

Despite the cold weather, the 22nd ACP International Field Study Program was successfully held!

Kansai University of International Studies (KUISs) recently conducted “The 22nd ACP International Field Study Program” in Kobe, Japan, on the topic of “The Japanese Safety Management and Japanese Culture.

This program was held from February 6 to 17, 2025, and a total of 14 students from five universities in Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam participated. Three students from KUISs also joined. The students from overseas stayed at the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) trainees' accommodation which is located in the HAT Kobe area. The HAT Kobe area was developed as a new eastern metropolis of Kobe City for the purpose of reconstruction from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.



At Fushimi Inari-taisha shrine,” Kyoto

Participated Universities

[Indonesia]

● Universitas Gadjah Mada

● Universitas Lampung

● Universitas Atma Jaya

Yogyakarta

[Thailand]

● Thammasat University

[Vietnam]

● The University of Da Nang

[Japan]

● Kansai University of International Studies

The students commuted by train from the JICA to the class rooms in Sannomiya every day. In the morning they attended lectures from experts from not only KUISs, but also other institutions. In the afternoon, they did fieldwork in many places, including the HAT Kobe area and the earthquake restoration area in Nagata Ward, Kobe City. They really did a lot of walking!

Every year ACP International Field Study Program in Kobe is held in winter. For students coming from Southeast Asia, it is quite a cold season. Moreover, this year's cold weather was nothing compared to previous years. The students' arrival in Japan coincided with the cold wave that hit all of Japan, which was called “the strongest and longest cold wave of the season.” Nevertheless, the students bravely went about their fieldwork day after day in the extremely cold weather without getting sick.

During the program, they also visited Kyoto for a Japanese cultural experience. At Fushimi Inari-taisha shrine, which they visited in the morning, snow from the previous night was still falling, and they were able to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the red Torii gate and white snow, a uniquely Japanese sight.

DATE	AM	PM
6-Feb Thu	Airport pick up	Program Guidance
7-Feb Fri	Greetings from the Vice President of KUISS Introduction and assignments of the course	[Field Research] Walkthrough the city center of Kobe
8-Feb Sat	[Lecture] The damage of the 1995 Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake and its recovery policy	[Field Research] Visiting Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution
9-Feb Sun	[One Day Trip to Kyoto] Fushimi-Inari Taisha Shrine, Kinkakuji (world heritage)	
10-Feb Mon	[Lecture] A lecture by Dr. Aiko Sakurai (Kobe Univ.), Title: The Forefront of DRR: The Case of Kamaishi City	Movie "The Sound of the Waves"
11-Feb Tue	[Lecture] Community recovery from the 1995 GHAE	[Field Research] Visiting resident areas in Kobe (Okamoto, Rokkomichi, Shin Nagata)
12-Feb Wed	[Lecture] Policy problems in the process of the recovery from the 1995 GHAE [Lecture] A lecture by Dr. Yoshitsubaki (CODE), Title: Reconstruction Assistance in the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and the Great Earthquake in Turkey	[Field Research] Visiting Kobe waterfront area
13-Feb Thu	[Lecture] The Long-term recovery from the 1995 GHAE	[Lecture] A lecture by Dr. Mizan B. F. Bisri (Kobe Univ.), Title: International Cooperation and Institutions for Disaster Reduction in Asia [Group Work] group work for the final presentation
14-Feb Fri	[The final presentation] [Certificate Awarding Ceremony]	Farewell Lunch
15-Feb Sat	Exchange Meeting with Host Families	Home Stay
16-Feb Sun	Home Stay	
17-Feb Mon	Head toward the airport	



Welcome Address from Dr. ASHIZAWA, Vice President of KUISS



Visited Monument of Memorial and Reconstruction



Field work in Shin Nagata

On the final day of lectures and fieldwork, a presentation session of program results was held. Students gave 15-minute group presentations on what they experienced during the program and how they understood it and what they learned. The students worked diligently on their presentations until the morning of the day of the event, and each presented with great effort. Dr. ASHIZAWA (Vice President) and Dr. KAWAWAKI (Director of the Center for Global Education) at KUISS also attended this presentation event and engaged in an enthusiastic question and answer

session with the students.

The students experienced a homestay with a volunteer family on the weekend before returning home. 14 families welcomed the students with open arms and gave them a taste of “Japanese family life” that they would not have known if they had stayed in a hotel.



[Presentation title] Beyond The Recovery: Community Power in Sustainable RECOVERY



[Presentation title] Application from Hyogo Phoenix plan



[Presentation title] Rebuild Together



[Presentation title] Comparison between Disaster Management in Japan and Indonesia

Words from Associate Professor HAYASHI Mampei, in charge of the program

In the 2024 ACP-GS program (February 7th–13th, 2025), participants learned about the long-term recovery process of Kobe City following the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake through lectures and field studies. As a new initiative this year, disaster research experts from universities in Kobe City were invited to enhance the lecture component.



Dr. HAYASHI

In the lecture sessions, first, to understand the challenges arising from the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Associate Professor Dr. Mampei Hayashi from Kansai University of International Studies (KUISS) delivered a series of lectures on the disaster's impact on society, the outline and formation process of the recovery master plan known as the "Phoenix Plan," demographic and economic trends in the affected areas, and the challenges of long-term recovery.

Second, Professor Dr. Aiko Sakurai from Kobe University gave a lecture on disaster education in Japan and case studies from areas affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Additionally, Lecturer Dr. Mizan B. F. Bisri from Kobe University provided a lecture on international cooperation and institutional frameworks in disaster management policies in Asia.

From a practitioner's perspective, Masamichi Yoshitsubaki, Secretary-General of Citizens toward Overseas Disaster Emergency (CODE), presented a brief report on recovery support efforts following the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and the 2023 Türkiye-Syria Earthquake.

To gain a deeper understanding of the realities faced by disaster survivors, participants also watched the documentary *Sound of Waves (Nami no Oto)*, directed by Ko Sakai and Ryusuke Hamaguchi, which focuses on the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.

In the field study sessions, first, participants visited the exhibits at the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution to study the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. After that, they visited the disaster monument at Meriken Park in Kobe, as well as redevelopment areas in Chuo Ward to learn about the objectives behind these projects. In particular, the redevelopment efforts in Kobe are positioned as part of the city's long-term recovery process. Finally, to observe the process of community recovery, participants visited the Okamoto district and the area surrounding Shin-Nagata Station. Both areas suffered significant damage; however, the former underwent a citizen-led recovery process, while the latter was an area where the government made large-scale investments in redevelopment.



Program participants and faculty members