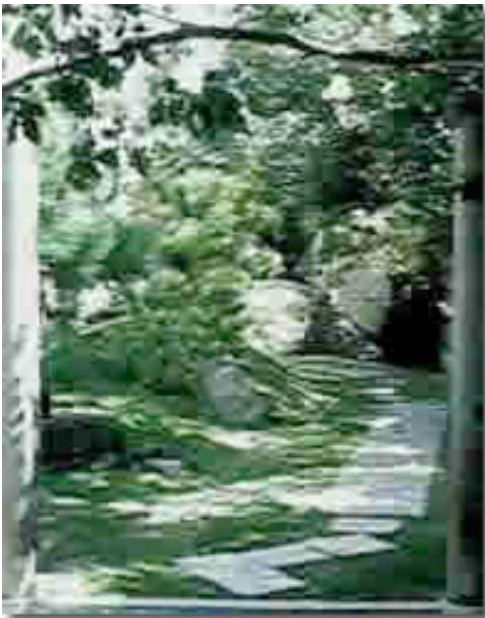


UTSA®



The Exchange Signing Ceremony between UTSA and Kumamoto University



The University of Texas at San Antonio and Kumamoto University have signed an agreement of cooperation to establish an institution-wide program of exchange and collaboration. The President of UTSA, Ricardo Romo, and Kumamoto University President, Isao Taniguchi, signed the exchange agreement on September 3 at UTSA.

Kumamoto University was founded as a National University in the year 1949 and is located in Kumamoto City in the heart of Kyushu Island. Kumamoto University currently has more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students, including 345 International students from 44 countries.

The exchange agreement deepens the understanding of cultural exchanges between San Antonio and Kumamoto that have been sister cities since 1987. Additionally, Kumamoto gave San Antonio “The Kumamoto En” as a gift in 1989 and San Antonio sent an authentic 19th-century prairie cabin to Kumamoto’s botanical garden in exchange for the Japanese garden as well. There have been numerous visits involving city officials, youth groups and adult citizens between San Antonio and Kumamoto City over the years.

TOP: UTSA COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN KUMAMOTO, JAPAN;
BOTTOM: KUMAMOTO EN GARDEN IN SAN ANTONIO



FROM LEFT: JULIUS GRIBOU, EXECUTIVE VICE PROVOST, UTSA; PRESIDENT ISAO TANIGUCHI, KUMAMOTO UNIVERSITY; NAKO SHIRANE, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE STATE OF TEXAS FOR JAPAN; PRESIDENT RICARDO ROMO, UTSA ; CONSUL GENERAL TSUTOMO OSAWA



FROM LEFT: PRESIDENT RICARDO ROMO, UTSA AND PRESIDENT ISAO TANIGUCHI, KUMAMOTO UNIVERSITY, JAPAN SIGNING EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

UTSA was honored to have the presence of Consul General Tsutomu Osawa of the Consulate General of Japan in Houston, Beth Costello, international affairs director for the City of San Antonio and Naoko Shirane, senior advisor to the State of Texas for Japan at the exchange agreement signing ceremony. In addition, Mitsuo Morozumi, dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Kumamoto University, and Toshihiro Oyamo, assistant manager of the university’s International Affairs Office, also came from Japan to attend this signing ceremony.

“It depends on our individual faculty and college interests to see how we can engage in the exchange programs. Right now UTSA has five interested colleges: Architecture, Public Policy, Engineering, Education and College of Liberal and Fine Arts,” said Julius Gribou, UTSA’s executive vice provost and senior international officer. “We can explore student, faculty and research

exchanges at all different levels in various fields.”

The institutional exchanges promote interest in the teaching and research activities of respective institution. In 2009, Taeg Nishimoto led 10 UTSA architecture students for a 2-week long summer study abroad trip to Japan. More than 250 UTSA students study the Japanese language in Japan every year. Also, the total number of UTSA students that have participated in study abroad programs in Japan has reach 29 since 2007.

“We are trying to extend our programs in other countries, and The East Asia Institute is a great office to link with Asia,” said Gribou. The UTSA East Asia Institute’s mission is mainly to promote educational, cultural and business exchange between the Orient and San Antonio through research, networking, and business development and cooperation.