

FY2015 Inter-University Exchange Project The University of Tokyo

Support for the Formation of Collaborative Programs with Latin America and the Caribbean, Turkey

【Name of project】 (Adopted year: FY2015, Country (Central and South America))

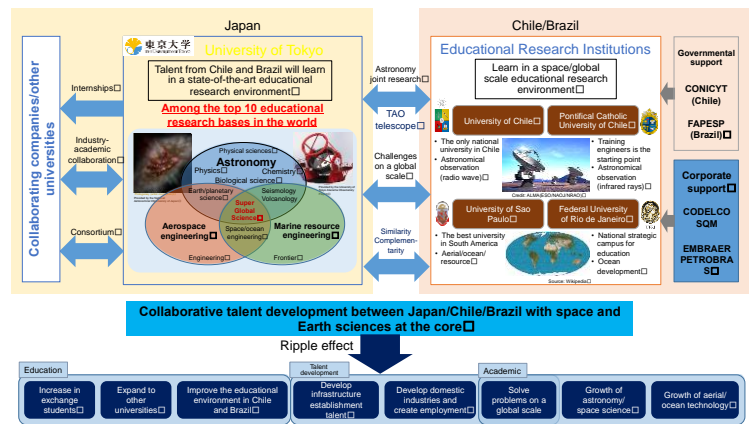
Fostering of students and researchers in science and engineering through Japan-Chile-Brazil collaboration

【Summary of project】

The South American continent is blessed with diversity in its natural environment with a variety of geographical environments and climates including high mountains, volcanoes, deserts, tropical rainforests, as well as characteristic ecosystems which they create. The world is paying attention to this region as a place where further international research activities can be promoted in natural sciences including astronomy, geology, and biology. There is also an ample amount of underground and marine resources which the world is looking forward to developing under international cooperation. Collaborating with this region, which has a high potential to develop talent who in the future will become leaders of the next generation in the fields of natural sciences and resource development from an international perspective, is extremely important.

The University of Tokyo has already been promoting research exchanges through joint research and academic forums between the School of Science and the University of Chile/Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (Republic of Chile), as well as between the School of Engineering/Graduate School of Frontier Sciences and the University of Sao Paulo/Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Federative Republic of Brazil).

This project will expand the field of exchange even further, enrich the inter-university exchanges utilizing the rich natural environment and resources of the South American continent based on collaboration with Chile and Brazil, develop young talent, and establish a model for research and talent exchange between Japan and the South American countries.



【Summary of exchange program】

The undergraduate and graduate students from the universities in Chile and Brazil will be accepted into the University of Tokyo, and in exchange, the science and technology students from the University of Tokyo will be sent to the four exchange partner universities. Under a tight system of collaboration, internships with related companies will also be utilized in order to develop young talent. The specifics are as follows:

<Challenging program into the uncharted territories of natural sciences>

Mutual student exchange program in the field of astronomy/space science, as well as related earth and planetary science/biology/chemistry/physics, utilizing the world's largest and highest-performance telescope, the TAO infrared telescope, which is being built in the Atacama Desert of the Republic of Chile, a site perfectly suited for astronomical observation, as well as the ASTE submillimeter telescope, etc.

<Development program of aerial exploration techniques>

Student exchange and hands-on internship under the framework of international industry-academic collaboration based on aerial/satellite technology.

<Development program of rich ocean floor resources>

Education through remote lectures and internships with resource development companies through collaboration with Brazil, which has a high technological capacity for ocean floor resource development as demonstrated by the progress made in the development of untouched oil fields under the bedded-salt deep under the ocean floor.

【Global human resource on the project】

Develop talent with internationality, a comprehensive perspective, and deep knowledge of the natural sciences, who understand the importance of sustainability of the natural environment and Earth's resources, and who are able to realize, from an international perspective, technological development and resource exploration that are in balance with the environment.

【Feature on the project】

The program is designed to effectively instill in participants the ability to take an active role on the global stage by supporting the exchange of science and technology students within the state-of-the-art technology fields of the universities in Chile and Brazil, which have a record of academic exchanges, in the fields of research and development for which our university is at a top level, such as astronomical observations in Atacama desert, thermal hydraulic engineering research, micro satellite development, marine energy technology, and deep sea exploration technology.

	2015								2016								2017							
	A	Bo	Br	Ch	Co	M	Pa	Pe	A	Bo	Br	Ch	Co	M	Pa	Pe	A	Bo	Br	Ch	Co	M	Pa	Pe
Outbound			8	8							6	5							5	6				
Inbound											5	6							6	5				
	2018								2019															
	A	Bo	Br	Ch	Co	M	Pa	Pe	A	Bo	Br	Ch	Co	M	Pa	Pe								
Outbound			5	6							6	5												
Inbound			6	5							5	6												

A: Argentina Bo: Bolivia Br: Brazil Ch: Chile Co: Colombia M: Mexico Pa: Panama Pe: Peru

1. FY2015 Progress

【Name of project】(Adopted year: FY2015 Country (Latin America))

Fostering of students and researchers in science and engineering through Japan-Chile-Brazil collaboration

■ Exchange Programs

The purpose of the present program is to foster students and young researchers who have international insights and are active on the frontier of science and technology through world-class collaborative research with staff and scientists in Brazilian and Chilean universities. In FY2015, we carried out concrete planning to promote this program with the universities in Brazil and Chile and conducted mutual exchanges of students and researchers.

Establishment of the executive board

In October 2015, we launched the Brazil-Chile-Japan faculty board in which the contents and future plans of the program are discussed and decided. We reinforced a collaborative relationship between the universities by mutual visits between the universities in Latin America and Japan (see Figure 1).



(Figure 1. A meeting with an academic exchange officer at the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research in Chile (CONYCIT) and committee members of the SEELA board at the University of Tokyo)

Student-Mobility

○ Outbound

From January to March 2016, nine students from the School of Science, the University of Tokyo visited the Atacama Plateau in northern Chile for an academic exchange of about 3 weeks (Figure 2). In February to March 2016, three students from the School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo stayed in Brazil to visit a laboratory at the University of Sao Paulo, to have a meeting at the space agency, and to attend a lab tour at an aircraft maker (Figure 3).

○ Inbound

Two students from the University of Chile visited the University of Tokyo and stayed for 3 months (January-March 2016) and 3 weeks (February 2016) for academic research and a short internship at a company.

<Latin America>

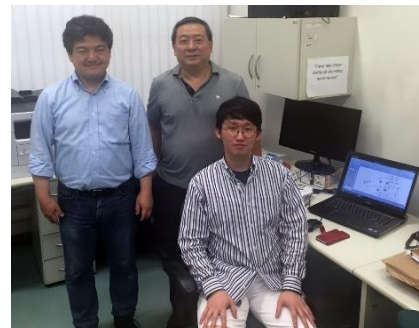


(Figure 2. Students from the School of Science, the University of Tokyo visiting the world's largest telescope built in the Atacama Plateau, 5,000 m above sea level, Chile)

	H27															
	Plan								Results							
	A	Bo	Br	Ch	Co	M	Pa	Pe	A	Bo	Br	Ch	Co	M	Pa	Pe
Outbound			8	8							3	9				
Inbound												2				

■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

We have sent staff at the University of Tokyo to the universities and institutes in Brazil and Chile to assess the research and living environments in Brazil and Chile and to make sure the exchange program is conducted safely and efficiently. During the visits, we have shared with the Brazilian/Chilean universities the concept and future prospects of the program and the idea for scholarship support of students. Furthermore, faculty staff from the universities in Brazil and the University of Tokyo visited each other to establish the framework and content of remote lectures between the two countries, making it possible to initiate remote lectures from April 2016. Finally, we conducted a survey of students who participated in this program, and based on their honest opinions, we will improve the content and linguistic support of this program in FY2016.



(Figure 3. A student and a supervisor from the School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo visiting the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil)

■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

We have employed Project Academic Support Staff and an officer who speaks Spanish and Portuguese, respectively. We have also established how we take care of inbound/outbound students prior to, during and after their stays in Japan or abroad.

■ Internationalization of the university

Information disclosure and Publication of outcome

We have almost completed a website and pamphlet to share the contents of the program. To make this program more familiar to students and teachers in Brazil, Chile and Japan, we came up with an abbreviation for the program (SEELA, Science and Engineering Exchange Program with Latin America) and have created a logo (Figure 4).

■ Notices

- The elaborate preparation for the remote lectures in FY2015 has allowed us to initiate remote lectures with multiple universities in Brazil and Japan since April 2016.
- We have started to prepare an international kickoff symposium (SEELA Symposium 2016) which will be held in Tokyo in June 2016.
- We have started preparations for a Chile-Japan Academic Forum which will be held in Patagonia, Chile, in November 2016.



(Figure 4. The SEELA logo)

2. FY2016 Progress

【Name of project】(Adopted year: FY2015 Country (Latin America))

Fostering of students and researchers in science and engineering through Japan-Chile-Brazil collaboration

Exchange Programs

In FY2016, new programs such as remote lectures, internships, and special intensive courses were developed, and student exchanges based on the exchange program were implemented. In the remote lectures which connect a total of nine universities in Japan and Brazil online, students could learn about country-specific advanced technologies, as well as experience the other country's conditions, culture, and way of thinking. It resulted in furthering the mutual understanding and internationalization of students.

(Total enrollment: 182 students; our university: 25 students; 4 Brazilian universities: 99 students)

As a multidisciplinary international forum, the Chile-Japan Academic Forum 2016 was held in the region of Patagonia, Chile. Bringing together 12 research activities are based in Latin America, this forum was implemented with the full effort of all staff and students as well as the participation of the presidents of three universities in Chile, our Executive Vice President, the Ambassador of Japan to Chile, and the Governor of Magallanes. (Total number of participants: approximately 250; students of our university: 11; faculty members from our university: approximately 55)



〈Opening Ceremony of the Chile-Japan Academic Forum 2016〉

Student-Mobility

Outbound

Chile: For the Chile-Japan Academic Forum 2016, eight students traveled to Chile to present their own research.

Brazil: Four students from the field of ocean engineering participated in the project-based learning in which Japanese and Brazilian students were divided into teams to compete. In addition, a mechanical engineering student studied at the University of Sao Paulo and participated in the Latin American IAA CubeSat Workshop, which was held locally during the stay.

〈← A dispatched student in the University of Sao Paulo 〉

Inbound

Chile: A student was enrolled in a bioengineering research lab to work on a project study for two months.

Brazil: Three students participated in a training collaboration between Japanese and Brazilian students at the National Maritime Research Institute. A student was accepted for an internship in a shipbuilding company for approximately two weeks. A mechanical engineering student attended training at one of our university's research labs for a month. Two students came to Japan to participate in the Kickoff Symposium.

〈←An accepted student in a bioengineering research lab at our university〉



<Latin America>	2016															
	Plan								Results							
	A	Bo	Br	Ch	Co	M	Pa	Pe	A	Bo	Br	Ch	Co	M	Pa	Pe
Outbound			10	5							5	8				
Inbound			8	6							7	1				

Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

The collaborative faculty committee sets up regular meetings to exchange opinions and share information, as well as to attempt to improve the content with reference to the student questionnaires. In addition, in collaboration with other programs, 10 students visited the University of Sao Paulo, the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and local companies to have discussions and attempt to expand the network. The framework of the exchange program was extended by the addition of three Brazilian universities, namely the University of Campinas, the Federal University of Pernambuco, and the Federal University of Santa Catarina, as partner universities within FY2016.

Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

A special office for this project was established, and faculty members who are proficient in the languages were appointed, resulting in the establishment of the multilingual system. For the dispatched students, opportunities to take safety classes and language training are provided before dispatch. For the accepted students, graduate students of our university serve as TA. In this way, smooth progress of the exchange program is facilitated.

Internationalization of the university

Information disclosure and Publication of outcome

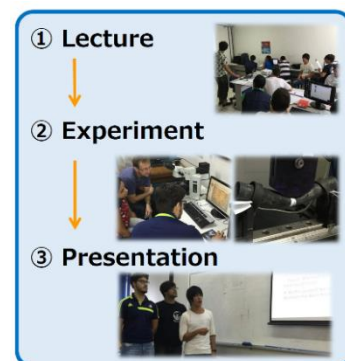
A website has been prepared for this project to introduce the exchange program and the content of the activities. To disseminate this project to the exchange universities, Spanish and Portuguese editions are also published. The project brochure is distributed in digital and paper editions.



〈Project Brochure /Japanese and English〉

Notices

- The Chile-Japan Academic Forum 2016 was held in the region of Patagonia, Chile.
- The Kickoff Symposium of Brazil-Chile-Japan Science and Engineering Exchange Programs was held at our university.
- Faculty members of our university provided the special intensive courses at the University of Sao Paulo.
- Remote lectures were started by connecting a total of nine universities in Japan and Brazil online.
- Internships for Japanese and Brazilian students were conducted at the National Maritime Research Institute, Oshima Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., and the Federal University of Pernambuco.



〈Project-based learning at the Federal University of Pernambuco〉