Insight into Japanese HEIs; notions of decision-makings to facilitate post-pandemic mobility

- Sachihiko Kondo, Osaka University
- Yu Sengoku, Shinshu University
- Akito Okada, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
Introduction
Sachihiko KONDO PhD
Osaka University
University Education and International Collaboration in the Era of the “New Normal”: Redefining Inter-institutional Student Mobility across Borders

• Fund for the Promotion of Joint International Research (Fostering Joint International Research (B))

• Japan Society of Promotion of Science; 2020-2023
  • Osaka University / JAISE
  • Tokyo University of Foreign Studies / JAISE
  • Ochanomizu Women’s University / JAISE
  • Tokyo Metropolitan University / JAISE
  • Shinshu University / JAISE
  • IIE (JAFSA), DAAD, EAIE, KAIE etc.
Research Question(1)

• Concerning inter-university programs, such as student exchange, summer schools, double- and joint-degree programs, we take Physical Mobilities (PM) for granted in the pre-pandemic period

• How HEIs could resume inter-university mobilities in the post-pandemic period
  • Conditions
  • Concerns
  • Forms of Mobilities (Physical, Virtual, Hybrid, COIL, Metaverse)
Research Question(2)

• Inter-institutional mobility
  • Unlike degree seeking student, HEIs need to take responsibilities

• Forms of Mobilities (Physical, Virtual, Hybrid, COIL, Metaverse)
  • PM; the golden rule of equal number exchange
  • VM, COIL, Metaverse; just alternatives or substitutes which will be declined in post-pandemic period?
Research Question(3)

- Surveys
  - Students
    - International (Guest) students (2020, 2021)
  - HEIs
    - Japanese HEIs (2021)
    - Non-Japanese HEIs (2021)
  - Host Families (2020)
- Under what condition, HEIs could resume the mobilities?
- To what extent, HEIs shift their mobilities for VM
Survey outcomes and Japan Insight (1)

- Attitude of Japanese HEIs
  - Struggles for resuming international mobilities
  - Compared with US colleagues, greater emphasize on VM
  - Differences among university types
  - Prof. Sengoku
Survey outcomes and Japan Insight (2)

• Strict Boarder Controls
  • 2021 Summer; Summer Olympic Games ⇒ Strict
  • 2021 Autumn; Rules Relaxed
  • 2021 Early Winter; Omicron Variant ⇒ Strict
  • US, Europe and most of the countries do not take extreme travel ban policy for foreign nationals, such as students
Analysis of Questionnaire Survey for Japanese Universities

Yu SENGOKU
Shinshu University
Immigration Restrictions for International Students until Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020

Measures for Border Enforcement

- 2020.12.24
  The First Quarantine Enforcement (UK) -> Expansion of Countries

- 2020.12.28
  Stopped Accepting New Foreign Arrivals from All over the World
  (Exception: Residence Track)

- 2021.1.13
  No Exception for Residence Track
Questionnaires for Japanese Universities

Duration: 2021.2.19 – 2021.5.31
including 2 times of “State of Emergency” for about 10 prefectures
System: REAS (Realtime Evaluation Assistance System)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Univ.</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Univ.</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Univ.</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Hokkaido**: 10%
- **Tohoku**: 4%
- **Kanto**: 5%
- **Chubu**: 19%
- **Kinki**: 26%
- **Chugoku**: 7%
- **Shikoku**: 20%
- **Kyushu**: 9%

AIEA: Leaders in International Higher Education
Preparations for Student Exchange after the Pandemic

- No, it does not. We do not know where to start.
- No, it does not. However, we are collecting information/resources to help us decide on guidelines.
- No, it does not. However, we are about to start the discussion about student mobility guidelines.
- No, it does not. We will just resume the previous forms of student mobility as soon as possible.
- Yes, it does. We will issue student mobility guidelines for the period during or after COVID-19.
- Yes, it does. We have already issued student mobility guidelines for the period during or after COVID-19.

AIEA: Leaders in International Higher Education
### Information Referred to When Student Exchange Resumes, by Type of Institution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Institution</th>
<th>Students' opinions</th>
<th>Opinions of students' parents/guardians</th>
<th>Internal advice/recommendations of university faculty/staff members who have knowledge of COVID-19 and related areas</th>
<th>External professional advice such as that from risk management institutions, study abroad agents, consultants or professional associations</th>
<th>Guidelines or policies proposed by influential HEIs</th>
<th>Information provided by domestic university/college networks</th>
<th>Information provided by overseas university/college networks</th>
<th>Benchmarking universities</th>
<th>We are currently thinking about what to consider when deciding upon our guidelines</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Univ.</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Univ.</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Univ.</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Students' opinions
- Opinions of students' parents/guardians
- Internal advice/recommendations of university faculty/staff members who have knowledge of COVID-19 and related areas
- External professional advice such as that from risk management institutions, study abroad agents, consultants or professional associations
- Guidelines or policies proposed by influential HEIs
- Information provided by domestic university/college networks
- Information provided by overseas university/college networks
- Benchmarking universities
- We are currently thinking about what to consider when deciding upon our guidelines
- Other
Ratio of On-site to Online Student Exchange after the Pandemic

Online 0%-Onsite 100% 3.9%
Online more than 20%-Onsite less than 80% 22.3%
Online more than 40%-Onsite less than 60% 9.5%
Online more than 60%-Onsite less than 40% 2.2%
Online more than 80%-Onsite less than 20% 4.5%
Online 100%-Onsite 0% 1.7%
No idea 55.9%
Institutions’ Plans for Restarting On-site International Student Mobility

- We will expand the scale of programs as soon as the conditions are satisfactory. (11.7%)
- We will restart on-site international student mobility on the same scale as before as soon as the conditions are satisfactory. (20.1%)
- We will gradually resume on-site international student mobility. (63.7%)
- Don’t know yet. (2.2%)
- Other (2.2%)
Management of Programs after the Pandemic

**Equal Treatment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prioritize Suspended**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study Abroad and Program Completion Requirements

Offer of programs which require students to obtain study abroad experience for completion/graduation

- Yes, we offer such educational curriculums/programs. (44.1%)
- No, we do not offer such educational curriculums/programs, but many students participate in study abroad programs. (16.2%)
- No, we do not offer such educational curriculums/programs. (39.7%)

Ways of dealing with an overseas study completion/graduation requirement during the pandemic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative</th>
<th>We are discussing</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extend Graduation and Completion for Students</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>82.3%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Mobility as Alternatives</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Experience as Alternatives</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-campus Global Experiences as Alternatives</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AIEA: Leaders in International Higher Education
Consensus Building on Student Exchange in the Era of the “New Normal”

- Researchers: 22
- University umbrella organizations: 106
- Professionals such as management consultants: 3
- Influential/powerful individual institutions: 31
- Networks looking at international education: 73
- Governments and related organizations: 114
- International organizations: 11
- Each university: 57
- Other: 7
Comparison with US (1/2)

- Preparations for Student Exchange after the Pandemic
  ⇒ US is more prepared to resume student exchange after the pandemic
- Consensus Building on Student Exchange in the Era of the “New Normal”
  ⇒ Japan…turn to what a wide range of internal and external experts say
  US…turn mainly to external professional advice
- Ratio of On-site to Online Student Exchange after the Pandemic
  ⇒ Japan…careful of decision of student exchange policy
  US…emphasize on-site student exchange
- Institutions’ Plans for Restarting On-site International Student Mobility
  ⇒ Japan…gradually resume
  US…restart on the same scale as before as soon as the conditions satisfactory
Comparison with US (2/2)

- Management of Programs after the Pandemic (Equal Treatment vs. Prioritize Suspended)

  ⇒ Japan: scattered in agree, disagree, and neutral
  ⇒ US: almost all the universities define their positions in agree or neutral

- Study Abroad and Program Completion Requirements

  ⇒ Japan: about 80% universities decided how to deal with substitute program
  ⇒ US: discussing virtual mobility, classroom experience, and off-campus global experiences

Japanese universities have already decided some programs as alternative, but been careful of decision of student exchange policy

⇒ inferior to US universities in speed
Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Situation Report in Japan

Akito OKADA
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
Reported Infections Japan 2021-2022
Overseas Residents’ Visits to Japan by month

Source: Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)
Measures taken by the Japanese government to deal with the spread of corona infection

- **2020**
  - Jan 31 Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters
- **2021**
  - Jul 23-Aug 08 Tokyo Olympic
  - Aug 25 Declaration of a state of emergency for new coronavirus infections
  - Nov 29 Strengthening of Waterfront Measures against Omicron Stocks
- **2022**
  - Jan 14 Strengthen waterfront measures against Omicron strains
Future Issues in International Student Education

• Crisis over the long entry bans
• Risk that top-flight students will dismiss Japan as a study-abroad destination.
• Cross-border connections being broken (lost opportunities for international joint research)
• Re-entry to Japan for international students temporarily returning to their home countries
  (proof of COVID-19 testing within 72 hours, quarantine measures)
Conclusion

Sachihiko KONDO PhD
Osaka University
Concerns of Japan

• Negative impact for future mobility
  • Demise of system for in-coming students to Japan
  • Imbalance between in-coming and out-going students
  • Partnership between Japanese and non-Japanese HEIs
  • Cruel Japan!
Concerns of the World HEIs

• Up to date ideas for facilitating student mobility using PM, VM, HM, COIL and (if available) Metaverse
  • Renewed golden rule
• To understand (and to theorize) true pedagogical value of mobility education
  • gamification
  • planned happenstances
University Education and International Collaboration in the Era of the “New Normal”: Redefining Inter-institutional Student Mobility across Borders

• https://newnormal-jointintlresearch.org/