

## Undergraduate International Exchange at Kyoto University of Education

At Kyoto University of Education we have been actively supporting undergraduate and graduate student exchange with Shanghai Teachers University and the 41 Rajabhat University Consortium in Thailand. Having become the nucleus of exchange with the Thai Consortium, and having established exchange agreements between them and the 6 Education University Consortium in Kansai area of Japan. We have accepted numerous undergraduate students every year for short-term (roughly one year) exchanges with the help of scholarships from JASSO. On our part, we have sent one student to study in Thailand every year.

Student coming from abroad bring life to their language abilities by studying in Japanese and after graduation have successfully found employment in connection with Japanese business. Since 2001, graduates who have studied here have held a yearly reunion in Bangkok with roughly 30 participants in attendance, all speaking nostalgically of their time spent in Kyoto. Between them, a network has taken shape for exchange of information of all types.

In 2003, the national government established the Advanced Student Exchange Pilot Project Support Program, to which the 6 Education University Consortium of the Kansai area of Japan applied and was accepted. Under this program, undergraduate exchange students study for 3 months at a number of universities. On the Japan side, students take special consecutive courses at 3 Kansai area universities. In Thailand, the exchange students take courses at universities in Chiangmai, Ayutthaya and Bangkok.

So far, Fifteen students have been sent from 3 Japanese universities, living in dormitories and experiencing the life-style of Thai students. They have received an extraordinary education. Upon their return home they actively relate their experiences through talk, presentations, photos and the like. From this it becomes obvious how valuable exchange programs can be and how great an effect they can have on the lives of young people. This year, we continue the exchange, sending and welcoming 10 more students.

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