A Report on a Discussion on Kyushu University’s SHARE-Q Plan under the Top Global University Project Type A on 9-12 March 2015

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Kyushu University was selected by MEXT for its **SHARE-Q** (Strategic Hub Area for top-global Research and Education, Kyushu University) proposal to the Top Global University Project. KU’s goal is to get into the top 80 world university rankings of Times Higher Education World University Rankings by 2023. In order to attain the rank of 80 or a much higher rank, KU must work hard to increase the values in the following areas of performance indicators (international outlook, research, citations, teaching, and industry income) used by Times Higher Education World University Rankings in the evaluation of each university. This report summarizes the recommendations from a one-week open discussion by some international graduates of Kyushu University at the International Center for Space Weather Science and Education (ICSWSE) (Figure 1).

![An open discussion on Kyushu University's SHARE-Q Plan under the Top Global University Project Type A from March 9 to 12 of 2015.](image)

**INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK (7.5%)**

The following are the performance indicators under the International Outlook category.

- #1 ratio of international students to domestic students (2.5%)
- #2 ratio of international staff to domestic staff (2.5%)
- #3 number of publications with international co-authors (2.5%)

**Recommendations:**

1. We recommend an increase in the employment of international staff to create more international programs that will encourage international students to enroll in KU. Thus, there will be an increase in the number of international students. Eventually, this will result to an increase of publications with international co-authors. *ICSWSE has employed an international staff from 2012-2014.*

2. Short-term exchange programs are easier to implement than degree programs. We recommend accepting more short-term exchange students. Faculty of KU should take advantage of Friendship scholarship to bring in more international students. If possible, more short-term scholarships should be offered. *ICSWSE has accepted some short-term international students. One is from Indonesia, one is from France and two from Egypt.*

3. More collaborative projects should be established to work with international researchers from research institutes worldwide in order to increase publications with international co-authors. Having faculty and student exchanges with universities abroad should also contribute in this aspect. Moreover, having more postdoctoral researchers should also contribute in this aspect.
ICSWSE has accepted 6 postdoctoral researchers since 2012. One is from Taiwan and 2 from China, one from Finland, one from Egypt, and one from Indonesia. ICSWSE has invited a few international lecturers. On the other hand, ICSWSE also sent Japanese lecturers to workshops conducted in Malaysia and Indonesia.

4. The Intellectual Exchange and Innovation (IEI) Program of the Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Engineering Sciences (IGSES) of Kyushu University should be promoted. It provides PhD scholarships to exceptional students. KU should establish more of these kind of international programs. UN COPUOS (Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space) is open to support this kind of program by taking the lead in the selection of excellent international students.

*ICSWSE accepted two MEXT scholars. One is from the Philippines and the other from Sudan.

5. In order to make KU more open and known to the world, it is recommended that a section in Kyushu University’s website should be created to be a platform for communication for KU and non-KU person.

**RESEARCH: Volume, income, reputation (30%)**
The following are the performance indicators under the Research category.
#1 university academic reputation (18%)
#2 university research income (6%)
#3 number of papers published in academic journals (6%)

Recommendations:
1. If anyone receives an invitation to participate in the academic reputation survey by TIMES through Elsevier, please participate and fill out the questionnaire.

2. Participation in international collaboration with local research grants should be encouraged.

Faculty and researchers of KU should be encouraged to apply for research grants and be involved in international collaboration. Similarly, be involved with international collaborator’s own research work.

*ICSWSE through the MAGDAS project is engaged in several international research collaborations, which resulted to many research output and publications and capacity building. In order to improve the capacity building activities of ICSWSE, experts from ICSWSE should give more onsite lectures on space weather studies and provide more onsite training on magnetometer installation and maintenance. ICSWSE should also consider conducting lectures through virtual conferences. ICSWSE should also consider establishing regional consortiums (e.g. ASEAN, African consortiums) to facilitate the maintenance of MAGDAS instruments and promote space weather studies and international collaborative research.

3. Encourage KU researchers, faculty and graduate students to publish papers with journals especially with high-impact factor or top-quartile (Q1) journals. If possible, make it compulsory for PhD students to publish at least two papers. Then, if possible, reward the students or staff who can publish with top-quartile (Q1) journals just like in Malaysia and Egypt.

**CITATIONS: Research influence (30%)**
Recommendations:
1. Involvement in local and international cooperations should be encouraged in order to have more research output. 
*ICSWSE conducts MAGDAS schools and trainings abroad and locally.

2. Being a reviewer for a paper takes a lot of time. However, it is also an opportunity to promote your work if ever it will add value to the paper. Thus, faculty and staff should be encouraged to be reviewers of manuscripts.

3. Faculty and staff should be encouraged to have a Google scholar citation account.

4. Publishing open-access papers should be encouraged.

**INDUSTRY INCOME: Innovation (2.5%)**
Recommendation: KU should maintain their good collaborations with companies in order to maintain the increasing industry income rate of Kyushu University.

**TEACHING: The learning environment (30%)**
The following are the performance indicators under the Teaching category.

#1 academic reputation survey by TIMES through Elsevier (15%)
#2 ratio of the no. of staff to student (4.5%)
#3 ratio of the no. of awarded doctoral degrees to bachelor's degrees (2.25%)
#4 no. of PhD graduates (6%)
#5 ratio of the institutional income to the no. of academic staff (2.25%)

Recommendations:
1. If one receives an invitation to participate in the academic reputation survey by TIMES through Elsevier, please participate and fill out the questionnaire.
2. The healthy ratio of the number of staff to the number of students should be examined and employed by KU.
3. KU faculty should be encouraged to collaborate with the industry for recruiting PhD students.
4. KU Faculty and staff should be encouraged to promote KU and their research to the world.
5. We recommend online public lectures. This is one way to attract more students to enroll at KU.
6. Co-supervision with an international faculty should be implemented in order to enhance the study of the student. Faculty of KU should be encouraged to co-supervise foreign students based in their own countries.

*ICSWSE invited some experts to KU to co-supervise some graduate students*

Being an international center, all of ICSWSE activities are in line with the internationalization goals of Kyushu University. ICSWSE has been involved in the implementation of the SHARE-Q plan even before its inception as indicated by the above-mentioned activities. ICSWSE employing its international collaborations, which
includes the international graduates of KU (see Figure 2), will continue to implement the SHARE-Q goals in the future.

Figure 2. Former graduate students and Dr. Yoshikawa of the Space and Earth Electromagnetism Laboratory of the Department of Earth and Planetary Science under the Graduate School of Sciences of Kyushu University.