



Report on the Third Liaison Professor Assembly of Niigata University

20th October 2025

1. Introduction

The Third Liaison Professor Assembly of Niigata University was successfully held on October 20, 2025, at the ANA Crowne Plaza in Niigata, Japan. The event brought together Liaison Professors from partner institutions across Asia to share experiences, review progress, and strengthen academic collaboration. The Assembly provided a valuable platform for interaction between Niigata University's leadership and the Liaison Professors representing international partner universities.

The program was as follows:

14:00-14:05	Welcome Address ▪ Prof. Tatsuo USHIKI, President
14:05-15:25	Presentations by Liaison Professors / Q&A “Activities and Experiences in the capacity of a Liaison Professor” (Approx. 20 min for each presentation and Q&A) ▪ Prof. Sajjiv ARIYASINGHE (University of Peradeniya, SRI LANKA) ▪ Prof. Exian LI (Central China Normal University, CHINA) ▪ Prof. Sajeev KRISHNAN (Indian Institute of Science, INDIA) ▪ Dr. Ishtseren LOCHIN (Mongolian Academy of Sciences, MONGOLIA)
15:25-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-16:45	Introduction on the Current Status regarding Globalization of Niigata University / Free Discussion ▪ Prof. Toshiyuki SOMEYA, Executive Vice President for Global Affairs
16:45-16:55	Photo Session
16:55-17:00	Closing Remarks ▪ Prof. Makoto SAKAMOTO, Executive Vice President for Education, Admissions and Public Relations
17:00-17:30	Break
17:30	Dinner Reception

2. Objectives

In my opinion the main objectives of the Assembly were to:

- Let the liaison professors know the direction of international collaboration that Niigata university is pursuing into the future
- To get feedback from the LPs on how they could join in to accomplish this task
- To review and share experiences and achievements of Liaison Professors in promoting international collaboration between their universities and NU.
- Discuss current global engagement strategies of Niigata University.

- Strengthen institutional links and develop plans for future academic cooperation.

3. Participants

The Assembly was attended by selected Liaison Professors invited by Niigata University, along with university officials and representatives.

Key Participants:

- Prof. Tatsuo Ushiki, President, Niigata University
 - Prof. Toshiyuki Someya, Executive Vice President for Global Affairs
 - Prof. Makoto Sakamoto, Executive Vice President for Education, Admissions, and Public Relations
 - Prof Tsuboi Nozomu, Vice President for global engagement
 - Prof Sato Takuichi, Vice Dean, School of health sciences
 - Prof Satish Kumar, Vice President for research
 - Officials from the International office/ Global engagement office of NU
- Liaison Professors: in person
 - Prof. Exian Li (Central China Normal University, China)
 - Prof. Sajeev Krishnan (Indian Institute of Science, India)
 - Dr. Ishtseren Lochin (Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Mongolia)
 - Prof. Sajjiv Ariyasinghe (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)
 - Online
 - Prof Oguz Can Turgay (University of Ankara)

4. Program Summary

Opening Session

The Assembly began with a Welcome Address by Prof. Tatsuo Ushiki, President of Niigata University. Sensei emphasized the importance of the Liaison Professor network in advancing the university's global partnerships.

Presentations by Liaison Professors

Each Liaison Professor delivered a presentation on “Activities and Experiences in the Capacity of a Liaison Professor.” These presentations highlighted collaborative activities, student exchanges, and joint research initiatives undertaken with Niigata University. The activities of each liaison professor were different from one another but in my opinion all activities help to bring each partner university closer together with NU.

Discussion on Globalization of Niigata University

Prof. Toshiyuki Someya presented an overview of Niigata University’s globalization initiatives. This was the most informative presentation to the LPs on the future course of NU globalization. This was followed by an open discussion on strengthening the university’s global network and supporting student mobility programs.

Closing Remarks

Prof. Makoto Sakamoto delivered the closing remarks, thanking Liaison Professors for their dedicated efforts and collaboration. Prof Sakamoto mentioned his student from UoP Dr. Surangika who he said still maintains close contact with him and was appreciative of that fact.

Dinner Reception

The Assembly concluded with a dinner reception, providing an informal networking opportunity for participants to discuss potential collaborations.

5. Follow-up Activities

On October 21, 2025, I visited the school of health sciences, NU and met Dean and staff of the faculty as well as attended the international symposium on gender specific health.



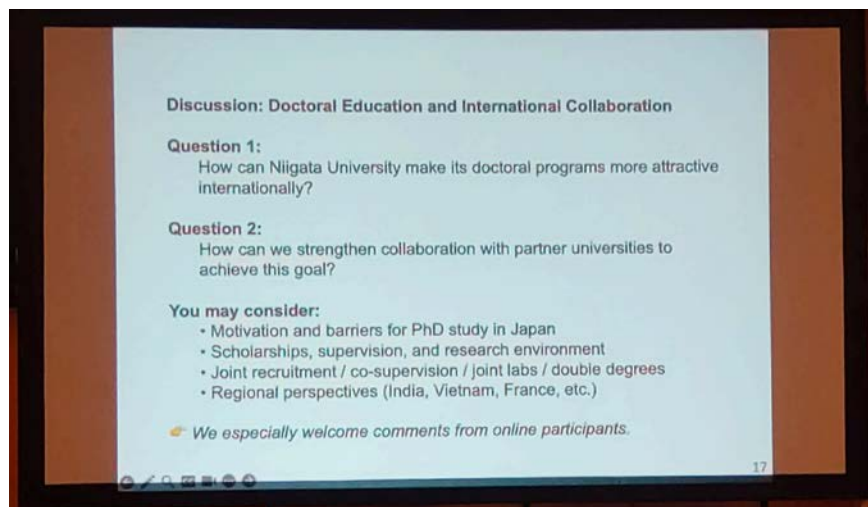
I also visited the dean of the dental faculty Prof INOUE Makoto and invited sensei to send dental students from NU to UoP in 2026.



6. Conclusion

The Third Liaison Professor Assembly reaffirmed the shared commitment of Niigata University and its Liaison Professors to foster meaningful international partnerships. The open discussions, presentations, and follow-up meetings have laid the groundwork for future initiatives aimed at enhancing the university's global engagement.

7. Feedback from me



Question 1

In my opinion we can make NU's doctoral programs more attractive in the following manner

1. Provide LPs with information on possible departments or staff at NU who are willing to accept doctoral students and the possible research areas from all graduates schools
2. Provide LPs with information on possible funding support or possibility of part time employment/ Teaching assistants post etc. so that prospective doctoral students will know how much financial support they will need to bring to Japan in order to finish their research
3. Provide LPs with information about the future of those who receive the doctoral degrees so that we can inform the prospective graduates that they may be able to find employment at NU or in Japan for a period of time after graduation and then can cover up the cost they invested.

Question 2

How to strengthen the collaboration with partner universities to achieve the goal

1. Have periodic visits by NU staff and students to the partner universities yearly. That will undoubtedly increase good will and information sharing between NU and partner faculties
2. Expand the link to faculties that are not yet joined to the sister link. Eg. At UoP I am earnestly looking to establish links with Agriculture, Engineering, Humanities, Law faculties with NU

For this reason, I very humbly wish that all faculties at NU be represented at the LP assembly so that LPs would get the chance to interact with NU staff from faculties that are still not linked to their sister link programs

On 22nd October, I visited the JICA headquarters at Chiyoda city in Tokyo and met the Director general of South Asia, Mr. YAMADA Tetsuya and other staff who were in the JICA office in SL till recently. ***(I am publishing this information and photos with permission from relevant members of JICA)***



I also visited the Rail Museum at Omiya for my personal enjoyment and interest



Finally, I wish to thank President USHIKI Tatsuo, Vice President SOMEYA Toshiyuki, staff of the international/ global affairs office at NU for the invitation to participate at the 3rd Liaison Professor assembly as an in-person delegate. It is an honor for me as well as the University of Peradeniya.

Thank you,

Sajiv Ariyasinghe

Liaison Professor, Niigata University