Voices from Students

Colorful Company

Students learn how to provide support to children
Serving as big brothers and sisters, more approachable than teachers

It is the library at a local elementary school. Children gather here after school. Once a week, the After-School Learning Program takes place. The tutors are members of a student organization in the Faculty of Education, Colorful Company. They help children with their investigative learning and motivate them with suggestions that arouse their interest. Some members of the group were interviewed on the reasons for participation. One of them said: "I want to be an elementary school teacher, and I want to have prior experience in connecting with children." Another said: "I participated in the program in the hope of experiencing an actual education site. By interacting with children, I am convinced that becoming a teacher is my destiny."

I wanted to make the most of my exchange semester and really improve my Japanese so I decided to attend Kochi University

The teachers and support staff at Kochi University were very helpful and I never once felt troubled as they were always always ready to help. Many events for exchange students to enjoy were organised, for example a trip to a nearby town to go rice planting, which was a very unique experience. One of my favourite memories of my time there was in the Sunday markets, I met a man selling potatoes. I mentioned I was studying at Kochi University and with a big smile he gave me a bag of potatoes and told me to spread Japanese culture and language all over the world. This is indicative of the warmth of the people of Kochi, and the strength of the Tosa spirit.

Student Exchanges
The University of Queensland

My dream was to study abroad since I was in junior high school

When I started school in the University of Queensland I was really surprised in the amount of the readings and the assignments. This experience gave me good influence and habit to study every day. Of course I have enjoyed outside of the school as well. I had experienced working at a retail shop in Brisbane, working with people from many countries and sharing cultures and languages. Also I went to Great Barrier Reef, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, and Sydney. This country is famous for beautiful beaches and weather is nice, similar climate to Kochi. I was very lucky to have the opportunity to study abroad in the University of Queensland it has become one of my precious memories and I have gained confidence in me. I would like to thank my parents, friends and teachers for the support.

Certified as a Kochi University-launched Venture Company

Graduate students at Kochi University started a marine farming business

Kochi University established the Kochi University-launched Venture Certification System in March 2014 as the first of its kind introduced by national universities in Shikoku. Certified companies are allowed to use some facilities of Kochi University as a rental laboratory or office, and use the address of Kochi University for their commercial registration. Kochi University certified three corporations in October 2014. One of them is a general incorporated association named Umiji (Sea Route), started by some graduate students.

General Incorporated Association
Umiji
Established / March 2013 Representative / Jun Hachiya

Contents of business
- Offshore farming of green laver (Enteromorpha prolifera) and abalone, using deep ocean water
- Production and sales of seedlings
- Production, processing and sales of marine products
- Management of restaurants

What are the positive things about getting certified as a venture company?
The certification enabled us to receive a subsidy from the Kogin Bank Regional Economy Promotion Foundation.

What do you think is rewarding?
I am running a cutting-edge business that hasn't been attempted elsewhere, so I receive considerable support from many organizations, including the local communities and Muroto City.

Tell us about your future outlook.
By studying the seaweed with high-purification ability and establishing methods of cultivating varieties of seaweed, I hope to propose a complex farming mechanism of fish, shellfish and seaweed without polluting the marine environment.

As I belonged to the Laboratory of Seaweed, I’ve been engaged in research on the physiology and ecology of seaweed in a joint research project with Muroto City. In the meantime, I became the winner of the National Students-Initiated Business Plan Contest. Following that, I made a patent application for the shell color of abalone. Through the results of advanced research on onshore farming methods for a large variety of seaweed conducted over seven years, I obtained the know-how of growing seeds of rare seaweed, and that’s why I decided to start a business.

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