



UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORTS 2013-2014

Kwansei Gakuin University

Japan

During the 2013-14 period, Kwansei Gakuin University has upheld its strong commitment to the promotion of core UNAI principles. Of particular note are the following projects:

KGU hosted a career forum entitled “Introduction to Working at an International Organization”. Since its inception at KGU in 2004, this annual event is revered as one of the biggest and oldest forums in Western Japan introducing attendees to the potential of a career in civil service. This year, speakers at the forum included former Under-Secretary General of the UN Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka and Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP Mr. Shun-ichi Murata. A workshop—orchestrated through cooperation with international and governmental organizations like UNDP, UNV, UNICEF, WB, ADB, JICA and MOFA—and a panel discussion followed the lectures. The forum offered excellent opportunities for the participants, who are mostly high school and university students, to understand the career path of an international civil servant and to deepen knowledge related to international development.

Since 2004, KGU has maintained a partnership with the United Nations Volunteers initiative (UNV) in deploying 70 student volunteers to UN Agencies’ field offices under a Memorandum of Understanding between UNV and KGU. UNV and KGU were determined to extend this opportunity to other Japanese universities and renewed the aforementioned MOU in June of 2013. KGU now serves as a liaison office for 5 other partner universities in Japan, while also extending 2-week training courses at KGU’s training centre to youth volunteers prior to their dispatch. These courses cover such topics as international cooperation, educational development, international conflicts and disaster recovery. From September 2013 to March 2014, 12 KGU students served as UN Youth Volunteers in Asia, the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Africa for about 6 months.

On March 27th, 2014, KGU, partner universities and UNV held the “FY2013 Activity Report Meeting on the UN Youth Volunteer Programme”. The event included a keynote speech by Ms. Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed, Chief of UNV Public Relations, presentation of Activity Reports and a panel discussion with 10 youth volunteers. The youth volunteers reported their activities in each country and actively participated in the panel discussion, which gave the audience and participants great insight into their activities abroad.

Links: [KGU’s Homepage](#)