



Sister Link Program
Niigata University - University of Peradeniya

Strengthening Japan - Sri Lanka Friendship

**Report of the Visit and
Training Program for Senior Officers of
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
at Niigata University, Japan in August
2016**



Visit to Presidents Office

The visit to the presidents' office took place on Tuesday 30th August. The participants were accompanied by Mr. Kakuta, Director of the International Section, Mr. Nakagawa and Mr. Enami of International Affairs Division. President Takahashi Sugata warmly welcomed the participants from the University of Peradeniya. He also recollected the past visit to Sri Lanka in 2014 along with Vice-President Professor Oura, Mr. Kakuta and his team and said that he had pleasant memories of the same. Dr. Sajjiv Ariyasinghe the Coordinator of the Niigata Peradeniya Sister Link Program presented the report of activities under the Niigata-Peradeniya Sister Link Program for the year 2015-2016 and the proposals for the next year. The highlights of the activities for the past year included the continuation of the Short visit by students of the School of Health Sciences, Niigata University to UoP and the Short Stay by the students of the UoP at Niigata University. The staff training program which is ongoing for the 6th consecutive year this time included 3 members. All these activities made the Niigata Peradeniya Sister Link Program a very strong and eventful collaboration in 2015-2016.

As future opportunities Dr. Ariyasinghe emphasized that the new Vice Chancellor Professor Upul Dissanayake and the Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Lakshman Wijeyeweera have both visited Niigata University in the past under the sister link program and are staunch backers of it.

Professor Takahashi was very interested in the student exchange program and reaffirmed his support to further strengthen the sister link program. Dr. Ariyasinghe thanked the services of Mr. Kenji Kakuta and his efficient team for their constant support and understanding.





Meeting with the Director International Affairs and working group for International strategy at Niigata University

A very cordial meeting was held with the Director of the International office Mr. Kakuta Kenji, Professor Hasegawa of the faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Ariyasinghe Coordinator of the Sister Link program, Mr. Nakagawa and Ms. Hirata of the International Affairs Division on the 30th of August at the International Office where frank discussions on the previous year's activities and plans for the next year were discussed at length. Mr. Kakuta informed that there is a plan to appoint liaison professors of the Niigata University for alumni who have worked hard towards the academic globalization of Niigata University. Professor Hasegawa briefed the possibility of increasing the tea yield of the southern part of Sri Lanka by using slow releasing fertilizer. Dr. Ariyasinghe presented the report of the activities of the Sister Link program for the last year. He also spoke about how to build and sustain a long term sister link program and also the status of higher education in Sri Lanka.



Visit to the School of Health Sciences

The delegates visited the School of Health Sciences and were warmly welcomed by the Dean, Professor Aoki, Professor Takahashi, Professor Utsunomiya and other staff of the School of Health Sciences. A very cordial meeting was held and the close ties between the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (AHS), University of Peradeniya (PU) and the School of Health Sciences (SHS), Niigata University (NU) were strengthened. Two staff members of AHS (PU) are reading for their PhDs at SHS (NU). Six Sri Lankan students will now visit SHS for one semester and twelve students from the SHS will visit AHS for 10 days from 8th to the 18th of September 2016. Dean Professor Aoki and Prof Utsunomiya will accompany them. The plans for the program were discussed and possible improvements were also spoken about. Mr. Enami of the International affairs section was also in attendance.



One of the students who will be attending the Short Visit program was also present at the meeting.



The delegates were invited to dinner with many SHS staff in attendance including Professor Aoki Dean of SHS and Professor Hirano former dean and Professor Sadakata who is the supervisor of Ms. Malshani and Professor Utsunomiya.



Visit to the refurbished Library

The delegates visited the refurbished and modernized library of the Niigata University. The well laid out spacious nature and the attention to detail of the new library was clearly evident. The automatic book storage and retrieval facility was well appreciated.



Training program for three officials

This is the fifth training program being conducted for senior officials of the University of Peradeniya. The previous were successfully conducted in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The two day training program for senior officers from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka was conducted by the International Affairs Division of the Niigata University, Japan from the 30th of August 2016 under the Niigata-Peradeniya Sister Link Program.

The trainees were

1. Mr. E. A . R. M Edirisinghe- Acting Bursar
2. Mr. Mahinda Ekanayake – Senior Assistant Registrar, University of Peradeniya
3. Ms. Damayanthi Weerakoon – Personal secretary to the Registrar



The opening remarks were made in the presence of Professor Sato Takashi Director of the Institute of Education and student affairs global education center and presentations were made by Mr. Kenji Kakuta on the administrative policy of Japanese Universities and Mr. Takeshi Enami staff of the International Office spoke about the outline of the

Niigata University. There was time for a discussion after the UoP member Mr. Edirisinghe described about the university. A luncheon was hosted by Mr Kenji Kakuta at a nearby restaurant serving Japanese cuisine.

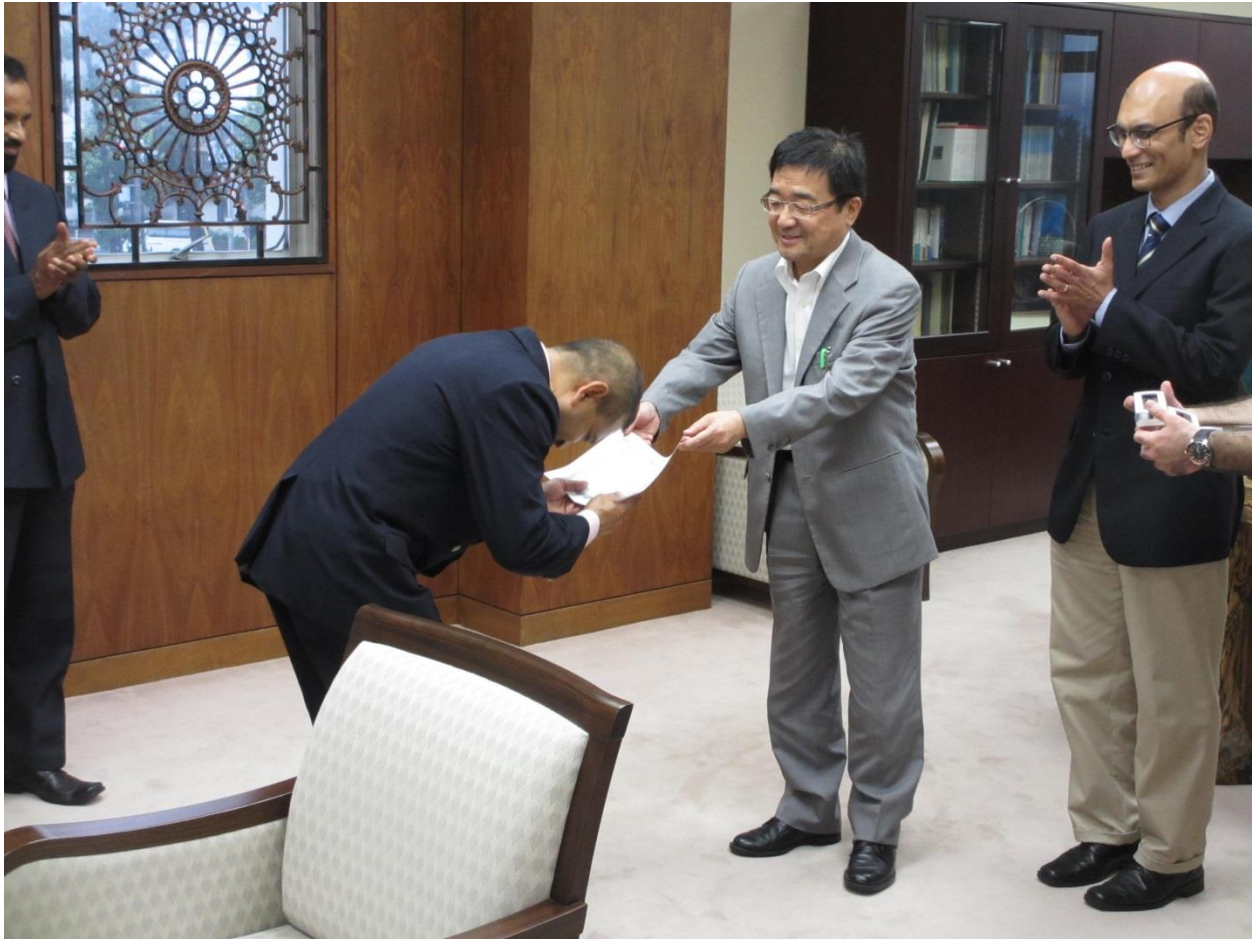
Dr. Sajjiv Ariyasinghe facilitated the program by way of translations and explanations to the participants. Mr. Nakagawa was also in attendance.

The trainees were introduced to relevant staff at the Niigata University and had cordial discussions on their respective areas of work. Frank discussions were held on the various advantages and disadvantages of the methods followed at the Niigata University and the University of Peradeniya.





A Closing Ceremony was held and certificates were given to the participants by President Sugata Takahashi.



The trainees also joined the courtesy call on the Vice President Education of the Niigata University, Professor Oura and Vice President International Professor Satoshi Kuwahara

The officials were also taken on a tour of School of Health Sciences (which also has a very active link program with the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya) and also to places of interest such as Yahiko Shrine and Media Ship Niigata.





Feedback from the participants

The feedback from the participants was overwhelming commendation for the program. They said that they not only learnt about the working of the Niigata University but also saw for their own eyes how the disciplined, conscientious and respect for each other was practiced to the letter by the Japanese people both inside and outside the university.

In Conclusion my thanks are due to the President Niigata University Professor Takahashi for the invitation to the team from the University of Peradeniya and also I would like to thank the staff of the International affairs division, with special thanks to Mr. Kenji Kakuta, Mr. Nakagawa , Ms. Hirata, and Mr. Takashi Enami for a very well-drawn up program in spite of their very busy work schedules, which had gone into detail to make sure the participants benefitted from it. Mr. Enami worked tirelessly to make the stay of the delegates a fruitful and happy one and was supported by Mr. Goto. Thanks are also due to the heads and staff of the departments from which resource personnel were involved in the training program.

Special comments on the Sister Link Program

As mentioned last year too the Director International Office Mr. Kakuta Kenji has revitalized International Cooperation at the Niigata University under the able guidance of President Takahashi and Vice President Kuwahara. He has put in place many new programs such as the Liaison Professor program which recognizes and motivates the alumni who have gone back to their own countries and worked hard to build better and wider relations with Niigata University and their own universities there by helping in the globalization of the Niigata University. He has been well supported by his able team of Mr. Nakagawa, Ms. Hirata, Mr. Enami and Mr. Goto. My sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of them. Mr. Enami deserves a special word of praise for helping out from the acceptance of the members and for working tirelessly until the end of the program. I would like to commit myself further with the hope that International Cooperation will grow to new heights, strengthening the Niigata-Peradeniya Sister Link even further in the next few years!

Sajjiv Ariyasinghe

Dr. Sajjiv Ariyasinghe

Coordinator Niigata-Peradeniya Sister Link Program
8th September 2016.