

# FY2015 Inter-University Exchange Project Niigata University

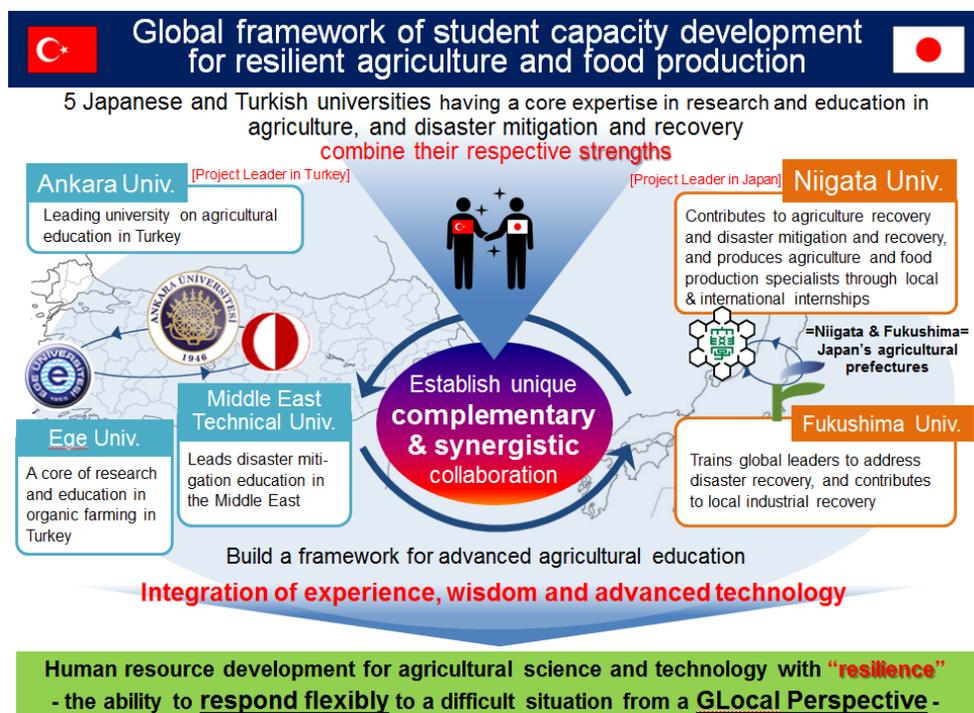
Support for the Formation of Collaborative Programs with Latin America and the Caribbean, Turkey

**【Name of Project】**(Adopted year: FY2015, Country (Turkey)

Global framework of student capacity development for resilient agriculture and food production

**【Summary of Project】**

This project aims to develop human resources for agricultural science and technology with “resilience”, which is the ability to respond flexibly to a difficult situation/event from a GLocal perspective. This will be achieved by a complementary and synergistic partnership among Niigata University, Fukushima University, Ankara University, Ege University and Middle East Technical University, that have a core expertise in research and education in agriculture, and disaster mitigation and recovery. The collaboration allows together Japanese and Turkish students to study agriculture, food production and disaster mitigation technologies from a perspective of the experiences and wisdom of both countries in addition to advanced agricultural technologies. Human resources produced through this project are expected to play a leading role in e.g. establishment of agricultural infrastructure that addresses disaster mitigation; production of quality agricultural products through advanced agricultural technology; sustainable agriculture through organic farming; and activation of international food distribution not only in Japan and Turkey, but throughout the Middle East, North Africa and various Central Asian countries. They will open a new frontier in agriculture and food production industries, and contribute significantly to strengthening Japan’s presence in these regions.



**【Summary of Exchange Program】**

The project comprises two programs: a Global Agriculture and Food Science Program and a Global Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Program, with short-, medium- and long-term courses. It aims to impart the experiences, wisdom and advanced technologies of Japan and Turkey, and nurture the multiple perspectives of agriculture, food production, disaster mitigation and recovery in students through courses common to both programs and special practical sessions mainly comprising visits to areas undergoing agriculture and disaster recovery. The short-term course comprises a GLocal Project-Based Learning program that entails discussing local issues and suggesting solutions from a global perspective. The medium- and long-term courses involve pursuing specific topics, and inbound (Turkish) students are offered internships at companies specializing in emergency foods such as Foricafoods Corporation, and outbound (Japanese) students at large-scale organic farming companies such as Rapunzel. We also intend to establish a double degree program (DDP) before the project ends.

**【Global Human Resource on the Project】**

- (1) Human resources capable of using advanced technologies and the experiences and wisdom of other countries effectively to resolve problems
- (2) Global resources capable of contributing to development of agriculture, disaster mitigation and recovery, and economic development in Turkey, Japan and worldwide

**【Feature on the Project】**

Five Japanese and Turkish universities combine their strengths to build a framework for education, and train human resources with resilience and global competency from the multiple perspectives of agriculture, food, disaster mitigation and recovery.

**【Exchange Number】**

|          | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Outbound | 2    | 21   | 21   | 26   | 26   |
| Inbound  | 2    | 21   | 21   | 26   | 26   |

【Name of Project】(Adopted Year: FY2015, Country (Turkey) )

Global Framework of Student Capacity Development for Resilient Agriculture and Food Production

## ■ Exchange Program



〈FY2015 Trial Student Activities〉

FY2015 was considered as a preparation period for the actual project implementation starting the following year. In addition to launching the main control center at Niigata University, selection of coordinators at each university and assistant coordinator, development of management and evaluation system and programs, creation of the project brochures and website were completed. Furthermore, coordinators from Turkey and Japan visited each other for detailed planning of the project implementation, as well as visiting student dormitories and facilities at Turkish universities to confirm the safeness of outbound students. Additionally, by accepting trial students from Turkey at Niigata University and Fukushima University, issues that need to be cleared were discovered.

### ○ Outbound

Two students were planned to be sent to Turkey in FY2015. However, due to the deterioration of public security in Turkey, the outbound program was cancelled considering student safety.

### ○ Inbound

Two inbound students were expected, but total of three students, one from each Turkish university, participated in this project in FY2015. They stayed for four weeks to conduct experiments at laboratories and visited related areas. Among them, two students also participated in the program at Fukushima University.

|          | FY2015  |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
|          | Planned | Outcome |
| Outbound | 2       | 0       |
| Inbound  | 2       | 3       |

## ■ Formation of the University Network with Quality Assurance

In FY2015, Niigata University renewed university-level Agreement for Cooperation and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Student Exchange with Ankara University as well as newly concluded the Agreement and MOU with Ege University and Middle East Technical University. Additionally, ERASMUS+ and Mevlana Exchange Program Agreement were concluded with Middle East Technical University to further support students in their studies abroad.

Fukushima University has started to discuss with each university in Turkey to conclude Agreements within FY2016. Niigata University will conclude an Agreement specifically for this project with Ankara University and Ege University before implementing the Short-Term Exchange Program in FY2016.

Furthermore, Niigata University and Ankara University have started to discuss about concluding a Double Degree Program Agreement.



〈Conference with Turkish universities〉



〈Student dormitories at Turkish universities〉

## ■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

Through accepting one trial student from each of the Turkish university, various issues to be solved were found from student perspectives for the following year. As for the outbound program, we were unable to send students in FY2015, however, we received information from some students who have had study abroad experience in Turkey through other programs. Furthermore, faculty members from Niigata University and Fukushima University visited Turkey to confirm the university environment to start preparation to send students safely in FY2016.

## ■ Internationalization of the University

### Information Disclosure and Publication of Outcomes

By creating brochure and website for this project in Japanese, English, and Turkish, we were able to promote active student participation and earned understanding and support from faculty members to this project. We were also able to share significance of this project with various stakeholders outside campus. Moreover, English brochure and website has been helping international students, other than Turkish students, to receive information on this project as well. In addition to providing outcomes through the website promptly, we would like to hold student report sessions after returning to their home countries to inspire other students to study abroad.

## ■ Notices

Two out of three trial students accepted gave a presentation at the student workshop, in which Japanese students also participated, before returning to Turkey. There, discussion regarding problems arised in the program were held, and various opinions were exchanged among students, including their research interests. Furthermore, the workshop inspired a lot of Japanese students to study abroad, and they showed high interest in this project.

By holding project introduction and FD at both Niigata University and Fukushima University, we were able to promote student participation in this project in addition to earning understanding and support from faculty members. Moreover, faculty members at Turkish universities were able to understand current condition and recovery plans in Fukushima after the Great East Japan Earthquake, confirming the safeness and worth to visit and study in Fukushima.

# 2. FY2016 Progress

【Name of Project】(Adopted Year: FY2015, Country (Turkey) )

Global Framework of Student Capacity Development for Resilient Agriculture and Food Production

## ■ Exchange Programs



〈 Outbound Program - Closing Ceremony 〉



〈Inbound Program – Lecture and Field Study 〉

As a practical starting year for both inbound and outbound programs, we particularly focused on the Short-Term Exchange Program in FY 2016. Although we had to give up in implementing the outbound program due to the domestic situations of Turkey, a Short-Term Outbound Program was carried out in an alternative country in order to meet the objectives of this project. The inbound and outbound programs provided an opportunity for the students of Niigata University and Fukushima University to develop global perspectives, hence a stronger desire to study abroad for a longer period and to improve their English language skills. Based on a proposal by Niigata University, various information, especially for security of students, was shared among all universities in collaboration with Turkish universities, before the outbound program started.

## Student-Mobility

### ○ Outbound

The outbound program had to be canceled due to the coup attempt occurred in July 2016 in Turkey, while we were preparing to send 15 students to Ege University in August 2016. However, instead of Turkey, the outbound program was implemented at Chiang Mai University in Thailand, in February 2017, in which 15 Japanese students participated and 4 students from Turkish universities joined to enable the Japanese participants to learn about Turkish agriculture.

### < Turkey >

|          | 2016 |         |
|----------|------|---------|
|          | Plan | Results |
| Outbound | 21   | 15      |
| Inbound  | 21   | 16      |

### ○ Inbound

A total of 16 Turkish students, consisting of 15 Short-Term and 1 Intermediate-Term students, participated in the inbound programs and were involved in various activities, including lectures, research experiments, and field studies. In addition, the Intermediate-Term student participated in internships at private farm and company.

## ■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

Niigata University has already signed university-level student exchange agreements with the Turkish partner universities. In addition to this agreement, Niigata University and Ankara University have signed an MOU specific to this project, which allows exchanging more students. Furthermore, in order to assure the quality of the education, both inbound and outbound programs are designed in a way to fulfil the project objectives concerning human-resource development. Fukushima University has also signed the university-level agreements with Ege University and Middle East Technical University.



Project Meeting at Niigata University

## ■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

Ensuring security and confirming safety were of serious concerns for both inbound and outbound programs. Participants brought mobile WiFis, which enabled the program administrators to contact them at anytime and the participants to receive security information and easily contact one another. All the outbound program participants also filed the MOFA Overseas Travel Registration. An emergency contact network was created and the supervisors reported about the participants to Niigata University on a daily basis during the outbound program. Students at the host university supported program participants in learning. They also offered a full-support for daily aspects of the participants. In this supportive environment, they were able to focus on learning. To improve the program for the next years, both inbound and outbound participants submitted questionnaires and reports, and supervisors submitted their opinions and feedbacks.

## ■ Internationalization of the University

### Information Disclosure and Publication of Outcome

Reports from the participants have been posted on the project website. An annual project report, which includes all programs and activities as well as faculty and student reports, was created for distribution at the end of FY 2016. Brochures prepared in FY 2015 have been used to promote this project among faculty and students at participating universities. Faculty Development (FD) and Student Workshop was held at Niigata University in January 2017, where many students, faculties, and advisory board members, including those from Turkish partner universities, participated. At this FD and Student Workshop, students from Niigata University and Turkish partner universities gave presentations in English, contributing to the globalization of the participating institutions.

## ■ Notices

The number of the participated students were less than targeted for Intermediate- and Long-Term inbound and outbound programs, however, Short-Term program was implemented twice, in which a total of 15 students participated. The Short-Term outbound program was carried out at the alternative location with attendance of students and a faculty from Turkish universities as well, enabling the participants to learn about Turkish agriculture. For FY 2017, there are 8 candidates for the Intermediate- and Long-Term Inbound Programs, and their applications are being processed at Niigata University. Furthermore, two symposiums have been scheduled for May and September 2017, where outbound and inbound students will present their experiences.

# 3. FY2017 Progress

## 【Name of project】(Adopted year: FY2015 Country ( Turkey ))

Global Framework of Student Capacity Development for Resilient Agriculture and Food Production

### ■ Exchange Programs



<Japanese Calligraphy for Inbound Program Participants>



<Outbound Program>  
<Global Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Program>



<Outbound Program>  
<Global Agriculture and Food Science Program>

### Student-Mobility

#### ○ Outbound

In August 2017, fifteen Japanese students from Niigata U and Fukushima U and four students from our partner universities in Turkey were dispatched to Chiang Mai University, Thailand. In March, 2018, seven Japanese student participants visited our partner universities in Turkey.

#### ○ Inbound

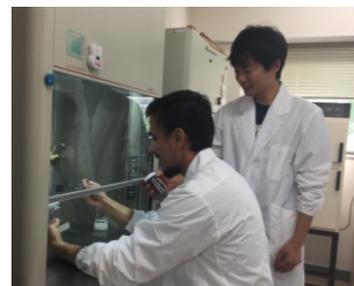
Fifteen students from Turkey participated in the short term student exchange programs that involved lectures, experiments, and practicum/training at Niigata U and Fukushima U. Meanwhile, seven students participated in the intermediate or long term programs hosted by Niigata U, carrying out research work and completing an internship at a research institution or enterprise.

#### <Turkey>

|          | 2017 |         |
|----------|------|---------|
|          | Plan | Results |
| Outbound | 21   | 22      |
| Inbound  | 21   | 22      |

### ■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

In AY2017, compared to the year before, more students participated in our student exchange programs, both inbound and outbound. To accommodate the higher volume of student exchanges, which would have surpassed the number prescribed in our university-level agreements, Niigata U signed an MOU specific to this project with Ege U in AY2017, as it did with Ankara U in AY2016. Meanwhile, as an academic support system, tutors and/or teaching assistants were assigned to inbound students to further promote their learning. Moreover, their learning was measured and assessed by their academic advising professors, upon which academic credits were awarded, for a quality assurance purpose.



<Japanese Tutor supporting Turkish student>

### ■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

For Safety Assurance and Safety Confirmation, especially in the midst of running an exchange program, modern technologies such as mobile wi-fi and SNS were actively employed to establish seamless and continuous student-staff communication. Meanwhile, we used questionnaire feedback from our past program participants to fine-tune and improve our program operations and to help students better focus on their learning. Overall, smoother operations of the project were attained by improving staff-student and student-student support system.

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

For this project, every participant is asked to turn in Essay Report in English, and all reports are posted on homepage. Also, at the end of AY2017, the annual project report, which included the reports prepared by student participants as well as faculty and staff members, was prepared electrically in order to document all the activities involved in this project for the year. In addition, symposiums were hosted twice in AY2017, each entitled "GLocal Age 2020 Symposium 2017," in May and September, to disseminate project information and success stories both in and outside of campus. At these occasions, both inbound students from Turkish universities and outbound students from Niigata U and Fukushima U made presentations in English. At the same time, the venues offered opportunities for many Japanese students and faculty/staff members to have exchanges with Turkish participants, and hence the symposiums contributed to the internationalization of Niigata U. Moreover, research studies carried out by intermediate to long term inbound students in Japan were published in academic journals, contributing to the research-level, international exchanges as well.

### ■ Notices

One of the AY2017 short-term inbound students became interested in a company in Niigata which they visited during the exchange program and is seeking an opening that starts after her graduation. The student is currently scheduled to come back to Japan during AY2018 for an internship. Also, one of the AY2016 inbound students now works at a Japanese company in Turkey. The student testified that the Certificate of Completion of the student exchange program helped greatly at the time of job interview.

# 4. FY2018 Progress

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

Global Framework of Student Capacity Development for Resilient Agriculture and Food Production

## ■ Exchange Programs



〈 Inbound Program: Biotechnology 〉



〈 Outbound Program: Landslide Area in Rize 〉



〈 Outbound Program: Paddy Field in Turkey 〉

## Student-Mobility

### ○ Outbound

In FY 2018, a total of 26 short-term outbound students from Niigata U and Fukushima U were dispatched to Turkey in two batches.

Meanwhile, intermediate/long-term outbound programs were implemented for the first time since the beginning of this project, and three student participants from Niigata U engaged in research and internship at Ankara U or Ege U.

### ○ Inbound

Niigata U and Fukushima U jointly hosted a short-term inbound program that involved lectures, experiments, and field work, and a total of 18 students from Turkish partner universities participated.

Meanwhile, through intermediate/long-term inbound programs, Niigata U accepted eight students in total, and they engaged in research and internship.

<Turkey>

|          | 2018 |         |
|----------|------|---------|
|          | Plan | Results |
| Outbound | 26   | 29      |
| Inbound  | 26   | 26      |

## ■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

To accommodate the higher volume of exchange students, which would have surpassed the number stipulated in our university-level agreement, Niigata U signed an MOU specific to this project with Middle East Technical U, as it had done earlier with Ankara U and Ege U. Meanwhile, tutors and/or teaching assistants were assigned to inbounders to better ensure their learning. Moreover, for a quality assurance purpose, their learning was assessed by their academic advisors, and upon which academic credits were awarded.



〈Inbound Program: Visit to Okuma Town in Fukushima〉

## ■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

For safety assurance and confirmation, especially in the midst of running an exchange program, whether outbound or inbound, internet technologies such as mobile Wi-Fi and SNS were actively employed, and thus seamless student-faculty/staff communication was maintained. Meanwhile, based on the questionnaire feedback from our past program participants, our operation efforts were fine-tuned to better assist students focus on their learning. Moreover, student peer support system as well as faculty/staff efforts were strengthened to better assist inbounders, and as a result, the whole program was able to run more efficiently and smoothly.

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

Essays in English, which were turned in by students, have been posted on the project website. In addition, at the end of FY2018, Annual Project Report that documented the entire project, including project overview/description and essays written by student and faculty/staff participants, was compiled. Moreover, On-campus Program Guidance and Student Presentation and Off-campus Public Lecture, the latter offered for the first time, were organized, and all events helped in terms of Internationalization, Information Disclosure, and PR. In the public lecture, Assistant Professor from Niigata U made a slide presentation on this project and on food and agriculture in Turkey. Also, inbound students from intermediate/long-term exchange programs then staying at Niigata U took part in the lecture with Turkish Chai Demonstration, and the event was well received by the audience.

## ■ Notices

The exchange program helped inbound participants in the following ways: to get a fulltime job in Turkey with a Japanese company; to study as a degree-seeking student at Niigata U; to carry out research as a post doctoral researcher at Niigata U; to continue studying at a Japanese university as a MEXT scholarship recipient (Embassy Recommendation type); and more. Furthermore, there was a student who appeared on a popular TV show in Turkey and talked about this project and his experience in Japan on air, and his appearance and talk helped publicize and promote the project greatly in Turkey. On the other hand, among former outbound students, there are students working (or starting to work) fulltime at a Japanese company with Turkish and other Middle East operations. In addition, some former short-term outbounders are planning to go back to Turkey for a longer period through the intermediate/long-term program. Moreover, the project has received many other student testimonials including higher international communication skills and TOEIC listening scores.

# 5. FY2019 Progress

【Niigata University】

【Global Framework of Student Capacity Development for Resilient Agriculture and Food Production】(Adopted year: FY2015 Country (Turkey))

## ■ Exchange Programs

Both *Global Agriculture and Food Science Program* and *Global Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Program* were implemented in FY2019, accomplishing the planned number of student mobility in short/intermediate/long-term exchanges. Participating students joined activities and learned issues regarding agricultural systems and disaster, especially landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, and radiation accidents, as well as the mitigation efforts.



〈Inbound: Cultural Exchanges〉



〈Inbound: University Forest in Sado Island〉



〈Outbound: Company Visit〉



〈Outbound: New Friendships〉

〈Turkey〉

|          | 2019 |         |
|----------|------|---------|
|          | Plan | Results |
| Outbound | 26   | 26      |
| Inbound  | 26   | 26      |

## Student-Mobility

### ○ Outbound

A total of 24 students from Niigata University and Fukushima University participated in the short-term exchange programs held in summer and winter. Additionally, two students from Niigata University studied at Ankara University or Middle East Technical University as intermediate/long-term students and engaged in research and internship.

### ○ Inbound

A total of 18 short-term exchange students from Turkish partner universities joined lectures, experiments, and fieldworks at Niigata University and Fukushima University. Meanwhile, eight intermediate/long-term students from Turkey engaged in research at Niigata University and internship at local companies or research institutions.

## ■ Forming the University Network with Quality Assurance

The quality of education was assured through improving the exchange programs based on student questionnaires and comments received from the third party evaluation committee members. Both inbound and outbound programs provided better student support and more productive pre-departure study sessions. Furthermore, in order for all students to actively participate in the programs, improvement of English communication skills was focused, and their learning during the program was assessed by their academic advisors.

## ■ Promotion of Student-Mobility Environment

Seamless student-faculty/staff communication was maintained during exchange programs in order to assure the safety of all participants. By including what students wanted to learn in the programs, active learning opportunities became available, even in the short-term exchange programs. All programs were smoothly implemented thanks to the great amount of support received from host university students, former GLocal Age 2020 participants, and faculty and staff members. Moreover, considering possible risks, such as health problems, crimes, and accidents, that may occur during the programs, risk management protocol was prepared, and all participants attended the risk management orientation in advance.

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

For information disclosure purposes, in addition to posting reports submitted by students after participating in the programs on the project website, 2019 project report and full program reports from participating students and faculty members were included in the annual project report booklet to share accomplishments and know-hows of the project implementation, exchange programs, and so on. Furthermore, the Joint Symposium for the Japan-Turkey Inter-University Exchange Project was held in July 2019 in Tokyo, with English presentations made by participating faculty/staff members and students. Through these activities, international exchange was further expanded, leading to the internationalization of each participating university.

## ■ Notices

Based on the ERASMUS+ Agreements concluded between Niigata University and Turkish partner universities, two undergraduate students from Niigata University studied at Middle East Technical University, and in order to continue student mobility even after this project, Niigata University has concluded another faculty-level MOUs with those universities. Furthermore, the Joint Symposium for the Japan-Turkey Inter-University Exchange Project was held together with the University of Tokyo, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo University of the Arts and their Turkish partner universities to share the project and the future outlook of each university, creating new connections with other universities. Two of the students participated in the GLocal Age 2020 project have officially entered Niigata University in April 2020 as the MEXT scholarship students, and fortunately, Niigata University has also been granted for the MEXT International Priority Graduate Programs (PGP) Advanced Graduate Courses for International Students for students from Turkey and Middle East Regions, in which four doctoral and two master students are entering Niigata University in October 2020.



〈Inbound: Visit to FUJI SANGYO Co., LTD〉