

# OIP Travel Grant: Faculty Report

## Official Version for Public Review

**Date** August 21, 2009  
**Name** Yoshiko Higurashi, Ph.D.  
**Faculty/Rank** Professor  
**Department** Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages  
**College** Arts and Letters  
**Office phone** 4-1005  
**Other phone**  
**E mail address** yhigurashi@mail.sdsu.edu

**Proposal title** Visits to (1) Hosei University, (2) Hirosaki University to secure 10 slots for our Exchange Programs and (3) Kyoto Sangyo University to create a new “Summer Study Abroad Program” for 10-15 students.

**Country/ies visited** Japan  
**Institution visited** Hirosaki University (exchange partner since March 2001)  
Kyoto Sangyo University (College of Business Administration’s exchange partner since 2007, a new exchange partner for all majors)  
Hosei University (a new exchange partner since July 2009)

**Dates of travel** Thursday, July 16, 2009 – Monday, August 10, 2009  
**Number of student participants:** None

**Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates):** 1

Title  
Visits to Oita University and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan to secure 10 slots for our Exchange Programs

Countries  
Japan

Dates  
Friday, March 20, 2009 – Thursday, April 2, 2009

**Have all required reports been submitted?** Yes  
**Other funding for this activity available/applied for:**  
Assistance from SDSU American Language Institute

### Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

I will deliver a new Exchange Agreement signed by President Weber to Hosei University (up to 5 new slots for full academic-year programs). I will visit Hirosaki University and iron out current problems, come up with workable solutions, and secure 5 slots for full academic-year programs, which would otherwise be lost. I will also visit Kyoto Sangyo University and examine the feasibility of our possible summer program offered by Extension for 10-15 slots.

## Travel report

I had a very productive visit. I visited Hirosaki University and ironed out current problems. I visited Kyoto Sangyo University. Although Kyoto Sangyo had to cancel its Intensive Japanese Language Program (IJP) due to its low enrollment, I was able to tour the facilities that our students would be using. A visit to Kyoto Sangyo was necessary not only for the observation of IJP but also for our regular exchange opportunity which will become available for all majors in the Fall of 2010. In addition, I delivered a new Exchange Agreement signed by President Weber to Hosei University. Hosei created an official Exchange Agreement Signing Ceremony for me. It was presided by Dr. Toshio Masuda, President, and other dignitaries.

I would like to mention that I was able to visit these institutions as the Director of Japan International Programs this time. It was clear to them that I represent SDSU officially. I am grateful that Dr. Sweedler created such a position for me and allowed me to use it on my business card.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **(1) Hirosaki University (Exchange Agreement signed in March 2001)**

#### **Background Information**

Hirosaki University is a national university founded in 1949. It has 5 Schools including the School of Medicine. There are 5,800 students including graduate students.

SDSU signed an agreement with them in March 2001. Both parties are willing to exchange up to five students. Hirosaki sent a group of 6 representatives to see how SDSU was handling financial issues as a state institution in March 2002. I volunteered to set up their appointments. I also functioned as their interpreter at their request.

SDSU has sent **14** students who stayed for a full academic year since 2003. However, they were able to send us only **one** student who came for the academic year of 2004-2005. Hirosaki University still does not regard the arrangement as fair to its students, for two reasons: (1) If their students wish to attend the American Language Institute, they must pay additional tuition and fees, since ALI is not an official part of SDSU. (2) Attendance at ALI does not guarantee acceptance by SDSU.

Therefore, I would like to visit Hirosaki University as someone who is in charge of SDSU's Japan Exchange Programs in July and meet with the faculty and staff members who are running the International Exchange Center. I also hope to meet with Dr. Masahiko Endo, the President of Hirosaki University, and deliver a letter from Dr. Sweedler in person.

Yoshiko Higurashi, Ph.D.

OIP Grant: Visits to Hirosaki University, Kyoto Sangyo University, and Hosei University in Japan

Travel Report (Travel Date: 07/16/09-08/10/09): Page 3

Hirosaki University (cont'd)

### **Actual Visits and Activities**

#### Tuesday, July 20

A luncheon meeting with Professor Juni Onishi, the Deputy Director of the Center (1.5 hours).

A meeting with the International Exchange Center faculty (4 hours):

Π Dr. Shiyuuichi Kuramata, Director

Π Dr. Jun Onishi, Deputy Director

Π Dr. Akira Kashima, Associate Professor

Π Ms. Hannah Sawada, Associate Professor

Π Ms. Nobuko Oyama, Associate Professor

A library tour given by Professor Nobuko Oyama (30 minutes).

A visit to the International House hosted by Professors Kashima and Sawada (1 hour).

#### Wednesday, July 21

A meeting over lunch with three SDSU students studying at Hirosaki University (2 hours):

Π Mr. Kevin Justice (Japanese and Linguistics)

Π Mr. Luis Rea (International Business)

Π Mr. Justin Barber (Undecided)

### **Discussions and Recommendations**

Hirosaki University was pleased that SDSU sent me to listen to their concerns. When I arrived at the Center, I presented two original copies of the letter issued by Dr. Sweedler to both Dr. Masahiko Endo, the President of Hirosaki University, and Dr. Kuramata, the Director of International Exchange Center. I also presented two sets of souvenir items: one for President Endo and the other for the International Exchange Center. They were deeply impressed. A letter and the gift set were brought to the Office of the President by the clerical head of the Center.

I was quite apologetic to them. I listened to them patiently most of the time until they exhausted their anger and frustration. Then I proposed some possible ways to accommodate their needs and requests. During our meeting, the Vice President of Hirosaki University came to say thank you for the letter and the gift. It turned out that Dr. Shinichi Suto, who was the head of the delegation team sent to SDSU in 2002, was now the Vice President. I could not contact him for this visit because I lost his contact information when my computer crashed.

Vice President Suto was pleasantly surprised and advised the Center faculty to continue to have an exchange relationship with SDSU. He described how much he and his delegation team enjoyed their visit to SDSU. The campus was beautiful and the hospitality was incredible. He even said that he would choose SDSU over UC Berkeley.

Yoshiko Higurashi, Ph.D.

OIP Grant: Visits to Hirosaki University, Kyoto Sangyo University, and Hosei University in Japan

Travel Report (Travel Date: 07/16/09-08/10/09): Page 4

His appearance really helped me. In addition, Dr. Kuramata and Dr. Onishi were in support of SDSU from the very beginning.

Eventually, it was agreed that Hirosaki would continue to accept up to 3 students every year. In return, Hirosaki would like SDSU to consider the following:

**Summer (First Session) as part of Exchange Program, if Students Wish to Stay Longer:** Hirosaki asked SDSU to give this option as part of the exchange agreement to their students, if they wish to stay and do one 6-week session during the summer. If this can be permitted, it will help reduce the imbalance problem more quickly. I said that I would consult with Dr. Sweedler on this and ask him to get back to them directly.

**Screening:** Hirosaki understands that SDSU requires the applicants to take Japanese in both semesters during the year of application and earn C or above. They asked us to add a requirement: They should have taken Japanese during the previous academic year at SDSU and been approved by their instructors not only in terms of academic skills, but also their motivation and behavior and attitude. They also asked SDSU to send students who do not have attendance problems.

I wish to mention, however, the good intentions of Hirosaki's top administration. President Endo sent the manager of the International Center in order to hand deliver his gift for Dr. Sweedler to me on July 22.

## **(2) Kyoto Sangyo University (Exchange Agreement signed in December 2007)**

### **Background Information**

Kyoto Sangyo University (KSU) is a private institution with approximately 13,100 students (12,800 undergraduate students and 300 graduate students) situated in the ancient capital of Japan. It was founded in 1963.

SDSU already has an agreement with KSU which was signed in 2007. This agreement was originally for CBA students only. However, both Provost Marlin and Dr. Sweedler asked me to consider the possibility of creating a study tour to Japan for the summer of 2010. KSU has been offering a successful summer program called *Intensive Japanese Language & Culture Program (IJP)*. I received a positive report from one faculty member and one student who participated in their program. Thus I met with Professor Yoko Imai, the Director of the Center for International Programs, and Mr. Paul Churton, the Program Coordinator at the Center for International Programs, when they visited SDSU on February 27, 2009.

I began seeing a great potential in working with Paul and creating a tour to Japan with him. It might be possible to use his IJP as the core of our study tour. Their program runs from Friday, June 20, to Saturday, July 18, this year. I hope to visit KSU when this program is in session to check the actual site and examine the feasibility for our possible summer program. It is good to know that Mr. Churton is eager to have a group from SDSU for his IJP.

## **Actual Visits and Activities**

### **Monday, July 27**

An introductory meeting with the staff of the Center for International Programs (15 minutes)

Π Mr. Katsumi Seki, Manager

Π Mr. Paul Churton, Program Coordinator

Π Ms. Michiko Yoshikoka, Program Coordinator

Π Ms. Mika Watanabe

Π Ms. Izumi Oki

A meeting with representatives from the Center (2.5 hours)

Π Mr. Katsumi Seki, Manager

Π Mr. Paul Churton, Program Coordinator

Π Ms. Michiko Yoshikoka, Program Coordinator

A meeting over lunch with representatives from the Center (2 hours)

Π Dr. Yoko Imai, Director

Π Mr. Katsumi Seki, Manager

Π Mr. Paul Churton, Program Coordinator

A meeting with the Japanese Language Program faculty (1 hour)

Π Ms. Sachiko Kitagawa, Senior Lecturer

A meeting with an SDSU student currently study at KSU (30 minutes)

A meeting with 10 Kyoto Sangyo Students who will be attending a three-week English class at ALI beginning on August 24 (1 hour)

## **Discussions and Recommendations**

It was disappointing that KSU cancelled its Intensive Japanese Language Program (IJP) due to its low enrollment. However, I am still glad that I visited them because they made one regular exchange spot available for all majors beginning in the Fall of 2010. I needed to see the facilities our students would be using before I solicit applications for KSU in the Fall of 2009.

Everything I observed looked clean and nice to me. The International Residence is maintained very neatly by two resident managers. I will promote their IJP Program among those students who hope to go to Japan during the summer. I hope that I will be of assistance to them so that they can offer IJP next year. I am unable to plan a summer study tour until I see IJP in session. I hope to be able to visit KSU next summer.

### **(3) Hosei University (New Exchange Agreement signed in July 2009)**

#### **Background Information**

Hosei University, founded in 1880, is a reputable private university with approximately 30,300 students (28,300 undergraduate students and 2,000 graduate students) situated in the heart of Tokyo. They have 300 international students from various countries. The Exchange Students from Overseas Program (ESPO) has agreements with 26 institutions in 12 countries. From the U.S., Truman State University, Baylor University, UC Davis, and Boise State University have established agreements with Hosei.

I have been working with Professor Rebecca Erwin Fukuzawa, Professor of Japanese Studies at Hosei, regarding a possible exchange agreement for several years. Becky herself was an exchange student from Earlham College to Waseda University, my alma mater, in the mid 1970s. We have been good friends since then.

Professor Fukuzawa has visited SDSU twice. Hosei already has its Senate's approval to sign the exchange agreement. I already met with Hosei's top administration, the Director of the Japanese Language Program, and International Center staff members when I visited Hosei in March, 2009.

Although the Exchange Agreement Hosei is willing to sign says that 2 students are to be exchanged annually, Hosei is willing to exchange up to 5 students. I would like to visit Hosei again and hand deliver the Exchange Agreement signed by our President Weber to Dr. Toshio Masuda, Hosei's President, for his signature when I return to Japan in July.

#### **Actual Visits and Activities**

##### Thursday, July 30

A luncheon meeting with Professor Rebecca E. Fukuzawa, Deputy Director of International Programs (1.5 hours).

An Agreement Signing Ceremony (1 hour)

Π Dr. Toshio Masuda, President

Π Dr. Akira Tokuyasu, Vice President for International Affairs

Π Dr. Rebecca E. Fukuzawa, Deputy Director, International Center

Π Mr. Kimiyoshi Hayashi, Associate Vice President for International Affairs

Π Mr. Yasuhisa Hirooka, Assistant Director, International Center

Π Ms. Kimiko Hotokezaka, Executive Assistant, International Center

A meeting with Dr. Kazuto Yana, Dean, Faculty of Science and Engineering, regarding a possible annual Study Abroad tour to ALI beginning in 2010:

Π Dr. Kazuo Yana, Dean, Faculty of Science and Engineering

Π Dr. Rebecca E. Fukuzawa, Deputy Director, International Center

Yoshiko Higurashi, Ph.D.

OIP Grant: Visits to Hirosaki University, Kyoto Sangyo University, and Hosei University in Japan

Travel Report (Travel Date: 07/16/09-08/10/09): Page 7

II Mr. Kimiyoshi Hayashi, Associate Vice President for International Affairs

II Ms. Kimiko Hotokezaka, Executive Assistant, International Center

A meeting over dinner at the house of Professor Rebecca E. Fukuzawa (3 hours)

### **Discussions and Recommendations**

I was extremely pleased that Hosei set up a formal ceremony for the exchange agreement signing. I presented Dr. Sweedler's letter to Hosei's President Masuda with souvenir items. He was very much interested in SDSU. He even asked me if there is anything he could do to make our students' stay fruitful.

I mentioned internship opportunities. SDSU's International Business majors are required to do 150 hours of internship in one company if they do semester abroad programs. Hosei's alumni include numerous successful business owners. If our students can do even 40-50 hours of internship per company for 3-4 companies, it would add up to 150 hours. However, this is not limited to IB majors. Any majors would benefit from such opportunities. Most of the students who are taking Japanese are interested in teaching English in Japan some time after graduation. If they could sign up for Special Study or Internship Program at Hosei and help teach English in class as professor's assistants, they could claim that they already have experience at Hosei when they apply for a JET Program or any similar competitive programs. This would be a tremendous help to our students. Professor Rebecca Fukuzawa, who teaches English in the Engineering Department, was fascinated with this idea. She always wanted to have native speakers of English to help her students improve communicative skills. If such help is provided free of charge, this could be a win-win situation for both Hosei and SDSU! We enjoyed our brainstorming conversation very much. The Agreement Signing Ceremony ended in a very hopeful mood.

Hosei also set up a meeting for me to meet with Dr. Kazuo Yana, the Dean of the Faculty (= College) of Science and Engineering. Dean Yana was looking for an institution where his students (20-40 students) could study English for three weeks beginning late August in 2010. This is going to be an annual program. He is eager to learn more about SDSU's American Language Institute. He will be visiting SDSU/ALI on Tuesday, September 8.

I already contacted Dr. William Price, the Executive Director of ALI, Katherine Dupre, the Senior Director of ALI, and Patrick Colabucci, the Academic Director of ALI, on his visit. I am going to contact Dean Maloy of the College of Sciences and Dean Hayhurst of the College of Engineering for possible meetings. I hope that this is going to be an additional feature our Exchange Agreement with Hosei brings to SDSU.

### **(4) Meeting with Professor Wakako Murakami of Chuo University in Tokyo**

I met with Dr. Wakako Murakami Chuo University in Tokyo for four hours on Sunday, August 2. Chuo has been famous for its law school for decades. Its international studies,

Yoshiko Higurashi, Ph.D.

OIP Grant: Visits to Hirosaki University, Kyoto Sangyo University, and Hosei University in Japan

Travel Report (Travel Date: 07/16/09-08/10/09): Page 8

such as the School of Policy Studies, have gained recognition recently. Their campus moved from downtown Tokyo to Hachioji, a suburban area of Tokyo, 10-15 years ago.

Since both of our partner institutions (Aoyama Gakuin University and Hosei University) are located in downtown Tokyo, I thought that it would be beneficial if an opportunity is available for our students at a quiet suburban area of Tokyo. Professor Murakami thinks that Chuo is very much interested in beginning an exchange program with an institution on the U.S. West Coast. She advised me to contact Chuo's International Center and visit them when I come to Japan next time.

## **(5) Meeting with Professor Chizuyo Kojima**

I met with Professor Kojima on Wednesday, August 5 for 3 hours. She is teaching part-time at four universities, including Waseda University, Rikkyo University, Nihon Ika Daigaku (= Japan University of Medicine).

Since Professor Kojima teaches at four universities, she is thoroughly knowledgeable about the needs of college students in Japan. She thinks that the School of Foreign Languages at Rikkyo University might be interested in starting an exchange program with SDSU. She also thinks that many students of all four universities she is teaching are interested in short-term English study on the West Coast during their spring break (2 months) and summer break (2 months).

I hope to visit Rikkyo and find out if Rikkyo can offer SDSU students the kind of exchange opportunities not available at Aoyama Gakuin and Hosei. I would also like to ask Rikkyo if they are interested in a semester abroad program.

\* \* \* \* \*

In sum, I was able to work out problems with Hirosaki University and regain their trust in SDSU (saved 3 slots). I was able to see the facilities of Kyoto Sangyo University so that I can announce an exchange opportunity with KSU available for all majors this fall (1 slot). I delivered the new Exchange Agreement signed by President Weber to Hosei, and Hosei's President Masuda signed it (created up to 5 slots). My visit also brought a significant number (20-40 students annually) of potential clients to ALI.

In addition, I met with Professor Murakami of Chuo University and Professor Kojima of Rikkyo University and three other universities. SDSU might be able to start an exchange agreement with Chuo and Rikkyo. I might be able to bring potential clients from these schools to ALI.

I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to help SDSU internationalize its academic curriculum. It has been fulfilling and rewarding.