make participants of the event interact with each other, warm up the conversation, and get closer in a short time. Therefore, after welcoming and sharing information about Saga city and Saga University, we played "Trivia Games". Participants were divided into teams and each team had to compete for the correct answer to win. We played for one hour and all the teams were brilliant. Everyone was so happy and excited about the quiz questions. The team with the highest marks was selected as the winner.

After warming up with the "Trivia Games" activity, we went out of the event room and gathered at the frontage. Then, we danced together to the Indonesian Song "Logi sayantik" and the South African Song "Jerusalama". We could feel the happiness, unity, and warmly welcoming sense of the event.



To sum up, during 2 years of strict rules and social distancing due to covid, "Welcome Party" was held online each year. Students joined the event from their respective countries, hence, there was no conversation and meeting up after the event. Therefore, this "welcome party" made the university alive again and it also brings back all the memories before corona.

(Written by San san)

International Week

From the 11th to the 15th of July the "International week" was held. "International Week" was held to deepen our understanding and knowledge of other cultures and get to know people. I attended a couple of events to see and tell you what they were like. There were insightful seminars held in Japanese such as "How to learn practical English" and "Exchange Study Abroad Report Session".



(Presentation by Povilas (left) and Justina (right))

Apart from the academic seminars, there were also events held by "Global Supporters" for international students and Japanese students to get along with. On Tuesday the 12th, "Intercultural Workshop" was held. At the beginning of the event, Justina and Povilas, exchange students from Lithuania and Jane, an exchange student from South-Korea gave presentations about their countries. There were very interesting facts that we didn't know before. It is interesting to know that Lithuanian language comes from Sanskrit language since my language, Thai, also roots from Sanskrit despite being very far from Lithuania, but we do share similarities. Out of all the tourist attractions, The Castle of Trakai got my attention the most. How the castle stands on an isolated island really gives a wonderful scenery. I also wanted to try the Lithuanian sweets called Tinginys. It's a traditional chocolate dessert. It looks like it will go very well with coffee for breakfast.



(Presentation by Jane)

Then, Jane made very attractive and cute slides about South Korea. We got to know that South-Korea people don't like to waste time and do everything quickly. This is called the "ppalli ppalli(빨리 빨리=hurry hurry)" culture. Apparently, the city hall in South Korea gives a very quick service. You have to wait only for 15 minutes to get something done. That's very fast! We also learned that the "16 personality type (known as MBTI)" is very popular in South-Korea. Many television programs contain content about it. It is also a very popular topic for ice breaking.



(Activity after presentations)

After the presentation, we had activities such as an ice breaking game and a gesture game. The event was really knowledgeable and exciting.

On Friday the 15th, the last day of International Week, "Saga University Walk Rally" was supposed to be held outside. Unfortunately, it was a rainy day, so the event was changed to an indoor event instead. However, with Global Supporters preparation, the activities still went on smoothly without any issues.



(Activity of Saga University Walk rally)

In the first half, we did photo walk rally activities inside of the building. In this activity, we had to find items and take pictures according to the designated theme with a team. It was fun to take photos with team members doing all the funny poses. We then had a fun game of tongue twisters. In each round, each team had to send out a representative to do a tongue twister in front of the room. Some of them sound really difficult but everyone did a really good job. Lastly the day ended with a mind stimulating crossword puzzle. I was surprised by how quickly some teams completed the puzzle. It seemed that some of our friends have done crossword puzzles frequently in the magazines before. What a great way to spend time when the internet was less popular.



It was such an interesting week that I got to know many new friends. If any reader wants to join the fun next time, please keep updated with the Center for Promotion of International Exchange!

(Written by Peem)

Friendly Visit from Indonesia

Hi guys, a couple weeks ago, 21 July 2022, Universitas Negeri Malang (State University of Malang) from Indonesia visited Saga University. The president of Universitas Negeri Malang, Prof. Dr. AH. Rofiuiddin M.Pd. along with other professors and the head of the International Relation has come to Saga University to discuss the activities that are possible to happen between both universities. Those activities include exchange programs, double degree programs and adjunct professor programs. The exchange programs have been continuing since 2015 when Universitas Negeri Malang sent some students to Saga University as SPACE program students until now, as well as Saga University sent some students to Universitas Negeri Malang as participants for UMiCamp since 2017. Such a collaboration!!



On the day, the professors from UM arrived at Saga Station, then we picked them up with Saga University staff. The professors from UM looked so excited for this visit that they took many pictures of Saga University. Their excitement kept going. On the way to Saga University we passed some spots of Saga city while Ms. Otsubo, a staff of Center for Promotion of International Exchange, explained signature places such as the Saga Prefectural Office, Saga Castle, rivers, statues, and so on. Those short drive tours got them more excited. They were interested in Saga at first sight. The head of International Relation of UM, Ms. Evi said "Saga is a good place to study since Saga is not that crowded like Fukuoka." because she stayed there the previous day. In addition, Prof. Hadi, the professor and the Director of Integrated Laboratory in UM (graduated from Hokkaido University) said "the smaller city brings the kind and humble people in it", and I say YES, that is Saga!



The cars had arrived in front of the rectoral building Saga University and the meeting was held in the president room. The meeting was about 20 minutes there and then another meeting was carried out at the Faculty of Science and Engineering along with other engineering professors of Saga University. The meeting opening was an UM and Saga University profile video playing which you can see from the link below.

(State University of Malang) <https://youtu.be/0o6AFtLuvBM>
(Saga University) https://youtu.be/dR6ZiP6_GXA.

The meeting brought them many topics and new activities to discuss.



Time flies fast and it was already time for the professors from UM to go back to Saga Station. Before a good-bye, we took a picture in front of Saga University with the "C pose" standing for "Cakrawala (horizon)" which is the UM mascot name.

(Written by Jevri)

Edited by

Peemaphat Buarapha, 2nd Year PhD Student of Science and Engineering

Myat Htoo San, 1st Year PhD Student of Agricultural Sciences

Takayuki Kunihiro, 4th Year Student of Secondary English Education

Jevri Tri Ardiansah, 2nd Year PhD Student of Computer Science

Special thanks to **Shiori Kitamura**, Office for Student Exchange