

5. FY2019 Progress

■ Common indicators and targets

Internationalization

○ Organization for International Collaboration: establishment of Western Sydney University Platform

Meiji University's Organization for International Collaboration held a ceremony to mark the establishment of Western Sydney University's international collaboration platform. Ever since signing a collaboration agreement and a memorandum on student exchange between the two universities in 2006, Meiji University and Western Sydney University have deepened their collaborative relationship through initiatives including short-term and long-term study abroad programs and the hosting of joint symposia, as well as a bidirectional double degree program between this university's School of Political Science and Economics and the School of Humanities and Communication Arts at Western Sydney University. We recently agreed to set up satellite offices on each other's campuses in order to promote collaboration in the areas of education and research. Following on from the opening ceremony for the Meiji University Centre on Western Sydney University's Parramatta City campus, the Western Sydney University Platform was opened in the Global Front building on Meiji University's Surugadai Campus, and a ceremony was held to mark the occasion. After signing a collaboration agreement, President Keiichiro Tsuchiya expressed his hopes for the partnership in his words of greeting, saying "I would like the relationship between the two universities to become even stronger, leading to even more opportunities for student exchange." It is hoped that faculty members and students of the two universities will go on to share information concerning issues facing humanity and society and work together to create solutions.



(Ceremony attendees from the two universities)

○ The School of Political Science and Economics launches a bidirectional double degree program with the Faculty of Political Science at Thammasat University, Thailand

The School of Political Science and Economics and Thammasat University's Faculty of Political Science have decided to start a bidirectional joint degree program, and a ceremony was held to sign the agreement. At the start of the signing ceremony, the Deans of both schools exchanged a few words of greeting. Dean Konishi said, "The conclusion of this agreement today, after a long period of preparation and discussion, is thanks to the hard work of the personnel of our two schools. I am very grateful to you for coming here today to sign this agreement." Dean Kamolvej expressed her hopes for further exchanges between the two universities in the future, saying, "I am very happy to see this day. I hope that we will see student exchange in both directions, on this double degree program in addition to the existing study abroad partnership (under which students are exempt from tuition fees) between the two schools." The School of Political Science and Economics has been implementing study abroad programs through which students can obtain degrees both from Meiji university and from an overseas university since the 2014 academic year, and Thammasat University is the sixth such partner university. The Graduate School of Business Administration has a track record of running bidirectional double degree programs, but this is the first such initiative at faculty level. Under this agreement, graduating students will be able to obtain a degree from Thammasat University's Faculty of Political Science in addition to their degree from Meiji University by taking designated classes at each university and meeting the requirements.



(Dean Kamolvej of the Faculty of Political Science and Dean Konishi of the School of Political Science and Economics (R))

Thammasat University

Established in 1934, two years after Thailand moved from rule by the monarchy to democracy. A comprehensive university with 14 faculties in the arts and the sciences, it has about 33,500 students enrolled on undergraduate and graduate courses. Over 300,000 alumni have graduated from the university and are active in Thailand and around the world.

○ Study Abroad "Festa" (information session) held for third-grade students intending to enter Meiji at Nakano Senior High School Attached to Meiji University

The International Student Center held a Meiji University Study Abroad Festa (information session) for third-grade students intending to enter Meiji at Nakano Senior High School Attached to Meiji University. At this information session, staff responsible for assisting students to study abroad explained Meiji University's study abroad system and initiatives to support study abroad. In addition, Professor Ayako Yokogawa of the Organization for International Collaboration gave a talk on the topic of learning English in preparation for study abroad. During the latter half of the session, Meiji University students who had studied abroad gave presentations on their experiences. Through lectures at affiliated schools and seminars during "open campus" events, the International Student Center will continue to disseminate information about study abroad. In this way the ISC will contribute to the development of graduates with international skills who can forge paths to the future in a rapidly changing environment.

University reform

○ Announcement of the "Grand Design 2030" long-term vision for education

Meiji University has unveiled its Grand Design 2030, a long-term vision for education. Looking ahead to the 150th anniversary of the university's founding in 2031, this lays out the vision and strategies to which our university should aspire. At the same time as reaffirming the spirit under which the university was established - our philosophy and mission - Grand Design 2030 presents a vision of the university ten years from now. This goes along with initiatives positioned as priority measures for its realization: the establishment of world-class degree programs which will move ahead with integrated, interdisciplinary research, and the provision of a full range of grants and subsidies to support students in undertaking diverse challenges. It also defines numerical targets, such as raising the proportion of classes taught in foreign languages to 30%.

Education reform

○ Professors from UC Irvine to Deliver “International FD Training”

We invited two professors from one of our global partner universities, University of California Irvine (UCI). They were with us for five days from September 2 to 6 to provide international faculty development (FD) training to our teaching staff. They discussed how to teach specialized subjects in English. Through workshops and discussions, the participants learned how to teach and manage a class in English, how to communicate with students, and how to ask effective questions. On the first day and the last day of the training, each participant practiced teaching a class, and the trainers gave them detailed feedback. The hands-on practice sessions gave the participants an opportunity to experience active learning teaching methods as practiced in the US, both theoretically and systematically.

■ University’s own indicators and targets

○ English Cafe opened to the general public - a place for exchange between local residents and international students

The International Student Center held a session of its English Cafe, where international and Japanese students can interact in English in a casual atmosphere, for local residents. The English Cafe began in 2016 as a venue for students to experience international exchange and intercultural understanding on campus, and has developed into a facility used by a total of over 2,500 students. It is usually targeted at students of the university, but past sessions for local residents were favorably received, so it was decided to call for participants again this year. Exchange activities using English, such as making origami and Christmas cards, were planned together with international student supporters. The Cafe attracted participants of many ages, from elementary school students to those in their sixties. This year’s Cafe was also a resounding success. Participants commented, “It was fun because I could use every day English. I’d like to take part again.” and “I usually only speak English with my teacher, so being able to talk with international students was a good experience.”



(Participants listen to a presentation by international students on Christmas culture in their home countries)

■ Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the university

○ The School of Law’s “Law in Japan Program 2019” - 52 students from 19 countries took part in the program at Meiji University

The School of Law held its long-running “Law in Japan Program”, which is a short summer study abroad program in English for foreign students to learn about the Japanese legal system. There were two sessions, one from July 1 - 12 (Session 1) and the other from July 29 - August 9 (Session 2). This program is now in its eleventh year, and has been held twice each year since 2017, owing to a growth in the number of applicants. The program is for people over the age of 18 from overseas who are undergraduate or graduate students or who hold at least a Bachelor’s degree. No legal knowledge is required. The 52 participating students from 19 countries included students from De La Salle University in the Philippines and Nanjing Normal University in China, universities with which the School of Law has faculty-level exchange agreements. They were joined by 12 program supporters, students in the School of Law. The program was made up of 21 hours of lectures and 10 hours of field trips. Participants learned about topics such as Japan’s judicial system and constitution, intellectual property law, and international law, and visited sites including law firms, the Tokyo District Public Prosecutor’s Office, a prison, and the Diet. The participants deepened their knowledge of a broad range of fields.

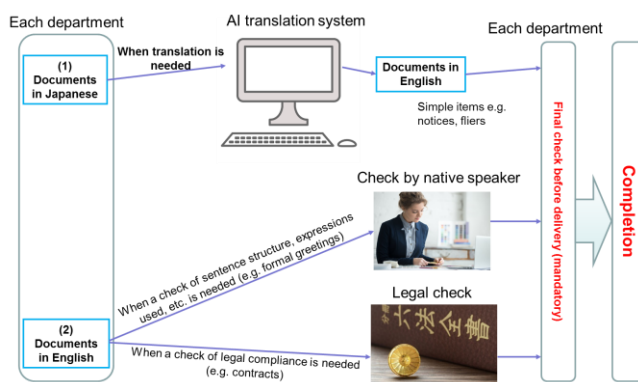


(Visit to the Diet (Session 2))

■ Free description

○ Construction of a university-wide translation task support structure using an AI translation system

From daily communication with the growing number of international students to the drawing up of various types of collaborative agreements with overseas universities, translation work is becoming necessary in many different areas of administrative work, increasing the staff’s workload. In this context, we are seeing a tendency for all these tasks to be done by a small number of staff with high-level language skills. This over-dependency could lead to a real risk that the work may not be carried out smoothly if such staff members were to be transferred or leave the university. Moreover, in the current situation where translation tasks are carried out individually by each department, it has become clear that there are discrepancies between the quality of finished translations and the terminology used, depending on the skills and translation style of the staff responsible. Taking these issues into account, a university-wide translation task support structure has been constructed, in order to (1) introduce an AI translation system which allows anyone to easily translate simple documents into English, somewhat reducing the burden on staff with high-level translation skills, to (2) enable checks by native speakers and (3) enable legal checks for important documents such as collaboration agreements.



(Diagram showing the translation support structure)