

[Activity Report]

## Report on Jin-ai University and California State University, Fullerton's Memorandum of Agreement; Past, Present & Future

Yoshihiro Amano, Akihiko Kinda, & Maurice Louis Splichal

### Introduction

On November 8th, 2005 Dr. Tan Sonoda, President of Jin-ai University, signed copies of a Memorandum of Agreement between Jin-ai University and California State University, Fullerton. The documents were previously signed by Dr. Milton A. Gordon, President of California State University, Fullerton, on October 13th, 2005 and were sent to Jin-ai University. Countersigned copies were returned to California State University, Fullerton shortly thereafter. The drafting of these documents took place after a meeting in Dr. Gordon's conference room on September 14, 2005 at California State University, Fullerton. President Gordon, Dr. Robert A. Young, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Rick D. Pullen, Dean of the College of Communications, and Dr. Fred Zandpour, Associate Dean of the College of Communications were in attendance. On behalf of Jin-ai University, the meeting was attended by Professor Akihiko Kinda, Chair of the Department of Communication, and Associate Professors Yoshihiro Amano and Maurice L. Splichal of the Department of Communication.

This agreement is the start of Jin-ai University's first official exchange with the international academic community. The timing, coming in Jin-ai University's fifth year, is most fitting as it comes on the heels of Jin-ai University's full establishment as signified by Jin-ai University's first graduating class in March of 2005.

Jin-ai University defined each year of its foundation with an abstract theme. The theme from the start of the first year in April of 2001 was unsurprisingly 'はじまる', or 'beginning'. At that time Jin-ai University envisioned itself as a collection of dots existing within a common space. The second year's theme was that of 'つながる', or 'connecting'. The dots, representing the student body and staff and faculty members, connected with one another, forming a series of lines. The theme of the third year was 'ひろがる', or 'expanding'. The lines merged together forming planes which became the surface of Jin-ai University. In its fourth year, 'たかまる', or 'rising', was the key theme as the surfaces began to rise up to form the three-dimensional shape of Jin-ai University.

During the first four years, Jin-ai University was simultaneously going through a similar process in its efforts to conclude an agreement with California State University, Fullerton.

## Connecting the Dots

This ‘Memorandum of Agreement for Academic Exchange and Cooperation’ (MOA) between California State University, Fullerton (Cal State Fullerton) and Jin-ai University (JU) is actually the brainchild of Professor Yoshio Ibarayama, who was the first Chair of the Department of Communication from April, 2001 through March, 2004. Professor Ibarayama was also instrumental in the foundation of JU, being one of the committee members involved in preparing the necessary paperwork submitted to the Education, Science and Technology Ministry seeking approval for JU’s establishment. He understood from the very beginning the necessity for JU to expand its future horizons beyond the already solid goals for learning and research here in Japan.

Quoting the MOA (Appendix), “Jin-Ai University is located in Echizen City, Fukui Prefecture and Jin-Ai University is an institute of Jin-Ai Educational Institution with headquarters situated in Fukui City, Fukui Prefecture, which is a “Sister City” of Fullerton, California.” Professor Ibarayama consulted with the Fukui Sister City Association to investigate the background of the ties Fukui City had with the city of Fullerton. He found that Fukui Kita (North) Rotary Club and Fullerton South Rotary Club had already started an exchange program in the early 1980s, well before an official sister-city relationship was established between Fukui City and Fullerton on November 5th, 1989. Furthermore, he found that Fullerton, conveniently located less than an hour’s drive from Los Angeles International Airport and near the entertainment capital of America, was indeed a safe environment in which our students could study and live.

After having been officially introduced to the Fullerton Sister City Association by the Fukui Sister City Association, Professor Ibarayama and Splichal visited Fullerton for five days at the end of August, 2001. Through the President of the Fullerton Sister City Association, Mr. Mike S. Oates, and its former Vice-President, Ms. Carole Bartholomew, they were able to meet with several members of the academic and local communities, including Dr. Harry L. Norman, Dean of Cal State Fullerton’s University Extended Education, and Mrs. Lynne Richmond, Director of University Extended Education’s American Language Program (ALP), and several members of the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce and local Rotary Clubs. Professor Ibarayama and Splichal were also able to meet with Dr. Nancy Baden, former chair of Cal State Fullerton’s Department of Modern Languages and Literature, and Mr. Gregory T. Dymont, Director of Cal State Fullerton’s Arboretum. The goal of Professor Ibarayama and Splichal’s visit was to discuss plans to establish a program for JU students to study English at the ALP and for the students to experience week-long internships at local businesses.

Professor Ibarayama and Splichal also paid a visit to Cal State Fullerton’s College of Communications and met with Dean Pullen and Associate Dean Zandpour to introduce

JU's Department of Communication and to explore the possibility of JU students being able to study at the College of Communications in the future. Furthermore, Dr. Baden introduced Professor Ibarayama and Splichal to the faculty members in the Department of Modern Languages and Literature to discuss the possibility of JU hiring one of their graduates as an assistant language teacher.

After much correspondence with many of the people Professor Ibarayama and Splichal met on their initial visit, the first group of nine JU students left for Fullerton in late January of 2002. The students were greeted with a welcome party at Cal State Fullerton's Arboretum shortly after their arrival, thanks to Mr. Dymont and the ALP. The students took part in eight weeks of intensive English study at the ALP and spent a week visiting several local workplaces to gain an understanding of working conditions in America businesses. Dean Norman and Director Richmond granted special permission for JU students to study for only half of a normal 16-week semester at the ALP. This is due to differences in JU's and Cal State Fullerton's academic schedules. Currently, most JU courses are year-long courses and the semester breaks don't allow for the students to attend the full 16 weeks or even the eight-week summer session offered at the ALP.

The ALP's studies are intended for preparing prospective students for entrance into an American university. The program consists of 24 hours per week of intensive instruction in vocabulary building, reading, oral communication, composition & grammar, and the academic skills necessary to successfully study at an American university. The students are placed in one of six levels through an evaluation examination. All instruction is in English and there are students from a large number of countries. Through the ALP, JU students are placed in accommodations with local families on a paid basis.

On the first program, following their eight weeks of studies, the JU students visited two businesses a day for five days and had opportunities to ask questions of management concerning working conditions at each workplace. Mr. Oates arranged these visits through the Fullerton area Rotary Clubs. Each business owner openly welcomed the students' visits, but they were reluctant to allow the students to gain hands-on working experience at the businesses because of a fear of injury and liability. Due to the difficulty in arranging transportation and visiting schedules, the workplace observation program has been suspended.

In addition to the visits to Rotary Clubs' members' businesses, Dr. Pullen and Dr. Zandpour also arranged tours and provided transportation to a local newspaper and television broadcasting corporation, as well as personally giving a guided tour of the College of Communications on that first program. During their stay, the students were also invited to a lunch party at the home of Mr. George Tsuda, a member of the Fullerton Sister City Association. One other area of exchange which took place was the visit the JU students paid

to the Japanese language classes of Cal State Fullerton's Department of Modern Languages and Literature. Dr. Setsue Shibata, Professor of Japanese Language, also arranged for JU students to further socialize with Cal State Fullerton's students as conversation partners.

### **Lines of Communication**

Since that first 'Study Abroad Program' at Fullerton Splichal has corresponded extensively with several parties connected with the program and has visited Fullerton and Cal State Fullerton several times to further develop the program and explore other avenues of exchange. Unfortunately, plans to hire a graduate of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature as an assistant language teacher at JU have been put on hold. This is due to a reassessment of the needs of JU and the concerns of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature concerning their graduates' employment conditions. However, from those discussions came exchanges of ideas on how JU students could further interact with the students studying Japanese at Cal State Fullerton.

In the summer of 2003 two more JU students participated in the 'Study Abroad Program' at Fullerton followed by four more students in the summer of 2004. These visits brought about even more interaction with the ALP, the College of Communications, and the Department of Modern Languages and Literature. As mentioned before, JU students are permitted to attend half-semester. Furthermore, special consideration has been given to their housing as well. As a rule, the ALP normally requires students to contract for at least one full semester with families providing accommodations. However, the ALP and the families have allowed JU students to contract for only a two-month stay on a space-available basis. As an anecdote, it should be pointed out that JU students are quite popular among the families offering accommodations due the students' well-mannered behavior. The College of Communications has gone to great lengths to welcome JU students by giving extensive guided tours of their facilities and explaining in detail their fields of study. It is hoped that some JU students will take further advantage of the ALP studies to improve their English abilities and eventually pursue graduate studies in the College of Communications. However, for the time being, merely seeing firsthand and understanding how and what their counterparts in the United States study, gives JU students a global outlook on studies in communication.

As more and more interaction was taking place between Cal State Fullerton and JU, Professor Ibarayama became quite keen on deepening the relationship between the two schools. At JU's invitation Dean Pullen and Associate Dean Zandpour of the College of Communications flew from Los Angeles and spent three days and four nights at JU in November of 2004, giving lectures and holding workshops. Professor Setsue Shibata of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature took time out of a visit to her hometown in Japan and visited JU for an overnight stay just two weeks later.

On the first day of their visit Drs. Pullen and Zandpour, toured the university campus, met with the administration, and received a briefing on JU studies. On their second day they visited the surrounding area and then gave a detailed presentation on the College of Communications and spoke on the prospective employment opportunities for their graduates. On their final day they toured Jin-ai Girls High School, giving another presentation there, and then held two workshops at JU on journalism and cross-cultural communication. At the farewell party held by JU students Dr. Pullen, being impressed with the planning and performances by the students, said in his closing comments, "Jin-ai University is small but powerful!" These words resonated with the JU students and faculty.

When Dr. Shibata arrived, she immediately held a meeting with Professor Hiroshi Kita, Chairperson of JU's 'Committee for Academic & Cultural Exchange', and Amano, Kinda, and Splichal. The meeting focused on the possibility of holding a summer Japanese language and culture study program at JU for Cal State Fullerton students of Japanese. The Department of Modern Languages and Literature has sent groups of its students to Kyushu in the past for such a program but it had been thinking of changing the location. It seems some participants have expressed a desire to also visit other cities 'more representative' of Japan, i.e., Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, and Tokyo. Dr. Shibata's presentation on Japanese Language Education in America was well received and sparked a great interest in JU students interested in teaching Japanese in the future. Dr. Shibata was also impressed with JU and the surrounding area. To summarize her reactions, Dr. Shibata was pleased with the location of JU in its traditional rural setting with a close proximity to major cities.

Since June of 2005 one student, who has taken a year's leave of absence from JU, has been studying at the ALP and is scheduled to resume studies at JU in April of 2006. In August three more students spent eight weeks at Cal State University studying at the ALP.

One other program, which has been ongoing during JU's interaction with Cal State Fullerton and the city of Fullerton, is JU's hosting of groups of students on the Fullerton South and Fukui North Rotary Clubs' Summer Youth Exchange Program. Since 1980 the respective clubs have exchanged groups of young visitors every other year. They stay with local families and engage in cultural activities and sightseeing. In 2003 six students from Fullerton spent two days at JU as part of the program. JU students and the guests from Fullerton interacted through several activities such as a calligraphy lesson, Japanese tea ceremony, and flower arrangement. They furthered their exchange activities on an overnight camping trip to the nearby mountains. Again, in 2005, four Fullerton youths spent the day on the JU campus participating in a summer festival and then relaxing in the evening at a jazz concert.

Also, a new program for JU students was established this past summer. A group of students, under the guidance of Amano, Kinda, and Splichal, planned all phases of a two-week

'Study Abroad Program' at Fullerton and the surrounding area with a two-night stay in San Francisco on their return. The twenty participants were broken up into several committees with each committee being responsible for arranging one part of the program, i.e., airline and hotel reservations, ALP class schedule, visits to the College of Communications, Department of Modern Languages and Literature, and Department of Psychology, sightseeing, etc. The day after their arrival the students were given a guided tour of the Cal State Fullerton campus by Dr. Shibata's students of Japanese, and then attended an orientation session and welcome party at the ALP. For the next seven weekday mornings the students studied English conversation. In the afternoons, the JU participants toured the facilities and met with the students and faculty of the Cal State Fullerton academic programs listed above. Before this new program was established all of the JU students who studied at the ALP were from the Department of Communication. As eight of the twenty participants in this two-week program were students from JU's Department of Psychology, Dr. Daniel W. Kee, Chair, and Professor Eriko Miyahara of Cal State Fullerton's Department of Psychology graciously took time from their busy schedules to speak to the students and show them around their facilities. Aside from taking advantage of the sightseeing the Fullerton area has to offer in their free time, the students were taken by the Fullerton Sister City Association on a tour of downtown Fullerton. The College of Communications and the ALP co-hosted a gala farewell event on the students' last evening with several Cal State University and Fullerton Sister City Association dignitaries in attendance.

### **Planes Forming the Surface**

Throughout all of this interaction constant care has been taken to strengthen what exists while planning for the future. 'Cal State Fullerton', 'Fullerton', 'Rotary' and the acronym 'ALP' have all become a familiar part of the faculty, staff, and students' everyday vocabulary at JU.

The two-week and eight-week 'Study Abroad Programs' at Fullerton are now to become a part of the JU curriculum with the syllabi to be published in the 2006 student guide. The two-week program will be listed as 国際交流Ⅰ (International Exchange I) and the eight-week program will be listed as 国際交流Ⅱ (International Exchange II). The students taking either course will be tasked with carrying out all procedures concerning both programs with minimum guidance. Two credits will be given for complete participation in either course. Those students enrolling in International Exchange I must give an oral presentation and submit a written report after returning from Cal State Fullerton to receive credit, whereas students enrolling in International Exchange II will be evaluated based on their attendance and grades at the ALP. Though the English studies at the ALP are a major part of the courses, the students will learn a great deal from the social experience involved in making all of their arrangements in order to study at Fullerton. Their interaction with students and

teachers at Cal State Fullerton will give them a global outlook on their studies and lifestyles. In the past up to four credits were given for elective English courses at JU for participation in the eight-week program. From the 2006 academic year only two International Exchange II credits will be given. However, the number of credits will be reconsidered as the length of the English studies is considerably greater than in the International Exchange I Course.

It is expected that a substantial amount of further interaction will continue between JU and Cal State Fullerton's College of Communications, Department of Modern Languages and Literature and Department of Psychology as well as the Fullerton Sister City Association, the Fullerton area Rotary Clubs, and Fukui North Rotary Club through these two courses, and through exchange on other levels.

### **A Solid Form Emerges**

As mentioned earlier, Amano, Kinda, and Splichal represented Jin-ai University at a meeting called by President Milton A. Gordon on September 14th at California State University, Fullerton.

Just before departing for Fullerton a pamphlet in English titled '縁' (Enishi) was produced by a group of JU students wishing to broaden the image of JU overseas as part of their 'Project to Promote International Exchange'. The meaning of Enishi is 'a wonderful encounter, a bond, or a connection between people'. The pamphlet was not only timely; it was highly instrumental in concisely introducing JU to the participants at the meeting. Prior to the publication of Enishi Splichal had always presented JU brochures written in Japanese and briefly explained matters in English when meeting Cal State Fullerton faculty.

President Gordon showed a keen interest in the information presented in the English pamphlet and was quite inquisitive as to the history of Jin-ai University and Jin-ai Educational Institution as a whole. Listening to the answers and the explanations of the exchange activities between the two universities, Dr. Gordon was extremely interested in what beneficial experiences JU students were receiving from their participation in such exchanges. It was quite impressive to understand that Dr. Gordon was deeply thinking at the grassroots level. In other words, will such an agreement between the two institutions benefit the core of the two institutions? That is, the students. Quite often agreements of this nature are reached at official levels with little regard to the practical benefit they hold for the students.

Dean Pullen and Associate Dean Zandpour offered their insightful comments on other future areas of possible exchange during the meeting. They are keen on getting teachers to collaborate at the academic level on projects which will benefit students and teachers alike,

such as an exchange of teachers for summer seminars and online courses. Through Vice President Young of Academic Affairs, Dr. Janet Eyring, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature, expressed her desire to build on the relationship and establish a summer language and culture program here at JU, as well as exchanging student-teachers of English and Japanese.

## Building Up

This year's theme is 'かさねる', or 'putting one upon another'. The MOA outlines six areas of future exchange: Briefly, they are: 1) collaborative research among faculty and students, 2) exchange of scholars and researchers, 3) exchange of ideas, information, and materials, 4) exchange of students and teachers for short-courses and semester-length participation in academic disciplines, 5) continued participation in the ALP, and 6) support for and acceptance of qualified degree-seeking students in selected disciplines. Ahead of making concrete plans for these projects other areas of interaction are already beginning to unfold.

Since returning to Japan, Kinda and Splichal have twice visited the Fukui Sister City Association; once to report on the hospitality extended to JU students by the Fullerton Sister City Association and another time to announce that a Memorandum of Agreement had been signed between the two universities. The news of the forging of new relationships was met with much enthusiasm and encouragement.

Through those visits it has been learned that a group of delegates from the Fullerton Sister City Association is planning to visit Fukui City in early April of 2006. A visit to JU has been listed as an option for the participants during their free time. Also, Dr. Kristine Dennehy, Assistant Professor in Cal State Fullerton's Department of History, is planning to chaperone a group of 'Junior Ambassadors from Fullerton' to Fukui in early August. She has expressed an interest in visiting JU. Furthermore, Amano has been in communication with Dr. Shibata concerning the first 'Study Abroad Program' at Fukui which is scheduled to take place at JU in early July.

Amano, Kinda, and Splichal are enthusiastically looking forward to collaborating with members of JU's 'Committee for Academic and Cultural Exchange' and the faculty of the Department of Communication in realizing the exchanges outlined in the MOA. The dots have been connected, the lines and surface formed, and a solid form has appeared.

There have been so many people involved along the way that it would be almost impossible to mention all of them in this report. However, at the risk of being rude to others not mentioned, the authors would like to send their warmest regards to Ms. Linda Lui, Mrs. Peggy Bockman, Dr. Lee Bentley, and Mr. Eraj Shadaram of the College of Communications, Mr. Ken

Moyer and Mrs. Jessica Hammond of the ALP, and Dr. Keiji Matsumoto of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature. The authors also wish to thank all members of the Fullerton Sister City Association and California State University, Fullerton communities for their genuine interest and gracious cooperation in concluding this agreement. There is one more person all of us at Jin-ai University will never forget for initially getting the communities together. Professor Yoshio Ibarayama, thank you for your guidance. Even in your retirement your influence is with us.

Appendix

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
For ACADEMIC EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION  
Between

California State University, Fullerton  
Fullerton, California U.S.A.

And

Jin-Ai University  
Fukui Prefecture, Japan

Whereas, California State University, Fullerton and Jin-Ai University are established institutions of higher education that seek to promote a global outlook and international understanding on their respective campuses; and

Whereas, Jin-Ai University is located in Echizen City, Fukui Prefecture and Jin-Ai University is an institute of Jin-Ai Educational Institution with headquarters situated in Fukui City, Fukui Prefecture, which is a "Sister City" of Fullerton, California; and

Whereas, students from Jin-Ai University have actively participated in the American Language Program of University Extended Education at Cal State Fullerton since 2001; and

Whereas, Dean Richard Pullen, Associate Dean Fred Zandpour from the Cal State Fullerton College of Communications and Professor Setsue Shibata have had productive visits to the Jin-Ai University campus and are desirous of creating more formal teaching and learning experiences for students from both universities; and

Whereas, Professor Akihiko Kinda, Chair of the Department of Communication at Jin-Ai University has outlined a number of potential activities for international cooperation between our two universities,

Therefore, Now Be It Resolved That

California State University, Fullerton, and Jin-Ai University, Japan agree to promote academic exchanges and cooperation in all fields of academic inquiry. Based on the principles of equity, reciprocity, and mutual benefit the two universities agree to facilitate cooperation in the following avenues:

1. Collaborative research among Faculty and Students
2. Exchange of scholars and researchers
3. Exchange of ideas, information, and materials
4. Exchange of students, visiting lecturers and professors for intensive short-courses as well as semester-length participation in Modern Languages, Communications and other disciplines
5. Continued participation of Jin-Ai students in the Cal State Fullerton American Language Program
6. Support for, and acceptance of qualified degree-seeking students in selected disciplines, such as Communications, Modern Languages and Literatures, and other departments and programs

The detailed terms, expenses, and other matters arising in relation to the implementation of this formal Agreement shall be discussed in detail by the parties concerned for each specific case. Both parties shall make use of the various facilities, services, and funds available to them in support of the activities related to this Agreement.

Each university will nominate one of its members as its representative in charge of the cooperative program. Individual programs of work developed under this Agreement will be planned jointly and supervised by the nominees of both parties.

The Agreement will be effective for a period of five years from the date of signing and is subject to change, renewal or termination by mutual consent.

(Signature)

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Dr. Milton A. Gordon, President  
California State University, Fullerton  
Fullerton, California

October 13th, 2005

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Date

(Signature)

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Dr. Tan Sonoda, President  
Jin-Ai University  
Fukui Prefecture, Japan

November 8th, 2005

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Date

## カリフォルニア州立大学フラトン校（アメリカ合衆国・フラトン市）と 仁愛大学（日本・福井県）との学術文化交流及び協力に関する覚書

仁愛大学は福井県越前市に所在する。仁愛大学が所属する福井仁愛学園の本部は、カリフォルニア州フラトン市と姉妹都市である福井市に所在する。

仁愛大学は2001年より、カリフォルニア州立大学フラトン校のExtended EducationのALP（American Language Program）プログラムに毎年継続的に学生を参加させている。

カリフォルニア州立大学フラトン校コミュニケーション学部のRichard Pullen学部長、Fred Zandpour副学部長、及び外国語・文学部の柴田節枝教授らが仁愛大学を表敬訪問し、両大学の学生のために、よりフォーマルな教育・学習体験の交流の機会を設けることは望ましいことだと考えている。

仁愛大学のコミュニケーション学科の金田明彦学科長は、両大学間で可能な国際協力の活動をいくつか提案している。

よって、以下のような覚書を締結するものである。

カリフォルニア州立大学フラトン校と日本の仁愛大学は、あらゆる学術分野に於いて学術文化交流の発展と協用に同意する。対等互惠の原則に基づき、両大学は次の事項に協力していくことに同意する。

1. 両大学間の教授、学生の共同研究
2. 両大学間の学者、研究者の交換
3. 両大学間の意見、情報、資料などの交換
4. 両大学間の外国語、コミュニケーションなどの学術分野における短期間の集中講座、もしくは正規の学期間の講座への学生、客員講師及び教授の交換
5. カリフォルニア州立大学フラトン校 ALP プログラムにおける、仁愛大学からの継続的な参加の受け入れ
6. コミュニケーション学部、外国語・文学部、その他の学部やプログラムにおいて、学位を旨とする優秀な学生に対するサポート、受け入れ

この正式覚書に関連するより詳細な内容、例えば期間、費用、その他に関しては、そのつど該当者同士により協議されるものとする。両大学は、この覚書に関連する活動をサポートするために、可能な限り様々な期間、サービス、基金を利用するものとする。

両大学はこの共同プログラムを担当する代表者をそれぞれ一名ずつ選出する。この覚書に基づい

て実施される各プログラムは、両大学の担当者が共に協力して計画し、管理するものとする。

この覚書は両大学の責任者が調印した日付から5年間を有効期限とし、相互の合意があれば内容の変更、期間の延長、覚書の解消ができるものとする。

(直筆署名)

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Dr. Milton A Gordon  
カリフォルニア州フラトン市  
カリフォルニア州立大学フラトン校学長

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October 13, 2005

日付

(直筆署名)

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Dr. Tan Sonoda (蘭田 担)  
日本・福井県  
仁愛大学学長

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November 8, 2005

日付