

# Great Voyage

Vol.30 January 2025



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## News

### Commemorative Service for the 150th Anniversary of the Rutland Appeal at the Grace Congregational United Church of Christ (U.S.)

On October 9, 1874, the annual conference of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (a missionary organization) was held at the Grace Congregational United Church of Christ in Rutland, Vermont, U.S. Just before completing his studies in the U.S. and returning to Japan as a missionary, Joseph Hardy Neesima spoke passionately in front of a congregation of about 3,000 people about his determination to establish a Christian school in Japan, and received a pledge of about \$5,000 in donations, which served as the cornerstone for Doshisha.



On Sunday, October 13, 2024, the 150th anniversary of Neesima's appeal at Rutland, an anniversary service was held at the Grace Congregational United Church of Christ.

A total of 27 people from Doshisha University participated, including Dr. Eiji Hatta, Chancellor and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of The Doshisha, and Professor Katsuhiko Kohara, President of Doshisha University, as well as faculty, staff and alumni of the university.



For more details, please visit the following website.

<https://150th.doshisha.ed.jp/150th-info/detail/310>

Footage from the back of the chapel can also be seen on the YouTube channel of the Grace Congregational United Church of Christ.

## German Language and Intercultural Studies EU Campus Program 2024 has successfully completed!



From Friday, March 1 to Thursday, August 8, 2024, German Language and Intercultural Studies EU Campus Program 2024 was held at Doshisha EU Campus at Tübingen University. 15 students from Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Culture and Information Science, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Faculty of Global and Regional Studies participated in the program.



Right after the program started in March, the students took intensive German courses for Doshisha students including several field trips and an elementary school visit, which contributed greatly for improvement of their German proficiency. From the middle of April, they started to study German language by proficiency level together with UT international students from various countries and regions, and experienced a diverse of intercultural communication. In addition to German language classes, the students deepened their understanding of German and EU society and culture through Joint Seminar- Intercultural

Studies classes with UT students from Department of Japanese Studies and special lectures by Doshisha faculty members on EU Campus.

In extracurricular activities, the Buddy Program was implemented also in 2024, where Doshisha students and UT Japanese Studies students are paired up as a TANDEM partner. While learning each other's language, the students sometimes went beyond the framework of a "Buddy Program" and deepened exchanges on and off campus, either individually or in groups. It is supposed that a part of Buddy students of the Japanese Studies would go study abroad at Doshisha from Spring 2025. Therefore, we are expecting that their friendship would continue and bloom up next year in Kyoto.

Lastly but not at least, we could not realize this program in such a successful way without diligent effort and great contribution by the relevant persons and institutes of UT, especially by "Deutsch als Fremdsprache" and "Department of Japanese Studies." We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for all involved in UT for this wonderful program.

The "Student Voice" written by the participating students during the program is available on the EU Campus website in both Japanese and German. Please refer to the following link.

[Student Voice](#)



**Mr. YAMADA Kai, a student in the Applied Chemistry course, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, has become the first in our graduate school to receive a master's degree diploma from the École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles de la Ville de Paris (ESPCI) through a double degree program.**

Mr. Kai Yamada enrolled in the Applied Chemistry course at Graduate School of Science and Engineering, in April 2021 and studied abroad at the École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles de la Ville de Paris (ESPCI) from January 2022 to July 2023 through a double degree program. During his time abroad, he studied “Anormal stability of emulsion” and “Water condensation on oil-infused PDMS gels.” After obtaining his master's degree from Doshisha University, he was awarded a diploma from ESPCI in June 2024.

The awarding of a diploma from ESPCI is a significant and first-time achievement for our graduate school.



ESPCI is a member of Paris-Tech, a consortium of the most prestigious French grandes écoles in the Paris region. ESPCI provides an education centered on experimental research, mainly in the fields of physics, chemistry, and biology. It is renowned for producing historical chemists and many Nobel Prize winners.

## **Professor SERYO Shingo (Faculty of Law) Gives Lecture at the University of Oxford, UK**

On Friday, September 20, 2024, Professor Shingo Seryo (Faculty of Law) gave a lecture titled "Recent developments of regulations in digital market in Japan – Comparison with the EU and the UK" at the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, UK. This was the fourth lecture in the Doshisha Oxford Lecture Series, in which faculty members from Research Center for International Transactions and Law, Doshisha University and the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, take turns giving lectures at each other's universities.



Professor Seryo's lecture provided an overview of Japan's new digital regulatory law (Act on Promotion of Competition for Specified Smartphone Software), enacted in June 2024, and examined the features of digital market regulation in Japan, while comparing it with EU law and UK law. Local researchers commented that the lecture was very interesting in relation to global trends in digital market regulation and the position of Japanese law within that trend. Held in collaboration with DOMANI,\* an educational program for students at our university and the University of Oxford, the lecture was also attended by students participating in DOMANI.

Furthermore, gratitude is extended to Judge Anselmo Reyes of the Singapore International Commercial

Court, a research scholar of our research center, for his full support in organizing the “Doshisha Oxford Lecture Series”.

(Research Center for International Transactions and Law, Doshisha University: RECITAL)

\* Doshisha – Oxford Merton College Advocacy Network Initiative: Practical role-play training in international arbitration and mediation held alternately at Doshisha and Oxford every year. This year it took place at Oxford from September 17 to 19.

## **Ultra-Compact Lunar Exploration Vehicle, LEV-2 (SORA-Q), wins award at the 11th Robot Awards (Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award) and the Robots and Society Award from the Robotics Society of Japan!**



Lunar Surface image taken by LEV-2 (SORA-Q)

The ultra-compact Lunar Excursion Vehicle 2 (LEV-2) (SORA-Q), jointly developed by Professor Kimitaka Watanabe of Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), TOMY Company, Ltd., and Sony Group Corporation, has won the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award at the 11th Robot Awards.

This award was given in recognition of not only LEV-2 but also LEV-1, which operated on the moon together with LEV-2.

Together with LEV-1, LEV-2 (SORA-Q) was loaded onto the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) and released from the SLIM on January 20, 2024 and operated on the moon. While LEV-2 took photos of the lunar surface, LEV-1 transmitted the data to Earth. This cooperation between two separate vehicles on the moon, the first time this has been achieved in the world, successfully enabled information about activities on the moon to be transmitted to Earth. In addition, the rovers became the first fully autonomous robots in the world to undertake lunar exploration.

The award recognizes the vehicles’ fully autonomous lunar surface activities and LEV-2 (SORA-Q)'s traits as the world’s smallest and lightest (mass 228 g) lunar exploration robot, praising the major impact it will have on future space development, and ultimately on the development of science and technology.

In addition, LEV-2 (SORA-Q) has received the Robots and Society Award (2024) from the Robotics Society of Japan. This award is intended to commend activities and expertise that have contributed (or have the potential to contribute) greatly to the popularization and adoption of robots and to the transformation of society. LEV-2 (SORA-Q) is recognized not only for its successful operation on the moon, but also for its contribution as a toy in making the attractive features of robots widely known.

For the development of LEV-2 (SORA-Q), Sony Group Corporation was responsible for software development, and the person in charge, Mr. Tatsunobu Ando, is a graduate of our university's Faculty of Engineering (currently Faculty of Science and Engineering).

Congratulations to Professor Watanabe, Mr. Ando, and all others involved in the development of LEV-2 (SORA-Q) on your awards!



At the award ceremony at the Robotics Society of Japan  
Second from the left: Professor WATANABE; fourth from the left: Mr. Ando of Sony Group Corporation

## Report: “Learn New Orleans” (Presented by International Students of UNO and SIED)

On Thursday, June 20, we held an event “Learn New Orleans” with a total of 21 participants, 13 international students and 8 local students!

At this event, students from the University of New Orleans in Louisiana, USA, introduced their school and the history of New Orleans! Participants were so interested in the students life of UNO, and some local students were considering studying in a university in the states.

We also made tiny figures shaped a dog using beads handed out at a famous festival "Mardi Gras" in New Orleans. We had a lot of fun while teaching how to make it each other and having fun in a friendly atmosphere.

In addition, we colored masks to be used at the festival. The masks were made with various colors, designs, and a lot of individuality.



# News

This event was the first time in the past five years that we were able to collaborate with students from New Orleans. We were very happy that participants exchanged a lot of information about lives and concerns in the states.

SIED is planning various international exchange events in the future.

We are looking forward to your participation.



## Report: “Let's experience Kyoyuzen! -Making a handkerchief-” (Presented by SIED)

On Tuesday, June 25, we held the “Let's experience Kyoyuzen! -Making a handkerchief-” with a total of 7 participants, 4 international students and 3 local students!

At the beginning of the event, we introduced each other to the traditional crafts of our hometowns. This was a very interesting exchange, not only with people outside of Kyoto, but also with people from the United States, Germany, Korea, and other parts of the world.

Then, we went to "Marumasu Nishimuraya" for a hands-on experience of Kyoyuzen. The participants were impressed by the technique of layering colors by twirling a brush. Many participants chose Kyoto motifs for their handkerchiefs, creating original handkerchiefs unique to Kyoto.

Thank you for coming to this event all participants.

SIED is planning various international exchange events in the future.

We are looking 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

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# Greetings

## Greetings from the Office of International Students

Hello from the Office of International Students.

By the time you read this newsletter (in January), students will likely be studying intensively for their final exams. We will also be busy preparing for the new semester.

In our previous greetings (from August 2022 and August 2020), we shared photos of ourselves wearing masks due to the impact of COVID-19. This time, we are pleased to greet you without masks. Over the past two years since the pandemic, we have gradually returned to our normal lives, and the campus has become lively once again.

There are three sections in the Office of International Students. One section handles international admissions, including the entrance exams 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.

In addition, there is a student organization called SIED (Student Staff for Intercultural Events at Doshisha), where students and university staff work together to plan and organize intercultural exchange events. Many exchange students participate in SIED events, and it brings us great joy and encouragement to see them leave with smiling faces.

We will continue to fully support all international students who wish to study at Doshisha University, ensuring they can have a safe and fulfilling study abroad experience!

Warm Regards,

Office of International Students



Imadegawa campus



Kyotanabe campus



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For almost 15 years we have sent out newsletters twice a year, and this will be the final issue.

We sincerely appreciate your support over the years.

Doshisha University will celebrate its 150th anniversary of foundation in 2025.

To commemorate this milestone, we will be undertaking various projects and events.

For the latest news, including information about the 150th anniversary events, please visit our university's official website.

(EN) <https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/en/index.html>

(JP) <https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/>

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

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