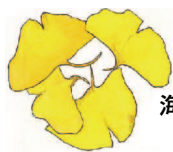


大阪大学 フィリピンサテライトオフィス

海外パートナーシップとコラボレーションによる垣根なき教育



海外交流

笠井 秀明*

Osaka University satellite office in the Philippines
Borderless education through partnership and collaboration

Key Words : Osaka University satellite office, De La Salle University,
Philippines, partnership, research collaboration

Occasionally, when I deliver my talk in conferences and workshops abroad, I share to the audience a popular haiku by Kobayashi Issa:

露の世は露の世ながらさりながら

The English translation by B.H.Blyth goes:

This dewdrop world-
It maybe a dewdrop,
And yet- and yet-

This has vividly portrayed the reality that life is fleeting and ephemeral as a dewdrop. And yet, by making the best of this short-lived and temporary dewdrop, life would be long enough to fulfill its profound purpose and meaning.

As a university professor, I have come to realize that one of my major purposes in life is the advancement of science and technology, not only in Japan, but also in other countries, especially those in the South East Asia. Recently, I became fortunate enough to become the director of Osaka University's newly founded satellite office in the Philippines. This is the fruit of painstaking years of our academic collaboration with the Philippines to strengthen and promote a partnership between Osaka University (OU) and De La Salle University (DLSU) in the Philippines which formally began in

2003.

Noble Cause

In my speech during the inauguration of the satellite office, I emphasized the value of a borderless education through partnership and collaboration between institutions and quoted a Bible verse:

“How good, how delightful it is to live as brothers all together!” (Psalms 133:1).

Unlike most of the Japanese universities which are equipped with advanced technologies to conduct cutting-edge research studies in science, many of the Philippine universities lack sufficient equipment and facilities to be at par with the international research institutions. However, since Filipino students are intellectually competitive, an active partnership between Japan and Philippines can lead to a venue where both countries could help each other find solutions to their problems.

I also stressed the promotion of a knowledge-networked Asia through the active exchange of faculty and students not only between Philippines and Japan, but also in other neighboring countries like Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand. By encouraging “brain-circulation” rather than “brain-drain” which is in line with Osaka University's slogan: “Live locally, Grow globally”, the developing south-east Asian countries do not need to worry about losing the intellectuals of their countries in exchange of a greener pasture abroad.

Osaka University promotes international linkages in a firm belief that the fruits of academic re



*Hideaki KASAI

1952年1月生
現在、大阪大学 大学院 工学研究科
精密化学・応用物理学専攻 教授
工学博士 物性物理
TEL : 06-6879-7857
FAX : 06-6879-7859
E-mail : kasai@dyn.ap.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp

search and educational endeavors should benefit all of mankind. As part of its proposed model for strengthening international outreach, it established overseas education and research centers in San Francisco (USA), Groningen (Netherlands), Bangkok (Thailand), and Shanghai (China). These overseas centers serve the purposes of (1) collecting and sharing information in order to facilitate exchange among researchers and students, (2) supporting international exchange overseas, (3) communicating research results established by the university, and (4) rapidly introducing research results from overseas. Thus, it is a global commitment of Osaka University to promote research collaboration with scholars and institutions overseas and share the research results for the benefit of global society. It also promotes education that fosters transcultural communicability and encourages constructive and creative actions through student exchange programs, staff training and diversification, and internationalization of educational environment.

Humble Beginnings

The growing relationship between the two universities started in 2000, with the inception of a possible academic exchange between the Physics Department of DLSU and our laboratory in the Graduate School of Engineering at Osaka University. A formal exchange agreement between the DLSU-College of Science and OU-Graduate School of Engineering was signed in 2003. Since then, the linkage has expanded with the participation of other departments such as Chemistry, Biology, and Information Science. Finally, a university to university exchange agreement between OU and DLSU was signed in 2006. In a span of more than ten years, more than twenty Filipino students from DLSU were sent to OU to pursue their graduate studies in areas like quantum engineering design, applied physics, chemistry, medical science, and computer studies. Alongside numerous collaborative papers which were published in highly-rated international refereed journals,

the active collaboration between the two universities led to fifteen (15) joint academic research symposia, four (4) Computational Materials Design (CMD) Workshops and two (2) Emphatic Computing Workshops.

Establishment of the Satellite Office

The OU satellite office in the Philippines was initially conceptualized in April of 2009 during the courtesy call of the then DLSU President Br. Armin Luistro, who now holds a national position as the Secretary of the Philippines' Department of Education, to the former Osaka University President Prof. Kiyokazu Washida. In this visit, the two presidents agreed upon the establishment of an OU office in DLSU including subject accreditation for exchange students between the two institutions. This also served as an occasion for them to exchange views about their respective universities, the challenges of university leadership, and similar concerns. On a similar event in August of 2010, a Memorandum of Agreement between the two universities was signed that will materialize the satellite office.

Then finally on February 3, 2012, I led the inauguration of the satellite office at DLSU. The ceremony was attended by Hon. Ambassador Toshinao Urabe (Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines), Hon. Secretary Mario Montejo (Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, Philippines), Prof. Akira Takahashi (Vice-President for International Affairs, Osaka University), and Br. Narciso Erguiza (President and Chancellor, De La Salle University-Manila).

To achieve its function as an overseas center of Osaka University, the satellite office at DLSU aims to serve as the main information center to advertise and promote the programs of Osaka University to DLSU and other universities in the Philippines. Furthermore, the office aims to be a center for academic and research exchange between Osaka University and DLSU through activities such as lectures, seminars, and meetings, utilizing video-conferencing as a useful medium for information exchange. Finally,

the office also serves as a social lounge for delegates from Osaka University and OU alumni in DLSU.

On March 7, 2012, a workshop on computational science and research was held at the satellite office. Two delegates from the Graduate School of Engineering of Osaka University as well as participants from the Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Engineering departments of DLSU attended this workshop. This marked the first successful academic and research exchange activity held at the satellite office.

Expanding Horizon

The OU satellite office in the Philippines envisions to advance the country in excellence and leadership in both research and the academe. It strives to contribute to the attainment of the Philippines' mission of providing quality education that is equitably accessible to all Filipinos and laying the foundation for life-long learning and service for the common good. As such, its doors are open for other universities and research institutions in the country. Moreover, since linkages and extension services are among the major thrusts of DLSU, it will crystallize the role of the academe in sharing its knowledge and resources to the wider community through insti-

tutional networking in the industry, government agencies, and non-government organizations.

Indeed, this endeavor is a realization of my dream of contributing to the advancement of science and technology in Asia, within the limit of Kobayashi Issa's dewdrop world.

Additional notes:

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It is an honor to attend the opening ceremony of Osaka University's Philippine Satellite Office, during the time when De La Salle University and Osaka University are commemorating their 100th and 80th anniversary, respectively. Tears have unexpectedly fallen from my eyes as the audience sang a birthday song for my 60th birthday. Certainly, life maybe a dewdrop, and yet, and yet.

(Hideaki Kasai, Ph.D.
/ Director, of the Osaka University Satellite Office in
De La Salle University
/Professor of Osaka University)

Pictures





(Top left) Inception of the Osaka University satellite office during the visit of the then DLSU President Br. Armin Luistro to the former OU President Prof. Kiyokazu Washida. *(Top right)* Ribbon-cutting during the opening ceremony of the satellite office led by OU VP for International Affairs Prof. Akira Takahashi and current DLSU President Br. Narciso Erguiza. *(Mid and bottom)* Group pictures with all the guests during the opening ceremony.