

# FY2014 Inter-University Exchange Project Niigata University

Support for the Formation of Collaborative Programs with Russian and Indian Universities

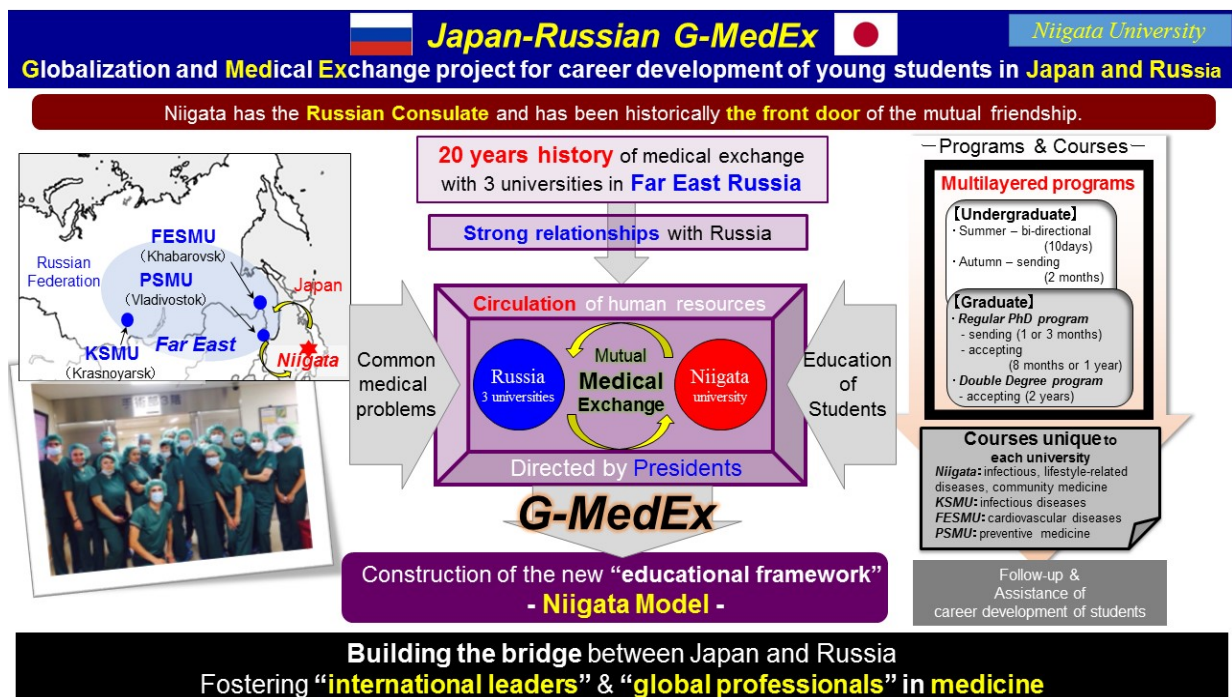
## 1. Outline

**[Name of project]** (Adopted year: FY2014, Country (Russia))

Construction of the global framework promoting the collaborative education and career development for young medical students in Japan and Russia

**[Summary of Project]**

Niigata University has about twenty year history of student and doctor exchange programs based on bilateral cooperation agreement with three Russian Universities - Krasnoyarsk State Medical University (Krasnoyarsk), Far Eastern State Medical University (Khabarovsk) and Pacific Medical University (Vladivostok). This project is based on collaboration with three main partner universities and aims for making a bridge between Japan and Russia, building the education framework that will help to foster "global medical leaders" and contribute to the progress of the world medicine. We set up a multilayered program which is available to undergraduate and graduate medical students as well. Cooperation between Russia and Niigata, focused on fostering young generation and supporting the career path will lead to improvement of health and welfare for both sides, will help to solve the same world problems. New generation of specialists that are going to be fostered due to this project will support and contribute to the future spread and establishment of "Japanese medical standards", they will provide us new world leaders who can work effectively on a global stage. As a result, using healthcare system, relationships based on mutual trust will be established and they will significantly contribute to the economic and industrial growth of both countries.



**[Summary of Exchange program]**

Program consists of A. Medical student exchanges (aiming at undergraduate medical students) and B. Graduate student exchanges. A includes (i) Summer exchange program: Accepting and sending students for about 10 days during summer vacation. Students attend lectures and seminars, study clinical and basic medicine. (ii) Autumn medical research training program: A full-fledged research training for two months in Russia. As a result students get 7 credits which are accepted at Niigata University.

B includes (i) Double Degree Program (DDP): Students study two years in Russian University and two years in Niigata University using credit transfer system. (ii) RPP (Regular PhD Program), using credit transfer system. Russian students will be accepted for up to 1 year period, Japanese students will be sent to Russia for 1-3 months, basing on the needs and seeds of both countries, they will be offered a special course mainly on infectious diseases, cardiovascular disorders, lifestyle-related diseases and community medicine.

**[Global Human Resource on the project]**

Our aim is to foster new generation of world leaders - doctors, medical science researchers, who will be able to contribute to the advancement of medicine and medical care in Japan and Russia, who will be able to work effectively on the global stage. These specialists will get the necessary present knowledge and skills required in rural and low populated areas and they will also acquire the global perspective in order to cooperate with patients and medical scholars all over the world.

**[Feature on the project]**

This project will educate young specialists, fostering "global medical leaders" and it will become a linchpin of Japan and Russia. It will help to expand medical cooperation between two countries and to educate highly qualified specialists who will be able to hold key positions in healthcare system and contribute to improving the health and welfare of people all over the world.

**[Exchange number]**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Outbound	0	11	11	13	15
Inbound	0	11	11	18	21

## 2. FY2014 Progress

### 【Name of project】(Adopted year: FY2014, Country ( Russia ) )

Construction of the global framework promoting the collaborative education and career development for young medical students in Japan and Russia

#### ■ Exchange Programs



<Summer medical student exchange program 2015>

2014 was a preparation period in order to establish a full-fledged program, so we laid the groundwork of future student exchanges which will in fact start in 2015. At first, we have established a Control Center which consists of competent professionals with necessary language skills and rich international experience in order to set up the collaboration with partner universities in a close contact. In addition, a booklet, leaflets were issued and project website was created in order to introduce this project widely, not only in medical campus but within the whole university. Sessions of Internal and External Steering Committees, Evaluation Committee hearing were held; people in charge of the project and Control Center personnel visited partner universities several times, held meetings and carried out FD in order to explain the program content fully; administrative and management systems of the project were set up.

#### Student-Mobility

##### ○ Outbound

Sending students to Russia in 2014 was not planned according to the project, but 9 students visited partner universities in Russia under the framework of International Medical Student Week which is usually held every year in summer under agreement of graduate student exchange with three Russian universities.

##### ○ Inbound

As well as in case of outbound students, no inbound students were planned for 2014, but 9 students from Russia came to Niigata under the framework of International Medical Student Week which is usually held every year in summer under agreement of graduate student exchange with three Russian universities.

	2014	
	Plan	Results
Outbound	0	0
Inbound	0	0



<Conference on International Cooperation Management >

#### ■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

Together with Academic Affairs Division of Niigata University School of Medicine we have managed the strict credit transfer and accumulation system for PhD students. Control Center which is responsible for the entire program management and public relations was organized. In addition, University Steering Committee and International Steering Committee were set up. Conference on International Cooperation Management was held in March. It gave a chance to discuss problems and difficulties of the project implementation, to share the necessary information. Working group consisting of competent professionals was also organized, it helped to improve the program a lot.

#### ■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

In accordance with the demand of Niigata University international students, "Japanese language courses for international students" were organized. Mental and physical help support system for international students was set up as well. Members of Control Center went on a business trip to all partner universities and collected the necessary information about study and residence facilities. Krasnoyarsk State Medical University was chosen as a hub university. It has already had Japan-Russia Center for Infectious Diseases organized in collaboration with the Japanese side and there are also members of the university staff who can speak Japanese. So, Krasnoyarsk State Medical University will unite all three partner universities and organize student care system, including physical and mental health care.

#### ■ Internationalization of the university

##### Information disclosure and Publication of outcome

In addition, a web site of the project was created. It contains information about outline of the project, its implementation status, student recruitment and current reports in Japanese, English and Russian. Up-to-date information about the results, current status and reports of students who took part in the project will be also uploaded in order to increase the awareness of other students willing to study abroad.

#### ■ Notices

Members of Control Center visited all three partner universities in March in order to understand their realia, study and residential facilities, as well as to carry out FD and to reach mutual understanding for effective management of the project.

Though no inbound and outbound students were planned for 2014, summer medical student exchange program students and students under the framework of "Special program for priority placement of foreign students" were accepted in Niigata University. Due to them it was understood that students have particular difficulties in practical sides of life, including isolation and loneliness they feel coming to the foreign country. So it was decided to organize special events for students and Japanese classes where students can meet and communicate with each other.

In case of graduate student program, university specialists from both sides discuss the research content in advance and carry on all the necessary negotiations before students actually go abroad, making the program fruitful and useful for students.

# 3. FY2015 Progress

【Niigata University】

## 【Name of project】(Adopted year: FY2014, Country (Russia ))

Construction of the global framework promoting the collaborative education and career development for young medical students in Japan and Russia

### ■ Exchange Programs



〈Graduate student performing the experiment〉

Four exchange programs started in 2015: “undergraduate student exchange” (Summer exchange program・Autumn medical research training program) and “graduate student exchange” (Regular PhD program<RPP>・Double degree program<DDP>). “English” is the language of the project. According to the agreement signed with three universities, FD and presentations of research projects were organized; project’s office on the Russian side (Krasnoyarsk State Medical University) was set up to coordinate student exchanges and research activities. This program graduate’s association was organized in order to maintain friendly relations after studying abroad. Working Group Committee, Steering Committee, Internal and External Evaluation Committees meetings were carried out, so as a result up to the moment the project was successfully implemented. Results of all four programs were summarized in a booklet, as well as project’s homepage was created demonstrating achieved results and giving all the necessary information available not only to Niigata University, but to other universities too.

### Student-Mobility

#### ○ Outbound

Summer exchange program (10 - 15 days): 10 students, autumn medical research training program (about 2 months)] 1 student, RPP (about 2 weeks)] 2 students, total of 13 students visited 3 partner universities.

#### ○ Inbound

Summer exchange program (13 days): 11 students, RPP (2 weeks to 2 months): 4 students, total of 15 students from 3 partner universities visited Niigata University. Though it is not included to the total number of year 2015, 2 students enrolled in the 4-year DDP for the first time. It is planned that they will get PhD both in Russia and Japan. They will spend first two years studying in Russia and then they will come to Niigata University for next two years, aiming at getting PhD.

	2015	
	Plan	Results
Outbound	11	13
Inbound	11	15

### ■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

“Control Center” (consists of four staff members who can speak English or Russian) belongs to the School of Medicine, administrates and manages the project in cooperation with Academic Affairs Division, strictly ensuring academic progress and following credit transfer system. 2015 is the first year when actual results were gotten, so starting from the next year in order to make outbound/inbound students’ academic and research achievements transparent, we will do our best to apply credit transfer system to all types of programs. Various Evaluation Committees and Internal/External Steering Committees meetings have been regularly hold, all the results thoroughly checked and advice given by experts followed in order to carry out the following project industriously.

### ■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

“Healthcare center” which consists of four doctors including psychiatrist was established within the University to support foreign students. This organization can take care about physical and mental health of students. We also made a list of 8 hospitals located in Niigata city where students can communicate with doctors in English, so students can go there if they have health problems and in case of emergency as well. As for the Japanese language learning support, it should be mentioned that invited lecturers gave a course of lectures in “Medical Japanese”. From 2016 Japanese became a part of syllabus for foreign students of the Medical and Dental Schools. Niigata University together with partner universities organized “Japan-Russia Emergency Contact Network” for inbound and outbound students, assistance is available 24 hours a day. For both Japanese and Russian students fully equipped accommodation within the campus or near is available for free.



〈Russian students making presentation at the public lecture〉

### ■ Internationalization of the university

#### Information disclosure and Publication of outcome

Report booklet containing information about all the programs was published in three languages – Japanese, English, Russian and distributed to Japanese and foreign partners. The web page of this project was also created (in three languages-Japanese, English and Russian), giving the summary of the project, its implementation status, information on recruitment of participants and English reports of students who took part in the project. Facebook page of graduate’s association was also set up. These pages are frequently updated. In cooperation with the “Niigata City International Exchange Association”, a “public lecture” was hold to introduce the history of Japan-Russia medical exchanges, Russian culture and the abovementioned project of Niigata University. It helped Russian students to get acquainted with Japanese citizens and promoted future exchanges. During the summer medical exchange program students were interviewed by journalists from NHK and a local newspaper, so using mass media we shared information with other people interested in the project.

### ■ Notices

During the summer medical student exchange there was a trouble with the transit airplane. Three outbound students could not get on the necessary airplane and had a sudden stopover in the transit airport. With the help of “Japan-Russia Emergency Contact Network”, staff of the partner university ensured students’ safety, arranged accommodation, airport transfers, flight re-arrangement and demonstrated rapid response. Training in partner universities for autumn medical research training program is set up on one-on-one guidance base provided by local teachers. The student is also provided by a graduate student as a tutor, which is really generous of partner universities. After a strict evaluation by the Japanese and Russian teachers, 7 credits are given to students who successfully finished the program. Although in 2015 credit transfer system was applied only to autumn medical research training program, the results of the program were successful, so starting from 2016 credits are going to be given to participants of all the programs. The necessary paperwork has been just finished and a special framework was created for it.

## 4. FY2016 Progress

【Niigata University】

### 【Name of project】(Adopted year: FY2014, Country (Russia))

Construction of the global framework promoting the collaborative education and career development for young medical students in Japan and Russia



〈 Students of Niigata University with certificates of completion 〉

In 2016, A. Undergraduate medical student exchange (① Summer Exchange Program, ② Medical Research Training Program), B. Graduate Student Exchange (③ DDP-Double Degree Program, ④ RPP-Regular PhD Program) programs were implemented and planned exchanges were fully performed, sometimes target numbers were even exceeded. Last year for the first time ① students who participated in Summer Exchange Program had an opportunity to take part in Japan-Russia Medical Symposium held at Krasnoyarsk State Medical University, they also made presentations; ④ RPP students participated in Far Eastern Federal District Regional Student Surgical Olympics. We have developed new and improved already existing programs from the viewpoint of student education and research promotion. We have also did our best to promote not only academic activities, but cross-cultural understanding as well, organizing various events for exchange students.

### Student-Mobility

#### ○ Outbound

① Summer exchange program (10 - 15 days): 7 students, ② autumn medical research training program (about 2 months) 7 students, ① RPP (about 2 weeks) 2 students, total of 16 students visited 3 partner universities.

#### ○ Inbound

① Summer exchange program (13 days): 12 students, ④ RPP (2 weeks to 2 months): 4 students, newly established ② medical research training program: 1 student, total of 17 students from 3 partner universities visited Niigata University. Three students (one from each partner university) enrolled in the 4-year ③ Double Degree Program (the period of studying in Niigata University is scheduled for 2018-2019). Students spend first two years studying in Russia and then they come to Niigata University for next two years, aiming at getting PhD in both countries.

	2016	
	Plan	Results
Outbound	11	16
Inbound	11	17

### ■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

Administration of the entire project and public relations are carried out by Control Center. International Cooperation Steering Committee was held four times last fiscal year and at the end of the fiscal year Internal and External Evaluation Committee meetings were held. Results of the consultation and advice from evaluation committees were included in the business plan of this fiscal year and widely reported on symposiums, workshops and FDs. Results of this inter-university exchange project can be already seen and it continues to spread to other medical universities in Russia. It is planned to engage more Russian universities in the project. St. Petersburg State University, North-Eastern Federal University (Yakutsk) and Kazan Federal University plan to join Summer Exchange Program.



〈 At Far Eastern Federal District Regional Student Surgical Olympics 〉

### ■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

Foreign student environment was improved: "International student counseling office" and "Healthcare Center" consisting of four doctors including psychiatrist were established, nine hospitals where students can get consultation in English were found and "Japanese Language Course for International students" continued its work. Similar efforts were made by Russian universities in order to improve life of Japanese students. "Japan-Russia emergency contact network" organized in 2015 available 24 hours is functioning on a regular basis.

### ■ Internationalization of the university

#### Information disclosure and Publication of outcome

Annual report booklet introducing results of the project and student reports was prepared in three languages: Japanese, English and Russian and distributed to relevant organizations both in Japan and abroad. In addition, the website of this project that contains various information (project outline, implementation status, recruitment of students, etc.) is disclosed in three languages: Japanese, English, Russian and revised every year. Moreover, there was a chance to share the information with Russian citizens using mass media. University representatives took part in program on local television during the Medical Symposium which was held in Krasnoyarsk.

### ■ Notices

- ① Raising awareness of Japanese students... Results of previous years were lucid to students and the number of students who would like to participate increased significantly. Students paid their attention to international medicine and medical care at an early stage and actively choose overseas practical training. Some participants took the USMLE (US Physicians License Examination) after joining.
- ② Promoting research by graduate student exchanges... Several collaborative research in infectious disease field, international health field etc. were started under the framework of graduate student exchange. From now on, expert groups dealing with issues common to both Japan and Russia will actively participate in this program. They will carry out research projects interesting to both sides and will get mutual benefits of credit transfer.
- ③ Results of human resource development... Although only two years passed since the program was implemented, the results of human resource development were already seen. Two of Russian participated in the project decided to enter the graduate school of our university after graduation. The enrollment is planned for October, 2017.

# 5. FY2017 Progress

【 Niigata University】

## 【Name of project】(Adopted year: FY2014, Country (Russia))

Construction of the global framework promoting the collaborative education and career development for young medical students in Japan and Russia

### ■ Exchange Programs



⟨Students studying at "Japan-Russia Center of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases"=Krasnoyarsk State Medical University⟩

#### Student-Mobility

##### ○ Outbound

① Summer Exchange Program (10 - 15 days): 12 students, ② Medical Research Training Program (about 2 months): 5 students, ③ RPP (about 2 weeks): 3 students, a total of 20 students visited 3 partner universities.

##### ○ Inbound

① Summer Exchange Program (13 days): 18 students, ② Medical Research Training Program: (a month) 3 students, ③ RPP (2 weeks to 2 months): 6 students, totally 27 students from 7 partner universities visited Niigata University. ④ DDP (2 years): 1 student, A student who entered the program in 2015 finished his 2 year study course in Russia and started to study at our university from October.

In 2017, target numbers for A. Undergraduate medical student exchange (① Summer Exchange Program, ② Medical Research Training Program), B. Graduate Student Exchange (③ DDP-Double Degree Program, ④ RPP-Regular PhD Program) were exceeded. ① Summer Medical Student Exchange participants from Japan attended and made their presentations during the Japan - Russia Student Forum held in Vladivostok. ④ RPP outbound students participated in the International Surgical Olympiad held in Far Eastern Region for the second time. Japan-Russia medical symposium was also held, and representatives of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, local authorities of Japan and Russia participated in it together with five universities and private enterprises.

We have developed new and improved already existing programs from the viewpoint of student education and research promotion. We have also did our best to promote not only academic activities, but cross-cultural understanding as well, organizing various events for exchange students.

	2017	
	Plan	Results
Outbound	13	20
Inbound	22	28

### ■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

Administration of the entire project and public relations are carried out by Control Center. The International Cooperation Steering Committee was held at Pacific State Medical University in 2017 and faculty members from Japan and Russia had a chance to discuss the project thoroughly. Results were widely reported on symposiums, workshops and FDs. Faculty members from the Russian side participated in the external evaluation committee, both external and internal evaluation committees were conducted at the end of the fiscal year and results were reported. Omissions pointed out by the evaluation committee will be introduced in the project implementation plan for 2018 and will be improved. In February one faculty member of Pacific State Medical University was appointed the liaison professor of our university. Three liaison professors teach students in Russia as teachers of our university. Results of this inter-university exchange project continue spreading to other Russian medical universities. The inter-university agreement with St. Petersburg State University was concluded in 2016. In addition, we have concluded inter-faculty agreements with North-Eastern Federal University (Yakutsk), Institute of Fundamental Medicine and biology of Kazan Federal University and Kazan Medical University in 2017 and student exchange was started. Dean of Fundamental Medicine Faculty of Moscow State University also signed the inter-faculty agreement. It is planned to start student exchange from 2018.



⟨Practice at the operating room = Niigata University⟩

### ■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

Foreign student environment was improved: "International student counseling office" and "Healthcare Center" consisting of four doctors including psychiatrist were established in Asahimachi Campus, nine hospitals where students can get consultation in English were found and "Japanese Language Course for International students" continued its work. Similar efforts were made by Russian universities in order to improve life of Japanese students. "Japan-Russia emergency contact network" organized in 2015 available 24 hours continues to function on a regular basis. We prepared a scholarship necessary to cover living expenses for DDP students who came to Japan in 2017. Besides, our efforts have earned recognition from industrial sector, and have concluded cooperation agreement with Mitsui & Co., Ltd., Niigata branch. As a result, we have received donations for at least next three years to support international exchanges with Russia.

### ■ Internationalization of the university, Information disclosure and Publication of outcome

Annual report booklet introducing results of the project and student reports was prepared in three languages: Japanese, English and Russian and distributed to relevant organizations both in Japan and abroad. In addition, the website of this project that contains various information (project outline, implementation status, recruitment of students, etc.) is disclosed in three languages: Japanese, English, Russian and revised every year. Facebook account of our project was created as well. All Russian universities also do their best to distribute information about the project. They post information on university websites, publish information in university newspapers, etc.

### ■ Notices

- ① Raising awareness of Japanese students... Results of previous years were lucid to students and the number of students who would like to participate increased significantly. Students paid their attention to international medicine and medical care at an early stage and actively choose overseas practical training. Some participants took the USMLE (US Physicians License Examination) after joining.
- ② Promoting research by graduate student exchanges... As a result of our activities, symposia and research exchanges among faculty members, in addition to several collaborative research projects in infectious diseases and international health fields new collaborative project in the field of brain pathology has come up. From now on, expert groups dealing with issues common to both Japan and Russia will actively participate in this program. They will carry out research projects interesting to both sides and will get mutual benefits of credit transfer.
- ③ Results of human resource development... Although three years passed since the program started, the results of human resource development could be seen. There are cases when undergraduate students participated in the project decided to enter the graduate school of our university after graduation. Two of these students have already decided to enroll the graduate school.