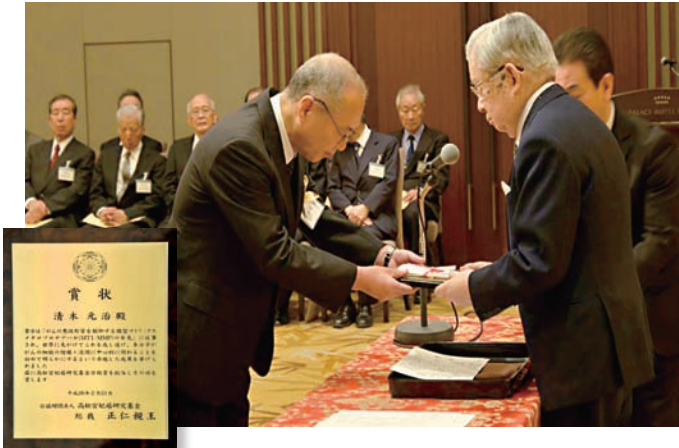


Prof. Motoharu Seiki got a Prize of Princess Takamatsu Cancer Research Fund

Awarding ceremony of Princess Takamatsu Cancer Research Fund Prizes was held in Palace Hotel in Tokyo and Dr. Motoharu Seiki, professor specially assigned in Integrated Center for Advanced Medical Technologies in medical school hospital, was awarded an academic prize for his research "Discovery and ingenious study of a membrane protease MT1-MMP in cancer"

This honorable prize is presented to those scholars and researchers who attained outstandingly prominent achievement in the field of cancer research. In the ceremony Prince Masahito of Hitachinomiya, the president of the Fund, presented the award certificate to the Dr.Seiki.



4th Kids' Football School ~ regional contribution through football

Kochi University's football team held its 4th Kids' Football School in collaboration with Kochi Bank in Kochi Prefectural Haruno General Sports Park on 30th November 2013. Kochi University's football team is one of the most prominent university football teams, who participated in All Japan University Football Tournament 29 times and for 20 consecutive years.



As its outstanding performance is well known, the Kids' Football School event is very popular. 250 limits on participation were immediately filled up with children from 2 years of age to higher grade elementary school students. Kochi University, through this football event, enhances exchanges with local people and contributes to local communities.

Kindergarten children visited the President and handed over hearty presents

30 children of a nearby kindergarten visited Dr. Wakiguchi, the Kochi University President, on 22nd November 2013, the national holiday of Labor Thanksgiving. The children stood in a row and greeted in a loud voice, "Thank you for your duty and thank you for allowing us to walk around the campus" and presented handmade New Year calendars.



53rd Muroto Walking Rally ~ Challenge to the physical and mental limits

The 2013 Muroto Walking Rally, which has long been regarded as one of the regular annual events of Kochi University, was held from 30th November to the next day overnight. This event originally started in 1961 as a training event of the Judo club to challenge physico-mental limits. They started walking 90 km from the Asakura campus to Cape Muroto within 30 hours overnight.

This time 291 walkers out of the 524 participants walked the whole distance in good weather condition. Alongside the road, local people cheered up the participants providing Onigiri (rice balls), Oden (stewed fish dumplings), and Tonjiru (pork soy soup). This event is supported by these local people.



Support for students' willingness to study- Awarding Ceremony of International Exchange Fund

Kochi University grants scholarships from its "International Exchange Fund" annually to both students from abroad and Japanese students who will study abroad. The fund also provides support to the postgraduate students who will make presentations on their research at academic meetings overseas.



This year 28 students were selected for the grants, and Dr. Wakiguchi, the President of Kochi University, gave a message to the grantees, "Seeing is believing. Study as much as possible overseas," at the awarding ceremony.

Postgraduate student won a music prize in trumpet!

Miss Chihori Yamasaki of Kochi University won an Espoir prize in brass instruments category in the 14th Osaka International Music Competition. She said "People in Kochi have fewer opportunities to enjoy professional music and have larger disadvantages in music facilities compared to big cities. However, in Kochi University we have many excellent and enthusiastic teachers who give intimate and hearty guidance to students, so that we can develop ourselves even in Kochi. It is important to pursue learning opportunities and to grasp as many of them as possible. "Her dream is to become a music teacher. "I would like to communicate my experience to children. In order to do that I will challenge any opportunities around me." She spares no daily trouble to attain her goal.



Miss Chihori Yamasaki
Graduate student of education

Kochi University

Annual Bulletin 2013 - 2014



2-5-1 Akebono-cho, Kochi City, Kochi Prefecture, 780-8520 Japan

Interview with a Kochi University graduate of worldwide recognition

Dr. Akihiro Seita

A Student of Kochi University interviewed Dr. Akihiro Seita, a graduate of Kochi Medical School, now the Director of Health Services, United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, a world leader of innovative medical reform.



Dr. Akihiro Seita and staff

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Asakura Campus

Faculty of Humanities and Economics, Faculty of Education
Faculty of Science, Faculty of Regional Collaboration
TOSA Innovative Human Development Programs

2-5-1 Akebono-cho, Kochi City, Kochi Prefecture, 780-8520 Japan

2-5-1 Akebono-cho, Kochi City, Kochi Prefecture, 780-8520 Japan
E-Mail: kikakukh@kochi-u.ac.jp

URL : <http://www-en.kochi-u.ac.jp>

Okamoto Campus

Medical School,
Medical School Hospital

Kohasu, Oko-cho, Nankoku City, Kochi Prefecture,
783-0043 Japan

Monobe Campus

Faculty of Agriculture

200 Monobe Otsu, Nankoku City, Kochi Prefecture,
783-8502 Japan

UNRWA

United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

What is the United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees?

It is an agency of the United Nations that provides human development and humanitarian services, such as education, health care, welfare, and relief. With 30,000 staff, it is the largest agency of the UN, and 99% of them are Palestinians. The majority of the budget comes from donations from supporting countries around the world.

Palestinian Refugee Aid



He did not originally set out to be a physician, but has now gained worldwide recognition for his remarkable innovations in medical welfare.

We are highly honored to meet such an important graduate of Kochi University Medical School, who has a worldwide reputation for his work. First, may I ask what kind of organization UNRWA is, where you serve as the Director of Health Services?

Dr. Seita: It is an agency of the UN, and its official name is the “United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees”. It was established in 1949 and started operating in the following year. We provide services, such as education, health services, relief and social welfare, to the five million registered Palestinian refugees, including the 1.4 million refugees living in the refugee camps. The Headquarters are in the Gaza Strip and Amman, Jordan. The staff include 30,000 Palestinian refugees employed on site and about 200 international staff, including myself.



School Medical Checkup



Gaza Strip School Classroom

Were you already interested in refugees and international problems when you were a student?

Dr. Seita: When I was a medical student, I was deeply moved by Michiko Inukai’s book “Ningen no Daichi (Human Earth)”, which was about her international work in Vietnam. Although I think clinical activities looking after patients are admirable, I really wished to help construct medical welfare

systems towards the solution of problems at a more fundamental level. After graduation from university, I worked for the US Army Hospital and Tuberculosis Prevention Research Institute, and at the age of 29 joined the East Mediterranean Office of WHO (World Health Organization), where I was engaged in work on infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis.

Was there any difference between that office and UNRWA?

Dr. Seita: UNRWA is managed with a huge budget of six million dollars, and it has a large and complex system. At first, I had no idea what to do. My wife said with a smile, “How can you work for UNRWA? You have been tackling only tuberculosis for nearly twenty years.” At any rate, I thought of visiting all the health service centers of the 139 facilities. It took me about a year to do so, and I found that their service was not bad. The doctors in the forefront were sincerely doing their job and were well received by their patients. However, human beings who do the same thing for many years get stagnant. Unfortunately, UNRWA was like that as an organization.

Introduction of Teamwork-based “Family Doctor System” and Renovation of Medical System

Dr. Seita, you are well known as the person who has done medical renovation at UNRWA. What kind of renovation have you done?

Dr. Seita: Three or four months after I entered UNRWA, my boss said, “We need to reform our system. Can you do it, Seita?” The boss says, “Do it”, and I say, “Yes.” That’s the norm for a governmental officer. Now, how can I do it? I make it a point of simplifying things. Nothing complex as it is can never be understood by others. The important thing is to pick out the really essential points, simplify various issues into one problem and find a solution to it.

When you did UNRWA’s medical reformation, how did you simplify it?

Dr. Seita: First I tried to find out the important issues. I saw the dying patients and found that four chronic diseases, i.e., cancer, heart disease, diabetes, respiratory disease, constituted 70 to 80 percent of the causes of death among the Palestinian refugees. Therefore, I simplified the issue that our top priority task was to deal with chronic diseases. What could we do? We concluded that we should tackle the problem at the health services centers. Having reached this point, I asked others, “What can we do?” and sought for opinions for solutions.

Narrowing the problems must have made it easier for people to answer your questions. How in fact did they answer you?

Dr. Seita: They told me “Family Doctor System” was a good idea. I did some research and found that some countries have “Family Health Teams”, in which doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists cooperate to care for their patients holistically. OK. This is it. That’s what I thought.

Until then, we had separate divisions for general outpatients, maternal and child health outpatients, vaccination, diabetes and high blood pressure outpatients. It was not efficient. We thought of making it possible to deal with all of them in the same health service facility. In order to prove to all concerned that it was a reorganization for the great benefit of the refugees, we drew a picture with “Fatima”, an imaginary refugee, as the central figure in our “A Health Service Reorganization that will make Fatima happy”.



When you actually started it, what kind of effect did you bring about?

Dr. Seita: First we operated it at the health service centers in Gaza Strip and Lebanon, and the doctors there cooperated with us excellently and did even more than we planned. They divided the patients into three districts, and the health service center into three divisions, and placed doctors, nurses and midwives on the floor for each district. It was very well received. Some patients said that it was the first time they were able to find their own way around a health service center. (smile) The patients were also happy to be able to have the same counselor to look after PTSD and other diseases.

When you introduced the Family Doctor System, how did it fare?

Dr. Seita: When the patients went to the pharmacy to get medicine, they had to come to the doctor first each time, but I made it possible for them to go to the pharmacy directly without seeing the doctor when that was unnecessary. This kind of reorganization helped reduce the number of doctors that one patient had to see from 100 to 80.

You introduced so many innovations. It is amazing.



Dr. Seita: Like the story of “Fatima” that I mentioned earlier, what we must value most are the refugees. I always say to everybody, “The refugees are our bosses.” Imagine a reverse pyramid with refugees not at the bottom but at the top, and just below them the health service centers. And at the bottom is the Headquarters. This structure makes our existence significant. If the Headquarters is at the top and does not value the refugees, nothing will go well.

Working today as hard as I can, I wonder what life will be like five or ten years from now

As a global authority, what kind of advice would you give to students of Kochi University?

Dr. Seita: I spent a very ordinary university life. I studied hard and played soccer in the students’ club. I would say, “Study hard, and enjoy a lot of things.” One special piece of advice would be “Learn to use English properly, and it will certainly be handy in your future.” Whether you work abroad or become a researcher, you will need to write and present your papers in English in international conferences.

Have you had any difficulties with English?

Dr. Seita: When I first joined WHO, my English was not good. I wrote memos in English, and my boss had to correct most of what I wrote, and I can never forget that. What did I do to learn English? I kept reading *The Economist*. By reading it, I learned to absorb what was going on in the world in English. The expressions used in articles in the journal were very useful when I had to write my own articles. At any rate, read, read and read. When you attend international conferences, you’ll be at a great disadvantage if you don’t know what to say in English.

Please give a message to those students who aspire to succeed overseas in the future.

Dr. Seita: Young means you have a bright future! (smile) When you are young, you can do lots of things and imagine all kinds of future. Certainly, you may need some idea of what you wish to do in the long term but at the same time, it is important to think of what to do five years from now, and ten years from now. Think of your future this way and launch yourself as boldly as you can into the great stream of progress. Anyhow, do your best now!

I am profoundly impressed by your ideas on international health service developments and your family doctor system. I will do my best to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills as a future doctor and hope to actively contribute to world progress as you have. Thank you very much for talking with me so inspiringly today.



Dr. Akihiro Seita

Director, Health Services
United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
Born in Hiroshima. Age 53.
A graduate of Kochi Medical School, now Medical School, Kochi University.
Worked for the Research Institute of Tuberculosis, WHO, etc.
Currently Director of Health Services, UNRWA, with 3000 staff.
Developed a very successful “Family Doctor System” among Palestinian refugees.
Resides in Amman. “Basically, I want to do the kind of job I enjoy.
My constant thinking is directed at how best I can achieve my goals.”

What do you learn here at Kochi University?

You have four years here.
At this educational institution,
you knock on the door of curiosity, spread your wings of thought,
face the challenge of learning on and off campus.
You will find your potential.
What will you learn at Kochi University?



Let's Study Together!

Educate yourself about your responsibility as a student of Kochi University. I request each student to be aware that our university is a national educational and research institution managed with people's taxes. Studying here is a privilege and you have a responsibility to do well.

Kochi University intends to continue being "a university for local communities". We will do our best for Kochi Prefecture. We will keep providing unique education and research; one instance is that we are "an advanced university in the field of ocean and disaster risk management" made possible by our regional advantage.

One of my favorite phrases is "noblesse oblige", which refers to "the moral and spiritual responsibility that accompanies a noble person". I ask each student of Kochi University to have this spirit, to study, to conduct research and to try to pass on what you have gained to your communities.

University provides the last phase of your education before you work for society. Whatever you learn here, whether mathematical and theoretical ways of thinking or cultural knowledge of history and literature, will constitute a significant element in how you work after graduation. I hope you will bear this in mind while at Kochi University. And we the teachers and staff will do our best to support your studies according to the principle, "Aim at education responsible to both students and communities".

Prof. Hiroshi Wakiguchi President, Kochi University

Undergraduate Faculties

Faculty of Humanities and Economics

The Faculty of Humanities and Economics is the combined faculty of Human Sciences and Social Sciences. We endeavor to offer students a comprehensive understanding of mankind, the capacity to cope with the globalization of society, and help them understand and contribute to the local community. We welcome keen, motivated students who would like to learn more about the culture and society that human beings have created.



Prof. Hiroshi Yoshio
Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Economics

Field of Study:Socio-economic history in China
Education:Graduate School of Letters,
Nagoya University

Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education offers a four-year systematic curriculum of both practical and theoretical studies. It aims to produce teachers with outstanding practical leadership and teaching skills, who can, with flexibility and accuracy, cope with problems of kindergartens, primary schools, junior high schools and special education schools.



Prof. Eiji Fujita
Dean, Faculty of Education

Field of Study:Teaching Social Studies
Education:Master's Program, Graduate School of
Education, Hiroshima University

Faculty of Science

We promote specialized education in broad fields such as information, raw materials, living organisms, environment, marine resources, etc., based on mathematical thinking, English proficiency and data processing proficiency to foster specialized businesspeople able to deal with the local and international society. We welcome students who like mathematics and science and who are interested in natural science.



Prof. Tomohiko Suzuki
Dean, Faculty of Science

Field of Study:Comparative Biochemistry
Education:Department of Biology,
Faculty of Science, Tohoku University

Medical School

The extensive development of medical science in recent years has continued to make various impacts on societies worldwide. In order to adequately respond to the diverse changes of values under such social circumstances, each branch of medical professional is obliged to establish its own ethical system. The Medical School of Kochi University, therefore, welcomes students who possess well-developed powers of logical, flexible thinking along with the sense of balance, sympathetic abilities and problem solving skills such as are the fundamental qualities necessary for the development of new ethical systems.



Prof. Tetsuro Sugiura
Dean, Medical School

Field of Study:Cardiology
Laboratory medicine
Education:Kansai Medical University

Faculty of Agriculture

Agriculture of the twenty-first century shall contribute to sound progress of local society through safe food production, environment conservation and efficient utilization of bioresources. Kochi University's Faculty of Agriculture aims to train individuals who understand this agricultural mission, and are able to implement it in both an active and creative way. We welcome students who are conscious of the importance of agriculture as a mission for the future and who are able to study with enthusiasm, taking advantage of Kochi's abundant natural resources and free-spirited atmosphere.



Prof. Katsumi Ishikawa
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture

Field of Study:Biological and
Environmental Systems
Education:Graduate School of
Agricultural Sciences, Kyushu University

Faculty of Regional Collaboration

Many regional problems, such as declining birthrate and aging population, cannot be solved by individuals or organizations alone. It requires a combined effort of people of various backgrounds and with different values. They need to view and analyze such problems from a variety of angles before solutions can be found. There is now a great demand for leaders who can manage and support the collaboration of people and organizations. We are offering an opportunity to study this new practical field of regional collaboration in Kochi Prefecture and to meet the challenge of revitalizing and developing regional communities.



Prof. Kensaku Ueda
Dean-elect, Faculty of Regional Collaboration

Field of Study:Non-profit organization theory
Education:Graduate School of Economics
(doctoral course), Kyoto University

TOSA Innovative Human Development Programs

TOSA Innovative Human Development Programs provide curricula which facilitate students' study of a wide range of related subjects offered by different faculties and departments while aiming to foster leaders who can foresee the future with innovative minds.



Prof. Kozo Iwasaki
Chair, TOSA Innovative Human Development
Programs Steering Committee

Field of Study:Plant Nutrition,
Nutrient Dynamics in Rhizosphere Soils
Education:Graduate School of Agriculture,
Kyoto University (Master of Agriculture)
Doctor of Agriculture
(awarded by Kyoto University)

Preserve soil of Kochi from liquefaction by utilizing logs from local forest.

You are specializing geotechnical engineering, especially aseismatic ground engineering. What is your major research?

Prof. Hara: I am researching soil behavior under earthquake or storm and flood circumstances. To be more specific I am studying how to make quakeproof ground and how to preserve the facilities on the ground.

Miss Sakabe, you are a graduate student. Why did you join Prof. Hara's laboratory?

Miss Sakabe: Although I wanted to study sewage system when I entered Kochi University, Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 changed my mind to study disaster risk reduction and I knocked the door of the laboratory.

Prof. Hara: Great East Japan Earthquake changed me a lot, too. I happened to be staying in Tokyo at that time,

and the next day I went to Urayasu City in Chiba Prefecture, where I found the largest liquefaction I had ever seen. I renewed my determination to study this specialty further.

And you succeeded to develop a new method of anti-liquefaction?

Prof. Hara: Yes, I developed the method together with three private enterprises including Tobishima Corporation. The method is called "LP-LiC method" or "Log Piling Method for Liquefaction Mitigation and Carbon Stock". Liquefaction occurs under three major conditions; the ground is sandy soil, loose, and abundant in underground water at the same time. On the contrary we can control the liquefaction by demolishing one of these conditions. And so, we found we could make soil more solid and control the liquefaction by piling a lot of logs into the ground.

Labo Report

This method also contributes to mitigation of global warming and revitalization of forest. Professor Tadashi Hara, Faculty of Agriculture.

Professor

Prof. Tadashi Hara

Research and Education Faculty,
Natural Sciences Cluster,
Agriculture Unit Professor



I would like to become a professional who can use what I learnt in the laboratory. Miss Akiko Sakabe, Faculty of Agriculture.



Student

Miss Akiko Sakabe

Integrated Human Natural Sciences
Department of Agriculture Student

Why do you use woods? Aren't they rotting?

Prof. Hara: Actually woods never rot away in water. Soil containing much groundwater protects woods from rotting. Controlling liquefaction by piling a lot of logs helps reducing CO₂ gas because woods stock CO₂ they take from the air, thus contributes mitigation of global warming. It also revitalizes the overplanted forest in Japan.



Miss Sakabe, what part of the research are you in charge of?

Miss Sakabe: I am researching to what extent the soil becomes solid in the ground. I pick up the soil samples in cylinder and put quake pressure on it, thus measure the soil solidness in the laboratory.

How do you feel like the research?

Miss Sakabe: I am very happy to be able to visit many liquefaction sites. I also visited affected areas in Tohoku region. I hope our study will contribute to disaster risk reduction in the future.

There are many areas where this method can be applied, aren't they?

Prof. Hara: This method has been applied in liquefaction sites in Chiba and Nagano prefecture. In Kochi prefecture it is now being carried out in Niita area in Kochi City. It will be also expanded in Wakayama and Mie prefecture. Liquefaction is predicted to occur in loose soil plains widely in West Japan in case of anticipated Nankai trough earthquake in the future. I hope this method will contribute not only to disaster risk reduction but also to revitalization of local forest and CO₂ reduction.

Voices from Students

Kochi is full of Japanese goodness!

I came to Kochi University last September. Before coming to Kochi I studied Japanese language in the University of Gothenburg. Japanese language is very beautiful. European countries have somewhat similar cultural backgrounds with one another, but Japan has a very different culture. It is because I love Japanese culture. I am especially interested in J-pop.

I decided to study in Kochi University because I thought I could find ordinary Japanese culture there. In Tokyo there are many foreigners but in Kochi there might be few. Moreover, Gothenburg students who finished their study in Kochi University and Kochi students studying in Gothenburg told me Kochi and Kochi University were excellent! I will continue my study of Japanese language. Until August this year, I will study basic Japanese language including grammar, reading and background culture. From April I will take Japanese-medium classes with Japanese students. I am looking forward to it because I will be able to study Japan more deeply.

Mr Toth Marton Andras

3 year student, University of Gothenburg



Student Exchanges

I entered Kochi University because I will study abroad!

While I was studying in the English course in my high school, I studied in New Zealand for only three months. But I was not satisfied because it was too short for me. I chose to go on to study in the International Education Program of Tosa Innovative Human Development Programs at Kochi University in order to further study abroad. This program requires all the third-year students to study abroad in its curriculum. I will study abroad from this September to next June. I selected Gothenburg University in Sweden among our partner universities, because I wanted to study in a country where English is not its national language but spoken widely as a second language.

Sweden in my image is a high welfare nation. I would like to study social welfare such as social care system for the mentally handicapped persons. I want to try everything without hesitation not only in studies but also in cultural affairs like music and sports. I am now feeling both excited and nervous.

Miss Fumika Mori

3 year student of the International Education Program,
Tosa Innovative Human Development Programs



University Topics

"Faculty of Regional Collaboration" is coming into being in 2015! Kochi University submitted plan of a new faculty to the MEXT

On May 30, 2014, Kochi University submitted the plan of establishing a new faculty, the "Faculty of Regional Collaboration," in 2015 to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

This will be a new faculty after an interval of 38 years if MEXT gives an approval to the plan. Kochi University will have 6 faculties instead of the present 5 faculties (Humanities and Economics, Education, Science, Medical School, and Agriculture). The Faculty of Regional Collaboration has a single course with admission capacity of 60 students per year. Kochi Prefecture, rich with nature and traditional culture, has various social problems such as rapidly aging population, drain of young population, underdeveloped industry infrastructure, disaster-prone topography, and so on. The faculty aims to foster human resources to face these problems as study fields and try to provide solutions to them.

In order to experience directly the field of problem solutions in the region, the faculty will line up various practical subjects and carry out practical education to foster affection and pride over the regional communities. Students in collaboration with local people will brush up the plans of revitalization of the regional communities such as innovation of shopping areas, product development by utilizing local materials. Thus students foster themselves the leadership to mobilize human resources and related organizations. (The content of the plan is subject to change, because it is under assessment by the MEXT.)



Tosa FBC won a Commendation by the Minister of Education in Innovation Net Award 2014

Tosa Food Business Creator Human Resource Development Project (Tosa FBC) of Kochi University got a prize of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Innovation Net Award 2014. It is highly appreciated that Tosa FBC built a wide practical network around Kochi University and contributed to regional economy by mobilizing local resources.

Tosa FBC is fostering core human resources who can contribute to a wide range of responsibilities from R/D to management in food processing industry.

As a result of this project it produced 150 ex-participants in the last 5 years. They developed various new products and quality improvement in their respective companies. Collaboration activities among professors, lecturers and participants are very common to create innovative products. Tosa FBC certainly brought about positive economic effects in the local economy amounting to 500 million yen scale if we add economic spillover effect to the total 350 million yen sales of newly innovated products by the FBC ex-participants activities.

Not only local administrations and enterprises but also local financial institutions such as Kochi Bank, Shikoku Bank and JA became supporting members of Tosa FBC. With their financial assistance Kochi University restarted "Tosa FBC II" as a new stage of the project in the year 2013.



Prof. Hiroyuki Ukeda

Vice President, Director of the
Center for Regional Collaboration