



THE KOKUTAIJI TIMES

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Hiroshima Prefectural Hiroshima Kokutaiji Senior High School

Summer 2018

Welcome to the Summer 2018 issue of The Kokutaiji Times, the English newsletter highlighting global education opportunities at Kokutaiji. This issue focuses on introducing this year's international events and programs, specifically the ones held from April to July. Please enjoy reading about the students' experiences!



国泰寺から世界へ！ Let's broaden our horizons!

★GLOBAL EXCHANGE THIS YEAR @ KOKUTAIJI HIGH SCHOOL



Month	Country	Opportunity
May	U.S.A.	☑ Visit to New York City and BCA for research exchange
June	Iran	☑ Science Dialogue - Lecture by an Iranian researcher
June	Russia	☑ Super Science Seminar - Lecture by a Russian zoologist
June	U.S.A.	☑ Lecture by renowned composer Chad Cannon
July	Hungary	A Kokutaiji Student Representing Japan in the Junior World Artistic Swimming Championship
July	U.S.A.	Exchange with Harvard University students at Kokutaiji
Jul. - Aug.	U.K.	Summer study and homestay in the U.K.
August	U.S.A.	Summer study and homestay in Hawaii
September	Australia	Global Science Campus - Research exchange in Adelaide
October	U.S.A.	Exchange with Moanalua students at Kokutaiji
October	U.S.A.	School trip to Hawaii General Course - Oahu Island, Science Course - Big Island
November	Thailand	A Kokutaiji Student Presenting in the EMECS12 Conference in Thailand
December	Various Countries	Empowerment Program at Kokutaiji Scholars visiting from various countries
March	U.S.A.	BCA attending Research Convention Science Contest at Kokutaiji
March	U.S.A.	Cultural exchange with HPA at Kokutaiji

1. 「アメリカ海外研修」報告

★VISITING BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES (BCA)★

In April of this year, six Kokutaiji High School students visited our sister school, Bergen County Academies, (BCA) in Bergen County, New Jersey, USA. They presented their scientific research to BCA students, experienced classes in an American high school and toured New York City.

Studies at BCA and Kokutaiji

I was very surprised when I visited BCA. BCA has several academies, and its coursework is similar to the coursework of Japanese universities. I was especially impressed by the equipment; every class has access to great equipment. For example, the students learning biology can study in a greenhouse which has precise temperature controls. It's large enough that a number of people can enter. There are also spaces where BCA students plant trees. The engineering courses develop machines for the purpose of solving environmental issues. They have 3D printers and machines capable of precise metal processing. These machines can be used by people outside of the school. I want to make something with these machines.

BCA also has many books and computers. Students use computers for studying, programming, and researching. Unfortunately Kokutaiji High School students can't do such things. But during the poster session, a BCA student said to me, "Your ideas are very good. BCA has a lot of things, but we don't think to do such experiments." So I think one of our strengths is that Kokutaiji High School students have imagination. Therefore I want to strive in science club activities and science class activities in order to develop this creativity and pass along this strength to our juniors. (Shohei Asakura)



The subjects that students at BCA study are different from the ones we study in Japan. For example, the students in the engineering academy first learn the foundation of engineering. Then, in the next year, they work on inventions they design themselves which are aimed at solving social problems. I would like to study as hard as them while remembering their determination to contribute to the society. Also, I was surprised to learn that each student was involved in various studies. One student, who was involved in particularly many studies, was doing several research projects, in programming, engineering, biology, afforestation and so on. These various activities help expand our viewpoints and improve our studies. I would like to study with such awareness. (Kodai Takemura)

Engaging with BCA Students

The first day at BCA, we participated in classes with BCA students. I noticed some similarities and differences between Kokutaiji and BCA. For example, BCA students do group activities and teach each other, as we do at Kokutaiji. However, BCA students are allowed to use technology when they

encounter unknown concepts during class. The classes at BCA were very student-centered. We all thought BCA's learning style greatly helps foster students' critical thinking.

During the breaks, I talked with my partner and her friends. They like Japanese anime, drama, and music, so we had a lively conversation.

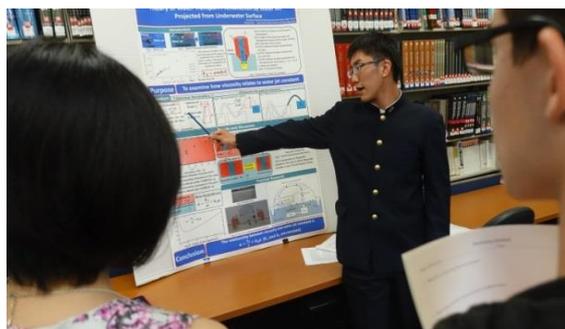
The second day at BCA, we had our poster sessions. I was worried whether they would enjoy our presentation. But it was unnecessary; they seemed very interested and looked intently at our poster. I was able to talk to a lot of students whom I had not talked with the day before, and I had a great time. When I first arrived at BCA, I was nervous and worried about whether I could communicate with them. But through our interactions, I realized that BCA students were not that different from Kokutaiji students. We really enjoyed engaging with BCA students. (Akiho Tao)



Poster Presentations at BCA

On the second day, we had a poster session of our research in science club, which was the very event I'd been looking forward to. We'd presented our research in Japanese many times until then, but this was the first time we presented in English. During the poster session, I left the manuscript on the table, and was determined to have fun while speaking in English. What I wanted to say turned into words that came out of my mouth naturally, and the listeners asked me a lot of questions and gave me advice, so I was delighted. The first presentation in English ended with greater success than I'd expected, and I felt I had made great progress towards my future.

The classes and research activities in BCA were very active, and all the students seemed to enjoy learning. It made me realize that I have to be more proactive and assertive in my learning. I regard this two-day visit as really meaningful because I could view myself more objectively. (Sakura Itatani)



Visiting United Nations and the Importance of Global Communication

On the last day, we took part in a tour of the United Nations. Through this tour, we learned about some of the problems the United Nations is tackling now, such as food shortage, nuclear issues, and lack of education for children who cannot go to school.



There were a lot of exhibitions from all over the world. We could observe various items and artifacts during the tour. Of these, we found the artifacts from the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We felt the scale of the damage of atomic bombs and the importance of peace. Moreover we realized the importance of informing others of how terrible war is so that such a war never happens again. The United Nations is focusing on 17 goals to develop a sustainable society. It can't achieve these aims on its own, so we thought about what we could do to help achieve these goals. I thought of what I would like to do to enhance the global environment, such as making appeals for peace, collecting donations, and other volunteer activities. (Kyoko Kanoe)



We learned about the situation of the world from different points of view by visiting the United Nations and 9.11 Memorial Park. In the future, we want to understand global movements from the Japanese perspective and the perspective of other countries, so that we can be aware of various ways of thinking. By taking part in this opportunity to study in the United States, we were able to explore diverse perspectives and different communication styles. We will work hard to share this experience with Kokutaiji students. (Asahi Tokunaga)

Renewing my Determination to Become a Scientist

Through this experience, I realized my perspective was very limited. The worries and thoughts I have in my daily life are seemingly less significant than worries that other people face. In some countries, people cannot worry about such things. I told myself that I must try my best for what I can do now. I do hope that we can someday live in a global society in which anyone can live a life without feeling anxiety for tomorrow and can freely partake in as much education as they want. I once again renewed my determination to be a scientist who opens up a new field in science to realize such a world. (Sakura Itatani)

Finally, we would like to thank all the people, including our school's alumni association and our teachers, who made this wonderful trip possible.

Thank you very much!!

(Kodai, Akiho, Asahi
Sakura, Kyoko, Shohei)



II. 海外からお招きした講師による講義・講演

★SCIENCE DIALOGUE – LECTURE BY AN IRANIAN RESEARCHER★

On June 1, 2018, Kokutaiji welcomed Dr. Amin Mojiri, an Iranian scientist who specializes in environmental science. Dr. Mojiri presented about his home country and environmental pollution in a Science Dialogue held for the second-year Science Course students. He is currently working at Hiroshima University, developing technology and systems for more environmentally-friendly waste management.

Dr. Mojiri started the Science Dialogue by sharing some pictures and information about his home country of Iran. Students were fascinated by the photos of famous buildings and monuments. Then, he used several videos to describe environmental pollution. The dialogue was very interactive as he asked students to take notes and asked them to answer subsequent questions about the content they heard in each video. It was challenging, but students were engaged and curious about the different



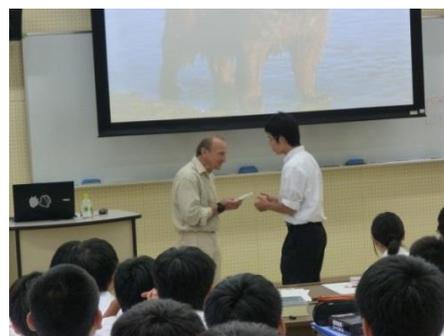
video styles and English accents found in each video. Following the dialogue, many students stayed to ask questions about environmental studies and Dr. Mojiri's work and life as a researcher.

★SUPER SCIENCE SEMINAR – LECTURE BY A RUSSIAN ZOOLOGIST★

On June 5, 2018, a Special Super Science Seminar was held for the first year students of Science Course. The guest speaker was a Russian zoologist, Dr. Vladimir Vershinin, who specializes in amphibians, and frogs in particular. He was visiting Hiroshima for a collaborative research project with Dr. Miura from Hiroshima University.

His lecture was entitled, "Russia, a bridge between Europe and Asia, and my decision to be a biologist," and he talked about Russian cultures and its beautiful nature. Using engaging slides, he showed us how big and diverse the country is. The students were really impressed by his lecture and asked a lot of questions about Russia and about Dr. Vladimir as well. A student asked about the Cyrillic alphabet, or letters used in Russian, which impressed the speaker.

Russia is a country close to Japan geographically but somehow far away from us. His lecture seems to have served, as in the title, as a bridge between our two countries.



★LECTURE BY RENOWNED COMPOSER CHAD CANNON★



For this year's OB Lecture, the Hiroshima Kokutaiji Senior High School Alumni Association invited Mr. Chad Cannon, a globally-renowned composer from the United States, to give a motivational speech to Kokutaiji students. On June 19, 2018, the students filed into the gymnasium, and I'm sure I was not the only one curious about our guest and the presentation. The students and teachers responded with curiosity and interest when Mr. Cannon began speaking in fluid Japanese, introducing himself and three other guests with him for the lecture. The guests were Ms. Angel Lam, a famous Hong Kong-born and New York-based composer, and Mr. and Mrs. Cannon, Mr. Chad Cannon's parents. They would later each give a short message to the students to encourage them in their future studies and work.

Mr. Cannon spoke about how he had been accepted to Harvard University, one of the world's most prestigious universities. He emphasized that passion and determination are the most influential factors in achieving your dreams. In addition, both of Mr. and Mrs. Cannon noted that Chad's success was thanks to the people he met and befriended at Harvard and around the world.

Throughout the lecture, Mr. Cannon shared with us some of his music and Ms. Lam's music, which included a recent piece in conjunction with a Japanese-Brazilian painter; a haunting composition in *Paper Lanterns*, a documentary that honored the work and life of Mr. Shigeaki Mori, a Hiroshima survivor and Kokutaiji High School alum; an emotional composition by Ms. Lam; and a dramatic piece emphasizing the disaster at the Fukushima nuclear plant. Each piece was striking and exquisite.

It was very refreshing to meet and listen to a lecture by an accomplished musician from the United States. I was captivated by his Japanese abilities and his presentation style. He utilized his resources and his guests, with grace, by inviting each of them to share some wisdom to the students. This provided a unique perspective from each of the guests, and allowed the students to see that a lecture can include different elements, in this case, different speakers. Music was a highlight and not an accompaniment to his presentation, which allowed us to experience and appreciate its sound. I was inspired by his example and his presentation to continue my studies and strive to be a better teacher for my students. I also hope the students maintain their curiosity in the world and pursue its many opportunities. This lecture gave everyone at Kokutaiji a rare opportunity to meet and to be encouraged by a driven and successful musician who clearly values international exchange and intercultural connections. May we also strive to pursue our dreams with such appreciation and dedication. (Cassidy To)



Please look forward to the next issue of the Kokutaiji Times, coming in Autumn 2018!