

**Title :Short-term Student Exchange Program – Teamwork Linking
with Oversea Japanese Language Programs –**

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Over the past eight years the number of short-term student exchange programs in Japan, especially at National Universities, has increased a great deal, and they have been attracting much attention in the global educational setting.

In a general context for short-term student exchange programs in Japan, one of the major pedagogical issues is how the Japanese language programs at the host universities can help exchange students maximize their study abroad experience. In this paper we will address to this issue. The aim of this paper is to discuss what the Japanese language programs at both the home universities and the host universities can do jointly to realize continuity and integrity of learning experience of the exchange students at all stages of their learning process, namely prior to, during and after their participation in short-term student exchange programs in Japan.

This paper presents a part of the research project funded by the Ministry of Education and Sciences(Project Number 13571047, research representative :Kondoh, Atsuko) which focuses on the importance of creating educational environment where teamwork linking can be made possible among Japanese teachers at both the students' home universities and the host universities.

The current project team consists of five members, three representing the Japanese programs at the students' home universities in Australia, New Zealand and the North America, respectively, and two members representing the Japanese programs at the host universities.

We first report our collaborative efforts to share information such as details of curriculums, student selection processes (application procedures and screening processes), the fundamental characteristics of Japanese language programs, specifically of the short-term student exchange programs at National Universities in Japan, what the teachers at the home universities expect their students to gain from their academic year abroad experience, and what the teachers of the host universities can do to facilitate the students' learning process.

We then discuss the significance and the pedagogical implications of securing teamwork linking among Japanese language teachers at both ends, which will eventually bring about consistency and integration in learning experience for their students.

Finally, we make a proposal for building a network among Japanese programs, through which flexible exchange of information is possible, whenever and wherever necessary, on the exchange students' Japanese language learning experience prior to, during and after their participation in short-term exchange programs in Japan.

The present paper reports what we have accomplished at the first phase of our research project. We would like to expand the target of the teamwork linking network to other areas such as Europe and Asia in the subsequent phases of the current project.

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