

On the Suspension of the IIE Journal

With this issue, the Institute of International Education journal will be suspended. This is due to the closure of the Institute of International Education (IIE). IIE was established in April 2014 and our faculty have been engaged in educational and research activities for seven years. The background of the establishment was to realize the international education vision of the former president Yu Fukui, who died the year before its establishment.

He had the foresight to understand that Japanese universities needed globalization. By having dialogue with international students and Japanese students in English, which is in large part a common language of the world, we aimed to create an education in which students can understand each other's cultures and values and at the same time acquire English proficiency.

Based on that philosophy, we initially considered the creation of a department to promote the study of international liberal arts, but as the number of applicants decreased in numbers greater than anticipated, we decided to establish IIE as a swift response to develop international education.

IIE has expanded its curriculum to include courses such as Global Japan Studies, Global Business Studies, and Global Career Seminar to study specialized subjects in English, and our faculty have done research and developed unique educational methods. This program has made it possible for students who have not mastered Japanese to study at our university as short-term international students, and international students join us every year, not only from Asia, but also from partner universities in the United States.

In addition, we have established a scholarship system for excellent students who can speak English, and the English proficiency of students at our university has improved dramatically. Unlike traditional English education in Japan, by actually conducting the entire class in English, not only reading and writing, but also listening and speaking abilities have improved, and practical English proficiency has also increased. At present, the number of students with high TOEIC scores continues to increase.

The international education in our university provided by IIE has also made great contributions to raising the profile and evaluation of the university. As the reputation of the program, "Otemae's Practical English" grew, the number of applicants also increased, and many high-level students are now enrolled.

The two pillars of IIE's international education and research were the IIE Journal and the International Education Symposium. We have worked not only with our researchers, but also with educators and researchers from other universities around the world. We would like to pay tribute to the efforts of all the researchers who have been a part of our work. We would like to thank Dr. Kathryn Tanaka for editing this journal, and who has acted as the editor-in-chief since the first issue, and to Mr. Daniel Tang for his continued assistance as the co-editor.

Next year will see an international and interdisciplinary studies department start here. We are grateful to have the dissolution of IIE be a progressive step towards new developments in international education and research, centered in that new department.

I hope that the time will come when this journal will be republished.

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