Nagoya University Program for Academic Exchange (NUPACE)
10th Anniversary Symposium and Inaugural Alumni Reunion
“Student Exchange – A Catalyst for Change”

Claudia Ishikawa

A. Introduction

The Nagoya University Program for Academic Exchange (NUPACE) was established in February 1996, following the founding by Japan’s Ministry of Education (MEXT) of the Short-term Student Exchange Promotion (Inbound) Program. MEXT had, in turn, been inspired by the experiences of the Junior Year Abroad and ERASMUS in the United States and EU, respectively, and aimed to generate the new phenomenon of undergraduate student mobility both into and out of Japan. Simultaneously, in order to realise this ambitious project, a considerable number of scholarships were made available under the purview of the Association for International Education, Japan (AIEJ) (now JASSO <Japan Student Services Organization>). These scholarships have undoubtedly served as a catalyst in the development of NUPACE and short-term student exchange at Japanese national universities in general.

Now, ten years after its inauguration, NUPACE, which has played host to over 600 short-term exchange students from eighty-one institutions in twenty-four countries, has evolved into an established and conspicuous feature of Nagoya University. The impact of NUPACE has been significant. The devising of an academic programme taught in English, and aimed at the undergraduate level, has broadened the scope of the education curriculum at Nagoya University, and resulted in new approaches to teaching. Moreover, on the organisational level, one immediate consequence of NUPACE comprises the burgeoning number of exchange agreements concluded by Nagoya University with partner universities, which now total more than 200. The existence of these exchange agreements, in turn, has spurred Nagoya University students to consider studying abroad as an option. Indeed, a network of young people, aspiring to think and act globally, has been forged.

NUPACE is an irrefutable success story. In spite of hosting a relatively limited number of students, in terms of its influence on this University, and borrowing the words of a former British Prime Minister, the programme “punches above its weight”. Nevertheless, it is not problem-free. The appeal of short-term exchange programmes, now already ten years old in Japan, is visibly on the wane. These programmes have started to be overlooked in the competition for increasingly stringent Government and university budget allocation in favour of new projects. In response to this development, the NUPACE 10th Anniversary Symposium and Inaugural Alumni Reunion was held, primarily, to reconfirm the overall benefits to be had through student exchange, and to publicise Nagoya University’s successes in this field.

B. Objectives

The NUPACE 10th Anniversary Symposium and
Inaugural Alumni Reunion was convened with principally two objectives in mind, that is:
1. Firstly, to publicise, at both the university and national level, the importance to universities and students of cross-border exchange. Indeed, the theme of the symposium, “Student Exchange – A Catalyst for Change” served to corroborate that student exchange has played a crucial role in the transformation of Nagoya University into a player on the international stage. In order to substantiate this point, representatives from Japan’s Ministry of Education (MEXT) and the Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO) were invited as speakers, as were key figures from partner institutions in the United States and France, and students who had themselves been beneficiaries of exchanges.
2. Secondly, as a rationale to prepare a NUPACE alumni database and to create an alumni link on the NUPACE website (http://www.ecis.nagoya-u.ac.jp/ja/nupace/alumni/index.html), ideally leading to the formation of a global NUPACE network.

C. Funding and Expenditure

NUPACE received generous financial support, totalling 4 million yen, from 1) the Discretionary Fund of the President's Office (総長裁量経費) <2 million yen>, 2) International Student Support Fund (留学生支援経費) <1.5 million yen>, and 3) Nagoya University Alumni Association (名古屋大学全学同窓会大学支援事業) <500,000 yen>.

Approximately 68% (2.7 million yen) of the above funding was utilised in defraying the transportation and accommodation expenses of fifteen invited speakers, eleven of whom travelled from overseas. General accounting procedures used by this university to cover transportation expenses did not enable the purchase of ‘discount’ tickets. Another large proportion of the budget, 15% (600,000 yen), was spent on simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation services for the first afternoon of the event. The organisers of the symposium considered it essential for the purpose of PR that the content of discussion would be comprehensible to all participants. The remaining 17% (700,000 yen) was utilised on miscellaneous expenses such as publicity (posters/event programmes), social activities (receptions/coffee breaks/lunch-boxes), gratuities, and payment for part-time work.

D. Event Outline

The NUPACE 10th Anniversary Symposium and Inaugural Alumni Reunion was divided into two main sessions to reflect its dual purpose. October 26, 2006, comprised the public face of the event, taking the form of a large-scale symposium. As indicated on the event programme below, keynote addresses by the Vice-President (Research & International Affairs) of Nagoya University, and the Director of the Office for Student Exchange, Higher Education Bureau, MEXT, were followed by a presentation on the achievements of NUPACE over the past decade, and two panel discussions. An estimated ninety people, comprising current students, alumni students, faculty members and administrators, attended from both within campus, and outside.

The presentation, under the heading of “The NUPACE Decade”, underscored NUPACE’s contribution to 1) the diversification of the international student body at Nagoya University, 2) the internationalisation of Nagoya University’s academic curriculum, 3) the increase in academic exchange agreements, and 4) general improvement in the infrastructure for international students. One notable success comprised the return to Japan, in the capacity of graduate students, of 10% of former NUPACE students. Challenges still confronting the programme were also given due attention. These included the need for 1) more English language courses, possibly achieved through a) an increase in the employment of international faculty members, b) co-operative education-oriented linkages with partner institutions, and c) stronger incentives for faculty members to actually teach in English; 2) the enhancement of educational qualifications.
and credibility through quality assurance, faculty development and credit transfer; and 3) an increase in university housing units for international students.

As concerns the panel discussions scheduled on the opening afternoon: The first, entitled, “Student Exchange Programmes: Impact Outcomes and Challenges”, focused on the impact of educational policies vis-à-vis student exchange, both at the governmental and university level, and deliberated the potential future development of student exchange programmes. Administrators and faculty members from the Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO), the University of Strasbourg III, North Carolina State University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Nagoya University discussed the ramifications, limitations, and future potential inherent in such programmes. The second panel discussion, “International Student Mobility: Transforming Lives”, contemplated student exchange at a more personal level. The panel, comprising former exchange students, both international and Japanese, who had already established themselves in careers or further study, were asked to, 1) ‘locate’ their study abroad experience in their career plans, 2) indicate the significant values their study abroad experience had provided in terms of personal development, and 3) make suggestions for further policy-making regarding student mobility.

October 27, day two of the event, comprised the “Inaugural NUPACE Alumni Reunion”, and the activities planned reflected a shift of focus to exchange students. Following an opening address by the Chief Secretary of the Nagoya University Alumni Association (NUAL), the morning was devoted to the final panel discussion, entitled, “Changing Perspectives: Home and Japan through the NUPACE Prism”. Once again, former exchange students took centre stage, this time deliberating the degree to which study abroad experiences trigger a change in mindsets and perspectives. The dominant theme comprised a comparison of the panellists’ observations regarding their home countries and Japan, before and after their study abroad experience. In the afternoon, slightly more lightweight activities were staged, taking the form of an intercultural communication game gathering, and a Japanese language refresher class. The evening was devoted to the NUPACE Alumni Party, providing the chance for all concerned to swap memories and updates. Former exchange students, unable to attend the event, were given the opportunity to participate through photographs and messages, and approximately fifty former students chose to do so.

It proved difficult for the event organisers to ascertain the exact number of participants in the two-day event; however, an approximate breakdown can be summarised as follows:
1. Nagoya University faculty members/administrators – 35
2. Other university faculty members/administrators; government/agency-affiliated persons – 20
3. Nagoya University study abroad alumni – 15
4. NUPACE alumni – 35
5. Current NUPACE students – 30
E. Comments

The success of any event is usually measured by gauging the extent to which it has fulfilled its objectives. With regard to the first objective, that of publicising the benefits accrued to countries, institutions and individuals through the maintenance of short-term student exchange programmes, the verdict is mixed. Whilst the NUPACE 10th Anniversary Symposium successfully promoted the advantages of such programmes to the Ministry of Education (MEXT), the Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO) and, surprisingly, the Australian Government, which subsequently ran an article on the symposium in its Australian Education International ENEWSLETTER, PR efforts did not pay off with respect to other national universities offering similar programmes, nor, importantly, within Nagoya University itself. With the exception of the Vice-President for Research and International Affairs and Chief Secretary of NUAL, the symposium was conspicuous by its absence of executive administrators. Furthermore, only four of the national universities that have established short-term student exchange programmes were represented. This disappointing outcome suggests two possibilities: 1) The organisers’ PR activities were inadequate, and 2) that at the institutional level, interest in short-term student exchange programmes is diminishing.

As far the second objective is concerned, that is, the creation of an alumni network, a more positive result emerged. Despite severe difficulties in locating and contacting those NUPACE alumni who had completed their exchange more than five years ago, approximately 100 out of a total of 550 former exchange students responded, in one way or another, to the request to update information on their activities, establish a database, and/or create an alumni link on the NUPACE website. Furthermore, although NUPACE students are currently excluded from the Nagoya University Alumni Association (NUAL) database, steps are being taken, through co-operation with NUAL, towards their incorporation. A global network of NUPACE alumni is in the making.

Finally, a glance at the attached event programme will divulge that the NUPACE 10th Anniversary Symposium and Inaugural Alumni Reunion was an ambitious project, and one which required an unexpected amount of effort with regard to preparation. The fact that the organisers of the event largely doubled up as speakers or panel chairs, compounded the problem of insufficient manpower. NUPACE considers it vital to build on the successes of occasion and, ideally, would like to stage a similar event every five years. However, from the perspective not only of groundwork, but also improved linkage and liaison with the rest of Nagoya University, in future it may prove more rational to tie the reunion in with Homecoming Day.

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1 047/2006 [22 November 2006].
International Student Exchange – A Catalyst for Change

Event Programme

Thursday, October 26 – Friday, October 27, 2006

October 26: NUPACE 10th Anniversary Symposium

Venue: Auditorium, 8F, Graduate School of International Development
(Simultaneous interpreting available)

♦ 13:00 – 13:30 Session 1: Keynote Addresses

Master of Ceremony…
Mitsuo Ezaki, Director, NUPACE and Education Center for International Students, Nagoya University

Opening Address…
Shin-ichi Yamamoto, Vice-President (Research & International Affairs), Nagoya University

Keynote Address…
Terushi Ikeda, Director, Office for Student Exchange, Student Services Division, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

The NUPACE Decade…
Tsutomu Nomizu, Director, AC21 General Secretariat; Co-ordinator, NUPACE, Education Center for International Students, Nagoya University

♦ 13:30 – 17:00 Session 2: Panel Discussions

13:30 – 15:00 Panel Discussion 1 – Student Exchange Programmes: Impact, Outcomes and Challenges

Moderator: Claudia Ishikawa, Co-ordinator, NUPACE, Education Center for International Students, Nagoya University

Panellists: Danièle Alexandre, President, Maison Universitaire France-Japon; Professor at the Université Robert Schuman – Strasbourg III
Sachio Hirose, Executive Co-ordinator, YSEP, International Student Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology
Francis A. Moyer, Director, North Carolina Japan Center
Atsushi Nishioka, Executive Director, Student Exchange Department, Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO)
Tsutomu Nomizu, Director, AC21 General Secretariat; Co-ordinator, NUPACE, Education Center for International Students, Nagoya University
15:00 – 15:30  Refreshment Break

15:30 – 17:00  Panel Discussion 2 – International Student Mobility: Transforming Lives

Moderator: Miki Horie, Study Abroad Advisor, Advising and Resource Services, Education Center for International Students, Nagoya University

Panellists: Hironobu Horiba, General Electric, North Carolina State University, Aug 01-Sep 03

Dongsuk Jung, Kyoungbin Development Corporation, NUPACE Exchange Student from Gyeongsang National University, Oct 97-Sep 98

Chang Li, Mazda Corporation, NUPACE Exchange Student from Beijing 2nd Foreign Language Inst., Oct 98-Sep 99

James Masterson, National Association for Graduate and Professional Students, NUPACE Exchange Student from the University of Cincinnati, Apr 99-Sep 99

Yumi Matsuyama, Nagoya University, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, Sep 02-Mar 03

Jan Vetter, University Hospital of Mainz, NUPACE Exchange Student from The University of Freiburg, Apr 00-Sep 00

♦ 17:00 – 17:10

Closing Address…

Mitsuo Ezaki, Director, NUPACE and Education Center for International Students, Nagoya University

♦ 17:30 – 20:00  Reception

Venue: Higashiyama Green Salon, Nagoya University
Price: 1,000 yen
October 27: Inaugural NUPACE Alumni Reunion

10:00 – 11:30 Session 1: Alumni Forum
Venue: Auditorium, 8F, Graduate School of International Development

Opening Address…
Yoshito Itoh, Chief Secretary, Nagoya University Alumni Association (NUAL)

10:15 – 11:30 Panel Discussion – Changing Perspectives: Home and Japan through the NUPACE Prism
Moderator: Misa Fudeuchi, Co-ordinator, NUPACE, Education Center for International Students, Nagoya University
Panellists: Weranuj Ariyasriwatana, McCann Erickson-Thailand, NUPACE Exchange Student from Chulalongkorn University, Oct 98-Sep 99
Emmet Byrne, Walker Art Center, NUPACE Exchange Student from North Carolina State University, Oct 98-Aug 99
Dian Elvira Rosa, British Chamber of Commerce-Indonesia, NUPACE Exchange Student from Gadjah Mada University, Oct 03-Mar 04
George Kane, Ryedale Telecom, NUPACE Exchange Student from The University of Sheffield, Sep 04-Aug 05
Vanessa Loh, University of Sydney, NUPACE Exchange Student from The University of Sydney, Oct 02-Mar 03
Olivier Schaetzle, Université Louis Pasteur – Strasbourg I, NUPACE Exchange Student from the Université Louis Pasteur, Sep 04-Aug 05

11:30 – 14:00 Luncheon

14:00 – 16:30 Session 2: Back to NUPACE
Venue: CALE Forum, 2F, Center for Asian Legal Exchange

14:00 – 15:00 Multicultural Hour – Icebreakers
Co-ordinator: Hitomi Takaki, International Student Advisor and Counsellor, International Student Advising Office, Nagoya University

15:00 – 15:15 Refreshment Break
15:15 – 16:30 Japanese Language Shower
Co-ordinator: Takao Kinugawa, Japanese Language & Cultural Education, Education Center for International Students, Nagoya University

17:30 – 21:00 NUPACE Alumni Party
Venue: Education Center for International Students, Nagoya University
Nagoya University Program for Academic Exchange

10th Anniversary & Alumni Reunion

NUPACE設立10周年記念シンポジウムと交換留学関係者同窓会

10月26日(木)・27日(金)

Student Exchange

Catalyst for Change

26日(木) 記念シンポジウム

13:30

17:10

交換留学プログラムの課題・波及効果、成果と今後の展開

西田 純

栄田洋

Daniele Alexandre

Dorothée Olivier

アカデミック・オフィス'

野水 希

27日(金) 交換留学関係者同窓会

16:00

11:30

私が見る自分の国と日本

—Before and After NUPACE

Emile Byrne (96)

Wusongu Arisenwatane (95)

Vanessa Lui (02)

Chloé Lossld (00)

George Kane (04)

Olivier Schaezler (04)

世界の学生流動化—変化をもたらす起爆剤

Donguk Jung (97)

Chang Li (98)

James Masterson (95)

Jan Verhe (00)

Newparks (97-98)

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