

Successful Completion of the International Summer Exchange Program 2024



This year, the 16th annual International Summer Exchange Program was held. This time, we hosted the program from 20 August to 26 August for students from partner institutions in Malaysia and Mongolia. Here, they interacted extensively with students from the Faculty of Engineering.



In this year's program, we hosted 5 students from our partner universities – Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) in Malaysia, and Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST). Under this year's theme of "*Considering Natural Disasters and Sustainable Living from the Perspective of Cities and Architecture*", students did activities with their "buddies" to enhance interaction between YU students and the exchange students. On the first day, students reported on what natural disasters occur in their countries before attending a lecture given by a professor from the Department of Architecture and Design, where they were able to experience reenactments of previous earthquakes in Japan on a simulator. On the next day, students went on a field trip. The first stop was to the Jionji Temple in Sagae, where students learned about the measures, being taken during roof renovation work, against earthquakes and heavy snowfall. The next stop was the Snow and Ice Research Center's Shinjo Cryospheric Environment Laboratory, where students learned about various research being done to protect the lives of people during winter, essential for places with heavy snowfall. Although the temperature outside was over 30°C, students could touch the artificial snow made for research purposes and enter the experiment chamber that was kept at the temperature of 1°C. On the last day, students utilized the knowledge gained to present about measures that can be taken against a natural disaster in their country from an engineering point-of-view. As students studied different fields of engineering, they had interesting discussions with their buddies and presented various perspectives.

In addition to activities related to the main theme, students did various activities to gain understanding of different cultures. On August 21st and 23rd Japan Day and Malaysia and Mongolia Day were held respectively, where students introduced the unique culture of their countries and made iconic dishes from home which everyone enjoyed.

Although it was a very short summer program, the participating students showed that they learnt a lot through the various activities. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the YU Faculty of Engineering Alumni Association, the Yonezawa Industrial Association and the Yamagata University Faculty of Engineering Supporters' Association, and many other people for their support and cooperation in implementing the program. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

