

Great Voyage

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CONTENTS

News	1-6
Overseas Offices	7
Greetings.....	8

News

Doshisha University to Open a Well-being Lecture Using AI from April 2022—in View of Contribution to Achieving the SDGs—

Doshisha University has decided to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) into the lecture “Introduction to Well-Being and Coaching: For a Meaningful Life and Good Communication” with the cooperation of DataRobot, Inc. This well-being lecture (mainly given by IIZUKA Mari, Professor at the Doshisha Business School and Director of the Doshisha Well-being Research Center) helps students think about the happiness of themselves, society, and the earth. This will be the first attempt in Japan to use AI for a lecture related to well-being.

This subject, available to all undergraduate students, is so popular that about 150 students register for it every year. In AY 2022, the subject will be offered in the spring semester. This subject is also given by the Consortium of Universities in Kyoto, and students from its member universities may also take the subject. Well-being means the happiness of human beings, including the society and the earth they live in, and it is said to be the next core concept of the SDGs. This is the first time for Doshisha University to incorporate DataRobot’s AI Cloud platform into a well-being lecture.

DataRobot offers AI not only to large-sized global companies but also to non-profit organizations engaged in social contribution activities, such as those to achieve the SDGs. DataRobot advocates “data science democratization,” and this lecture supports even students who have a background in the humanities or have not taken a data science course. The lecture gives students an opportunity to think about the possibilities and challenges of applying AI to the happiness of themselves and society through practice, while also taking into account its contribution to achieving the SDGs.

Also, Professor Iizuka is planning to actively introduce an opportunity to experience AI in graduate school subjects with the cooperation of DataRobot. These efforts are expected to advance discussions on the use of AI for happiness, including the ethical considerations of doing so, from the undergraduate to the graduate school level through practical application in the field of education, thus contributing to achieving the SDGs.

Staff of the Division of SDA Provide Support at the 2022 Convocation Ceremony

At Doshisha University, many students are involved in activities as staff to support challenged students. Staff of the Division of Student Diversity and Accessibility Support (SDA) provided support at the 2022 convocation ceremony. This article reports on two staff members who provided support, one with computer-based notetaking and the other with sign language interpretation.

NOGUCHI Marina (computer-based note-taker) (third-year student, Department of Policy Studies, Faculty of Policy Studies)

“I applied for computer-based notetaking at the convocation ceremony this year because I was excited by the thought of having a new experience that was different to computer-based notetaking activities in a class.

This year’s convocation ceremony was the first time for me to be involved in support activities at a ceremony. That was a very valuable experience. When I do computer-

based notetaking in a class, I am committed to offering the most accurate textual information to the student who receives the support. At the ceremony, I had a different tense feeling at the thought of delivering information that would come to the attention of many more people.

I came to know about the Division of SDA in the spring semester of my second year, when I happened to take the same lecture as a student receiving such support. I joined the Division just hoping to be of help to someone, but through support activities as a member of the Division, I have gotten to know many people and learned a lot. I am so proud of being involved in these activities while being surrounded by wonderful people, and I will continue to actively participate in a wide variety of activities, including computer-based notetaking.”



FUJII Ryota (Sign language interpreter) (second-year student, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Studies)

~Motivation behind challenging myself~

“Back in the fall of my second year of high school, I came across the medium of ‘sign language’ and became interested in it. One reason for my interest was a vague dream, since around my first year of junior high school, of being a newscaster.

I took the plunge and joined a local sign language circle, hoping to be a newscaster who could convey information on various social events to people with hearing impairments so that they could be as informed as hearing people. As I started to learn sign language, I found the language to be more profound and interesting than I had expected, and I wanted to know more about it. I have always felt and still feel the same way.

When I was asked to do sign language interpretation at the convocation ceremony, I was pleasantly surprised. My heart overflowed with joy at the thought of showing sign language to so many people after years of hard work studying the language. I had no experience in interpretation, so I was more than happy to have my first opportunity to interpret at the convocation ceremony of the university I go to. I challenged myself with a strong determination to do it well.”

~My thoughts on my first opportunity to interpret~

“To be frank, I had a lot of fun! Of course, I felt nervous and anxious about signing in front of many people, but the moment my eyes met those of the people who were seriously gazing at my signs, I felt I was connected with them through sign language regardless of whether they were hearing impaired or not. After that moment, I was absorbed in signing with the sole desire of conveying information to as many people as possible. During the interpretation, I paid much attention not only to my hand movements but also to my gestures, the direction of my eyes, my nods, and above all, my facial expressions so that I could convey the feelings of the speaker and the atmosphere. Nowadays, some press conferences come with sign language interpretation, so you may have seen one on TV, but you may have few opportunities to see sign language around you. If you attended the convocation ceremony, I am happy if it gave you an opportunity to feel close to sign language and become interested in it. I will keep studying it hard while leading a meaningful student life. I will also work harder so that I can make use of this experience in the future.

I am really grateful to have such a wonderful experience.”

Ultra-compact Transformable Lunar Robot Developed by Professor WATANABE Kimitaka of the Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences in Collaboration With TOMY Company and JAXA to Be Installed in JAXA’s Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)

An ultra-compact transformable lunar robot developed by Professor WATANABE Kimitaka of the Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences in collaboration with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (“JAXA”) and other organizations is planned to be installed in JAXA’s Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) to gather information on the moon’s surface. This is expected to be the second mission to the moon following last year’s lunar payload transportation by a lunar lander from ispace, inc.



This robot project was originally a collaborative research on housing started by JAXA and TOMY Company, Ltd. (“TOMY Company”) under the framework of the JAXA Space Exploration Innovation Hub Center’s Request for Proposal (RFP) in 2016, when Professor Watanabe was working for TOMY Company. Later, the research project was joined by Sony Group Corporation (“Sony”) in 2019 and then by Doshisha University in 2021. Since then, the four have proceeded with collaborative research on an ultra-compact and ultra-lightweight mobile robot operable in a harsh lunar

environment. This robot utilizes TOMY Company's and Doshisha University's housing miniaturization technologies, Sony's control technologies, and JAXA's technologies and knowledge of product development in a space environment.

The joint research team has given this transformable lunar robot "Lunar Excursion Vehicle 2 (LEV-2)" the nickname "SORA-Q." A CG video showing how SORA-Q transforms and travels will be available from Tuesday, March 15, 2022 on the official website of TOMY Company, one of the members of the joint research team (https://youtu.be/BW5U_XO-Mm4).

HOSOKAWA Asaka and HAYASHI Kina, Doshisha University Swimming Club Members Competing in the 19th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022, Visit President UEKI

On Wednesday, July 6, HOSOKAWA Asaka and HAYASHI Kina visited President UEKI Tomoko to report their results at the 19th FINA World Championships Budapest 2022. Hosokawa is in her fourth year at the Faculty of Health and Sports Science; Hayashi is in her third year at the same faculty. Hosokawa, a member of the national artistic swimming team, won a silver medal in free combination. Hayashi swam the Women's 200-meter Butterfly. She finished in third place overall in the preliminary heats with a good time, but unfortunately, she lost her semifinal, missing out on a chance to advance to the final.

Upon receiving the results, President Ueki applauded the two swimmers' efforts, saying, "I saw you competing on the grand stage with such great confidence, and I am so proud of you as President of your university. Your good showing encourages not only the students, faculty, and alumnae of Doshisha University, but also the whole nation."



Hosokawa's comment

"I really enjoyed this competition. I am going to apply what I saw and felt at the FINA World Championships to my efforts in the future. I received so much support to compete in the competition, and I will work hard to be an athlete who continues to receive support."

Hayashi's comment

"I enjoyed the race more than feeling nervous because I had the opportunity to compete against the world's top swimmers. Some things didn't go so well, but I have learned from them, and I am going to make adjustments properly and swim much better at the FINA World Championships next year, which will be held in Fukuoka."

Report: "Let's make an original wind-bell!" (presented by SIED)

On May 27th, 2022 (Friday), we held an event "Let's make an original wind-bell!" at the international community lounge.

In this event, participants decorated and made their own wind bells. Also, they learned the history of wind bells and how to withstand hot summer, and through all those activities we facilitated international interactions.

At the beginning of the event, participants enjoyed discussing about the reasons why international students chose Japan as their destination to study abroad, and about languages local students studied.

During ice break, we shared to each other the recommended ways of spending the summer. Typical Japanese styles of spending summer like decorating wind bells or eating watermelons are interesting for the international student.

Most local students said they eat ice cream to get through hot summer. What is your recommended way of spending the summer?

In the drawing time on wind bells, participants drew oceans and fireworks that remind you of summer. The sound of wind-bells painted by participants makes the summer air feel cooler.

Through activities of the event, everyone got along with each other and had international interactions as our purpose while learning about summer in Japan and wind-bells. We hope you guys will get through the upcoming hot summer with your original wind bells and ice cream!

SIED will be hosting events that everyone can comfortably internationally interact and find wonderful encounters and connections, with the caution to the prevention of infection. We are looking forward to seeing you in the upcoming events.



Report: “FUSHIMI Walking Tour” (presented by SIED)



Hello! This is SIED (Student Staff for Intercultural Event at Doshisha).

On June 19th, we held “FUSHIMI Walking Tour” at Fushimi Inari Taisha, one of the most famous shrines in Kyoto prefecture. Seven international students and six local students participated in this event. Because it was a sunny day, we enjoyed walking around Fushimi Inari Taisha!

At the beginning of the event, we were divided into 3 groups and introduced ourselves to each other. Talking about our majors and about the way of greeting in various languages helped us get along with group members. After that, we walked to “Kumatakasha,” which is one of the small shrines in the middle of Mt. Inari. Fushimi Inari Taisha is famous for a lot of *torii*s, the gateways to shrines, its vermillion color reminding us of Japanese spirituality. When we got out of the “Senbon Torii,” which is the path with many *torii*s there is “Okusha Hohaisho.” In this area, we can try to lift “Omokaru Ishi,” the stone which is said that if you think

that stone is heavier than your expectation, your wish might not come true, and if you feel it lighter, your wish may come true. Some participants tried this and said, “It’s heavier surprisingly!” or “It’s lighter than I thought!” Then, we strolled to the “Kumatakasha,” took a rest there for about 15 mins, and got back.

In this event, the participants enjoyed chatting together while walking and had a lot of fun.

SIED will continue to take thorough measures to prevent new coronavirus infections and plan various international exchange events. We look forward to your participation ♪



Overseas Offices

Doshisha University's overseas offices were established in order to further promote its rapid and effective internationalization. At our overseas offices, we are implementing mainly public relations activities to increase the profile of Doshisha University, while at the same time making the most of the characteristics unique to each office. In addition, we are undertaking various efforts to recruit international students, support Doshisha students while they are studying overseas, and provide on-site support to our faculty members.

Taipei, Taiwan

Address : Doshisha Taiwan Office
c/o DSS-CLOVER International Co.
6F-15, No. 57, Chong-Qing S. Rd.
10045 Taipei, Taiwan
Tel: +886-2-2331-1278
Fax: +886-2-2331-1397
Email: ji-int24@mail.doshisha.ac.jp

Tübingen, Germany

Address : Tübingen University
Keplerstraße 2, Raum 042 & 043
72074 Tübingen Deutschland
Email: ji-eu@mail.doshisha.ac.jp

Seoul, Korea

Address : Doshisha Seoul Office
408, YMCA
Jongno 69, Jongno-gu,
Seoul, Korea 03164
Tel: +82-2-732-7704
Email: ji-int29@mail.doshisha.ac.jp



Greetings

Greetings from the Office of International Students

Hello from the Office of International Students. The last time we introduced ourselves in Great Voyage was in August 2020. Between then and March 2022, strict entry restrictions were implemented by the government of Japan due to the spread of COVID-19. Over that period many students who hoped to study abroad in Japan graduated without having the opportunity to come here. It's very unfortunate that we were unable to meet them in person. However, as of July 2022, many of Japan's entry restrictions have been relaxed and we expect to welcome new exchange students to Doshisha University in the fall semester this year. We are very excited that students will have chances to learn about Japan and our school. We hope that they will make many unforgettable memories here.

There are three sections in the Office of International Students. One section handles international admissions, including the entrance exam for international students, as well as public relations. The other two sections are in charge of supporting current international students on Imadegawa and Kyotanabe campuses.

Additionally, there is a student organization called SIED (Student Staff for Intercultural Events at Doshisha) which works with the Office of International Students to plan and implement intercultural events. Please join SIED's events and make lots of new friends.

To all prospective international students interested in pursuing studies in Japan, please rest assured that Kyoto and Doshisha University will embrace you with a spirit of hospitality.

Warm Regards,

Office of International Students



Great Voyage is published by the International Center at Doshisha University.

Please direct inquiries to:

Office of International Affairs, Doshisha University

Karasuma-Higashi-iru, Imadegawa-dori, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto 602-8580 Japan

Tel: +81 (0) 75-251-3260 Fax: +81 (0) 75-251-3057 Email: ji-kksai@mail.doshisha.ac.jp