



International Cooperation Studies

Unit: Fostering international understanding and community



Marshall Smith



Presentation outline

- Introduction to the university
- Creative actions the university has taken
- International Cooperation Studies (ICS) Unit





Presentation outline

- **Introduction to the university**
- Creative actions the university has taken
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Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

- Herein known as ‘the University’
- Part of the former national university system
- Located in important agriculture area and highly specialized in agriculture sciences and veterinary medicine
- Small student population...
about **1300** students
over **65** international students
from over **20** countries
about **130** teaching staff





Basic policy of the University

To contribute to local and **international society** through **human resource training in the advancement of food safety**.

- Ideal agriculture-based location
- Experimenting and implementing leading-edge fundamental and applied research
- Veterinary medicine, agriculture, and animal husbandry - herein collectively called 'agriculture'



Internationalization policy

University efforts to develop programs for increasing not only

international awareness and

understanding, but also

motivation and

capacity for making a difference - having a positive impact on the earth's global community.



Mission

To contribute to local and international communities through human capacity development for “protecting people’s life by supporting food safety and security”, while further advancing the university motto of intellectual creativity and practical studies.





Changing dynamics of freshman students

Before

- Adequate preparation
- Knowledge and experience
- Clear objectives

Today

- Lack of preparation
- Lack of knowledge and experience
- Lack of motivation (couldn't get into other program)
- Stereotyped attitudes (of agriculture)
- Uncertainty



Reasons for changing dynamics

- Shrinkage of farm communities (urbanization)
- Decreasing number of students with agriculture background and knowledge
- Increase in college enrollment rate (drop in quality)
- Changes in career guidance
- Changes in admissions system





Expanding field of agriculture

Traditional specialties

- Crop production
- Animal husbandry

Newer specialties

- Plant and animal research
- Exotic animals (ostriches for meat)
- Wildlife
- Agriculture and environmental issues
- Agriculture engineering
- Agriculture economics
- Grasslands agriculture
- Biotechnology

- Ecology
- Environmental and agricultur





Problems arising

A lack of preparation and experience for incoming freshman students forces them to endure unnecessary struggles (uncertainties) which, in turn, often result in...

- **learning disappointments**
- **decline in motivation**
- **poor career choices**





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Creative actions

- Curriculum improvements
- Agriculture training program for freshmen
- English Resource Center (ERC)
- Center for University Educational Affairs (CUEA)
- Closer JICA cooperation
- Exchange agreements with foreign universities
- International Cooperation Studies (ICS) Unit



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- Introduction to the university
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- **International Cooperation Studies (ICS) Unit**





ICS outline

- Background of ICS
- Educational program for ICS
- Overseas practice
- **International Cooperation Studies (ICS) Unit**





Japan's responsibility in international communities

- Global issues
- Food crises
- Energy crises
- Environmental problems
- Epidemics, health and hygiene issues
- Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)
- Poverty alleviation
- Education, health and environmental development
- Gender issue and empowerment of women



International Cooperation Studies (ICS) Unit

ICS Unit designed to provide students with supplementary training opportunities for better understanding of developing countries and their problems, and for gaining experience in effective problem resolution





Current professional units

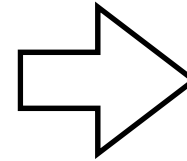
Life Science

Animal Production

Food Science

Environmental Agriculture

Agricultural Economics



**International
Cooperation
Studies (ICS)
Unit**



Two introductory classes

- International Cooperation Studies for Agricultural Development
- Comparative Studies on World Animal Agriculture





Four core ICS subjects

1. International Cooperation Debate
2. Overseas Practice
3. International Cooperation Training Program
4. International Cooperation Internship





International Cooperation Debate

- Classes in English
- Topics closely related to international cooperation
- How to...
- improve communication skills
- organize and conduct a discussion session
- prepare a professional presentation





Overseas Practice

- Three-week intensive program including preliminary orientation sessions and foreign country study tour that includes visiting various sites - dairies and farms (for crop and animal production), places for food processing, marketing and/or export, laboratories and research institutes responsible for food safety, sites of historical and cultural importance, as well as government agencies, organizations and projects involved in official overseas development cooperation, and NPOs/NGOs - and interviewing personnel, conducting literature searches and discussion sessions, and journaling and evaluating each day's activities.
- Students are introduced to the real situation of developing countries, where food security and safety are the most serious and pressing agenda for eradicating poverty.
- Students are given opportunities to understand the situation of food production, processing and marketing, and to study strategies leading to food security and safety in developing countries.



Thailand Schedule

- Day 1** JICA Headquarters and project visit
- Day 2** Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Department of
Livestock Development
Local markets
- Day 3** Horticulture Research Center
- Day 4** Livestock and Breeding Center (swine)
Livestock and Breeding Center (dairy)
- Day 5** Khon Kaen University agriculture research and
demonstration sites
JICA water harvest project
- Day 6** Khon Kaen University saline soil research site
- Day 7** Dusit Zoo (animal care)
Floating market



Thailand Schedule

- Day 8** Kasetsart University - rice, orchids and asparagus crops
- Day 9** Food processing factories for export to Japan
- Day 10** Wildlife Conservation Center and Quarantine Unit
- Day 11** Mahidol University
Wildlife sanctuary
Elephant camp
- Day 12** Mahidol University
Student presentations
- Day 13** History and cultural tour





Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine





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International Cooperation

Students...

- organize a training program for international students studying in Japan.
- introduce international students to large-scale farming and related technical training typical in Hokkaido.
- introduce Japanese cultural tradition and life.
- overcome cultural differences and language barriers.
- gain valuable experience from planning to executing a training program.



International Cooperation

Students...

Internship

- are provided with opportunities to experience the actual operations of international cooperation activities in a real working situation.
- are attached to an organization that conducts international cooperation activities either in Japan or overseas.
- can select from government, private, international or NGO/NPO agencies, depending on the student's preferences and future prospects.



Thesis research project

Technical approaches closely related to solving problems of developing countries.





Additional studies

Agronomy for cold and dry areas
Regional environmental planning
Plant biotechnology



Sustainable energy and environment
Environmental conservation
Environmental agriculture



国立大学法人
帯広畜産大学
Obihiro University of
Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine



Agriculture training program for freshmen (Three-part program)

- Agriculture practice
- Introductory seminars
- Basic education seminars





Unique program

- University wide – covers all incoming freshmen during first year
- Six classes of 30 – 40 students
- Each class is further subdivided into 3 sections
- Each class has one main teacher and two assistant teachers
- All teachers participate on a rotating basis
- All university disciplines involved



Agriculture Practice

Field work

- Preparing for planting
- Planting vegetables
- Weeding & mulching
- Harvesting
- Soil analysis

Dairy activities

- Milking
- Making ice cream

Field work





Dairy activities



Milking cows



Raising pigs





Sheep shearing





Horseback riding



Campus beautification



Harvest Festival

