



CAREN

Center for the Advancement of Research and Education Exchange Networks in Asia

Icho Festival 5/1/2016

Speech Contest in English

Abstracts of Speeches

Center for the Advancement
of Research and Education
Exchange Networks in Asia
(CAREN)



大阪大学
OSAKA UNIVERSITY

Theme of the speech

“How Can Osaka University Shine on the International Stage? My proposal”

Today more than ever, the whole institution – its courses and curriculum, its students, its research reach – has become infused with an international spirit. Cultivating a campus culture that embodies both global diversity and interconnectivity has become central to the mission of universities today.

What should Osaka University do to help carry the message of internationalization across our campuses and to the world? How can Osaka University shine on the international stage?

Here’s a chance for you to have YOUR SAY and tell everyone what YOU THINK in five minutes or less. It’s time to SHINE!

Place

Icho Festival

Center for Education in Liberal Arts and Sciences (CELAS) room B218

Toyonaka campus, Osaka University

Organized by

Center for the Advancement of Research and Education Exchange Networks in Asia (CAREN), Osaka University:

Professor Toshiya Hoshino (Executive Vice President of Global Engagement)

Professor Toshihiro Tanaka (Dean of Graduate School of Engineering)

Professor Kiyoshi Fujita (Director of the Center of International Affairs, Graduate School of Engineering)

Specially Appointed Professor Hiroshi Kanazawa (CAREN)

Specially Appointed Professor Haruko Sato (CAREN)

Specially Appointed Professor Hiromichi Akimoto (CAREN)

Specially Appointed Professor Mamoru Sakaue (CAREN)

Specially Appointed Associate Professor Luca Baiotti (CAREN)

Specially Appointed Assistant Professor Constantin Siriteanu (CAREN)

Specially Appointed Assistant Professor Takahiro Nishimura (CAREN)

Specially Appointed Assistant Professor Ryogo Yanagida (CAREN)

Specially Appointed Secretary Ikuko Nojiri (CAREN)

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Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University

Graduate School of Science, Osaka University

Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Osaka University

Graduate School of Engineering Science, Osaka University

Graduate School of Language and Culture, Osaka University

School of Foreign Studies, Osaka University

Awards and Prizes

No. 1: Highest Award

Trophy and Certificate

JPY 30,000, TOEIC Textbook from IIBC

No. 3 to 5: Performance Award

Trophy and Certificate

JPY 5,000 coupon for each

No. 2: Executive Vice President's Award

Trophy and Certificate

JPY 20,000, TOEIC Textbook from IIBC

No. 6 to 10: Award for Endeavor:

Certificate

TOEIC Textbook for each from IIBC

Judging criteria

Speech Development: Structure, Organization, Support Materials

Effectiveness: Achievement of purpose, interest, reception

Speech Value: Ideas, logic, original thought

Physical Delivery: Eye contact, body language

Voice: Flexibility, volume

Manner: Directness, assurance, enthusiasm

Correctness: Grammar, punctuation, word selection

Program

13:00-13:15

Opening remarks

13:20-13:30

[1] Break the Barrier

Madoka Taharasako (B2), School of Law

13:30-13:40

[2] Change the method of teaching

Mariko Yamashita (M2), Graduate School of Engineering

13:40-13:50

[3] Let's Embrace the World with the 'Four Cs': Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, and Creativity

Mehrasa Alizadeh (D1), Graduate School of Information Science and Technology

13:50-14:00

[4] Having each student understand their goals, their likes and dislikes, and their motivator

Miles Kajikawa (B1), School of Foreign Studies

14:00-14:10

[5] Changing Classes Style in Order to Increasing Student's Quality

Monica Irisa Clara Gondokusuma (B2), School of Engineering

Coffee break

14:20-14:30

[6] Small ambassador in Osaka University branch

Nana Chishima (B3), School of Foreign Studies

14:30-14:40

[7] IN THE GLOBAL ARENA

Sati Arthur (M1), Graduate School of Information Science and Technology

14:40-14:50

[8] What should Osaka University do to get the high reputation in the world?

Shogo Kunieda (M2), Graduate School of Science

14:50-15:00

[9] Connecting the ambitious

Tomoya Sato (B3), School of Law

15:00-15:10

[10] Japan's Universities Playing the League Games: What for? What now?

Varun Khanna (B3), School of Human Sciences

Coffee break

15:15-15:30

Keynote Speech

Takehiro Murata (The Institute for International Business Communication)

15:30-15:45

Award giving

15:45-15:55

Closing remarks

Photo taking

[1] Break the Barrier

Madoka Taharasako (B2)

School of Law

Over 2,000 international students are studying at Osaka University, but I don't feel Osaka University is international. There exists an invisible barrier between International students and local students. If the barrier is removed, both of them will develop their international-mindedness through interacting with each other.

I think the barrier has been built because both international students and local students can't take bravery to talk to someone they don't know. I hope Osaka University will give students a chance to break the barrier.

I have two suggestions. First, how about starting a course where international students and local students can talk together and exchange their opinions? International exchange subjects, called Kokusaikouryukamoku, are difficult for ordinary Japanese students, so it's better there will be easier classes for every student to join.

Second, we need gatherings where students can talk about whatever, for example, in lunchtime. It should be held on every campus every day, and students can use both English and Japanese there. It can help many students join the gatherings.

I hope Osaka University will take my suggestion as a step to shine on the international stage.

[2] Change the method of teaching

Mariko Yamashita (M2)

Graduate School of Engineering

Generally speaking, a "great university" is defined by honors such as the number of Nobel Prize recipients or winners, Presidents that graduated from the University and so on. However, it would be impossible for Osaka University to have more honors than Tokyo University. It is difficult to be the top in this regard. Taking first place as the best college in Japan is necessary because other colleges only have a small impact on the international stage.

As a solution, I propose to take the most effective studying method in Japan. The Learning Pyramid, which was proposed by National Training Laboratories shows that lectures have little positive effects for students. Conversely, it is more effective for

them to teach to other people by themselves. Therefore, my proposal is to give students the chance to have lectures for their juniors in classes.

This learning method has many positive effects. First, student can learn deeply. Second, they can improve their explanation skills. Finally, they can feel a sense of responsibility to understand the materials. This learning method will be unique and advanced. As a result, Osaka University can shine on the international stage as one of the most developed educational institutions in Japan.

[3] Let's Embrace the World with the 'Four Cs': Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, and Creativity

Mehrasa Alizadeh (D1)

Graduate School of Information Science and Technology

In this speech, I will talk about the pivotal role that Osaka University students could play in helping OU shine on the international stage. As 21st Century citizens in this globalized society, it is highly important for us not only to develop our knowledge and skills in our own fields of study and research, but also to equip ourselves with four indispensable skills, namely communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity. The four Cs may not have been greatly stressed within the Japanese context so far due to the great value attached to respect and politeness, but it is about time we start to cultivate them in ourselves. In conclusion, I would like to remind the audience of a quote by Brian Tracy about communications skills – that all the four Cs can be learned. They are not the skills we are born with. “It's like riding a bicycle or typing. If you're willing to work at it, you can rapidly improve the quality of every part of your life” and any institution you belong to.

[4] Having each student understand their goals, their likes and dislikes, and their motivator.

Miles Kajikawa (B1)

School of Foreign Studies

First, let me debunk the myth that English is the most important tool to achieving international success. English is indeed an international language, but by itself it is useless.

The attitude of never giving up is the No.1 factor for success. History shows that this is true, even the greatest fail. The difference between those who succeed and those who fail is that the former get up quicker due to their unyielding spirit. Thomas Edison, J.K. Rowling, and many others illustrate this. Also from my personal experience, students with clear goals tend to learn quicker. If Osaka-u were to shine in the global scale, the students themselves must have such spirit. This can only be accomplished by each student asking themselves what their motivator is. In other words, by understanding their own core values, likes and dislikes, and dreams. This is a personal act and the university can do very little to help. In conclusion, students must invest time in themselves, finding out who they are, and what they want to become.

[5] Changing Classes Style in Order to Increasing Student's Quality

Monica Irisa Clara Gondokusuma (B2)

School of Engineering

To become better on international stage, a university of course needs to prove that their graduates are excellent graduates. One of the aspects that can be changed to increase graduates' performance is, of course, increasing the classes' quality. The style of Japanese classes is very different from international classes, and they can be improved by active learning, exercise sessions, and using English text books.

How the classes conducted is the most different. Japanese classes tend to have a passive learning style, but according to research, active learning increases student performance in science, engineering, and mathematics. Giving questions to students and giving time to discuss with other students will make the student explore more about the topics and their own idea.

Next, having an exercise session in addition to a lecture will increase their understanding in things explained in the lecture class. This also can become a good place for student and the lecturer or TAs to discuss about the lecture.

Lastly, having English textbooks is a must. In this internationalization era, it is not enough to only converse in English, but also to explain complex research and ideas in the international language.

[6] Small ambassador in Osaka University branch

Nana Chishima (B3)

School of Foreign Studies

“Small ambassador system” is a wonderful and interesting way for Osaka University to shine on the international stage. Osaka University is the only university which includes foreign language faculties. There are twenty five languages! My major is a foreign language and especially hard to learn, Mongolian. In Mongolia, there are still many social problems. When I visited to Mongolia last year, it was inspired by the culture shock, the differences with Japan. Osaka University has a lot of great science and innovations. Knowing the demand of international society incentivizes utilizing and creating the new technologies by the science students. We have to make the place to exchange arts and sciences a place of value in our campus. My suggestion is gathering the “small ambassador” and setting a “small embassy” in our campus. Students can be these ambassadors. Students in faculty of foreign languages might contact actual embassies in the first level. We gather at the mini size embassy and share the information about each department’s research. My goal is to make suggestions to improve the relationship between the Japanese and the embassies in various countries.

Here is out small embassy, the Osaka University branch!

[7] IN THE GLOBAL ARENA

Sati Arthur (M1)

Graduate School of Information Science and Technology

It is possible for a university to engage in exchange programs with other colleges or universities worldwide. It is also easy to enroll international students, employ international staff or even use English in particular courses with an international curriculum.

But being a global university is not something you create through policy. Although it may play a role, you still need a sixth sense to make people feel our brand.

It is important to understand that identity is an ever-changing concept. University culture and traditions have to be modeled and adapted to further growth in the

global arena. The University has to be a forum for free dialogue and conversation between the diverse cultures, languages and experiences.

Some things define Osaka University. Academic reputation with highly relevant research publications is one of them. Another is community linkage. Redesign them to have an international outlook. Engage all students in events such as festivals, symposia, conferences, competition etc.

Allow the internationalization agents be the decision-makers. It would be futile to hire international scholars to spearhead the globalization program while failing to take advantage of their intellect, experience and expertise.

[8] What should Osaka University do to get the high reputation in the world?

Shogo Kunieda (M2)

Graduate School of Science

Osaka University is the one of the best universities in Japan. However, I think the ranking of Osaka University is still not high in the world standards. I hope the students in Osaka University can make more progress in this international stage. I'd like to talk about the problem and the solution through my experience.

The problem is that the students in Osaka university have little opportunity to use English. They are good at reading because they needed it to pass the entrance examination. However, many students stop studying English after they enter the university. Some students put more emphasis on studying their field such as physics or engineering than English. However, it is important for all students to learn English as a tool. There will be no student who can manage without English.

I'm a second year master student and when I was a bachelor, I was not aware of the importance to use English. I had an opportunity to study abroad. It was my first time to go abroad, and I had many difficulties. I recognized that it is needed to have an experience to use English to make a success in this international stage.

[9] Connecting the ambitious

Tomoya Sato (B3)

School of Law

My proposal is connecting capable students inside Osaka university (OU) regardless of their faculties or ages through creating an integrated academic platform. In order for OU to shine in international stage, I believe that what should do is help students shine. Young people are easily affected by those surrounding them. By making an environment where capable students can exchange their ideas, they can motivate with each other. Maybe it is effective to establish some selection. However, OU doesn't have such selected learning environment composed by those ambitious, competent and aggressive.

I regard this idea as effective with following reasons. First, I don't know where capable students in OU are gathering. Owing to the restriction on faculty or years, non-existence of selection and divergence of each university's section, competent students disperse inside OU. They are actually losing occasions to interact brilliant students.

Second, this kind of attempt has already been successful in other university. Tokyo University has a program called "KYORONDAN", where selected students from all over the university can have intensive discussion with foreign university. My friend in UT, who has an experience of this program said what he expected was to meet capable students in UT and he made it true.

[10] Japan's Universities Playing the League Games: What for? What now?

Varun Khanna (B3)

School of Human Sciences

With internationalization becoming a key word in Japan's higher education discourse, we have seen a big increase in the number of international students and academics coming to Japan to study, research and contribute to the knowledge economy. Has the process been influenced by a need for international global talent? Or the domination of league tables that warrant universities to be more international?

I will conceptualize 'being international' in the neo-liberal economy through a moral and philosophic perspective woven into the economics of globalization to argue that for Osaka University to improve its international standing, it will have to develop a

strong moral and philosophical viewpoint that either relates to the neo-liberalism or acts as a major deterrent to it.

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