

Port-city University League 4th Meeting, Yokohama Japan



A total of 10 world's leading universities from nine nations took part in the 4th international seminar of Port-City University League, known as PUL, on May 22 and 23 in Yokohama. The two-day event, with the main theme of "Port as a Gateway to the Multi-Cultural and Multi-Civilizations," was hosted by Yokohama National University (YNU). Aiming at building wide and deep relationships among prominent universities in the world's port-city areas, PUL was established in Yokohama in 2006 in line with YNU's proposal. As an academic alliance, PUL's seminars focus on such fields as port-city histories, cultures and societies as well as maritime engineering, shipbuilding technology and maritime traffics. PUL had general meetings in Chennai, India in 2007 and in Lisbon, Portugal in 2008. The fourth meeting was again held in Yokohama in 2009 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Yokohama. Yokohama opened its port for foreign ships for trade in 1859, seven years before the Meiji Restoration. The two-day event was divided into such categories as "Issues of Ports and Ocean," "Port-city and Young People" and "History and Culture of Port Cities." The Yokohama session had a total of 21 lectures in these categories. Among them, Toshiyuki Tanaka, professor of YNU, talked about the international cooperation for preventing piracy, while Ashraf Farrag and Emad Khalil, professors at University of Alexandria, Egypt, discussed the crossroads of the whole world from a viewpoint of one of the oldest port-city, Alexandria. ([click here for Program and Abstracts](#))



Prof. Shenoi, University of Southampton Prof. Farrag, University of Alexandria

Separately, PUL members had a roundtable talk to confirm the significance of the PUL's philosophy to keep on contributing to each of local areas and citizens in the field of cultural, social and technological studies by keeping a keen interest to environment and sustainability in the world's port-city areas. The meeting agreed to welcome two new members -- Istanbul Technical University in Turkey and University of Alexandria in Egypt.

The next PUL meeting will be held in the summer of 2010 in Vancouver, Canada, to be hosted by British Columbia University.

The two-day event lured an audience of some 100.

The PUL members are University of Southampton, United Kingdom, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Vietnam, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, University of Lisbon, Portugal, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Pukyong National University, South Korea, British Columbia University, Canada, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey and University of Alexandria, Egypt.



a roundtable talk



Dr. Arinobu
Executive Director(International Affairs), Yokohama
National University

On May 23(Saturday), a program was organized to allow seminar participants from other countries to experience some of the attractions and activities in Yokohama area. The morning

hours were devoted to gathering shellfish at low tide, a popular leisure activity in Japan, at Sea Park (near Hakkeijima island). The afternoon featured visits to Shomyoji Temple (adjacent to Kanazawa Bunko, a library famed for its collection of historical records and books) and Sankeien Garden, where guests came into contact with some of the unique aspects of Japanese history and culture. Strolling through the rich new growth of the early summer season, many participants took several photographs to record memories of the elegant beauty of the temple and garden grounds.



gathering shellfish at low tide



Vermilion Gate of Shohmyohji



Niomon Gate of Shomyoji

The event was financially supported by YNU's Association for 80th Anniversary of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering, Aerospace Engineering.