

## International Exchange Activities 2000-2001

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### 1. International cooperation and exchange

A large number of international academic exchanges were conducted in the 2000-2001 period, including overseas visits by NISE staff to institutions with which the National Institute of Special Education (NISE) has

formal exchange agreements, overseas research fellowships, participation in international conferences, grants-in-aid for scientific research, and visits by overseas academics and administrators. The details of these exchanges are outlined in Tables 1 and 2.

**Table 1** NISE Staff Traveling Overseas

	1973-1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Overseas Research Fellowships	59(2.4)#	3	2	2	1
Fellowships For attendance at International Conferences	15(0.6)	0	1	4	1
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research	62(2.5)	25	14	22	24
Others	30(1.2)	5	7	4	15
Total	166(6.6)	33	24	32	45

# Parenthesis indicates average figures

The number of NISE staff dispatched to overseas institutions on Japanese government-sponsored short- or long-term research fellowships averaged between two and three each year until 1999, and so there was little change in the 2000-2001 period. Likewise, the number of staff visiting overseas to attend international conferences remained steady. On the other hand, there was a dramatic increase in the number of staff visiting overseas under the grants-in-aid for scientific research program. This was a result of changes introduced in 1998 making it easier for staff to make use of the grants-in-aid scheme. Since these changes were introduced, between 10 and 20

staff have visited overseas under the scheme each year. "Others" includes visiting overseas for the purposes of conducting research commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and visits carried out under the international exchange agreement with the Korea Institute for Special Education (KISE).

The number of overseas academics and administrators invited to Japan to take part in APEID Seminars on Special Education totaled 12 in 2000 and 14 in 2001. "Overseas Visitors" includes the total number of participants in study tours to Japan.

**Table 2:** Visits to Japan by Overseas Academics/Administrators

	1973-1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Invited Gests *	273	18	29	15	17
Overseas Visitors	(-)	47	73	69	37

\* including APEID Seminar participants

## 2. International seminars

The APEID Seminars have been hosted by NISE and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO since 1981. The 21st and final APEID Seminar, the last of the 6th programming cycle, was held in 2001. It is hoped that the philosophy behind the APEID Seminars, which is to contribute to the development of special education in the Asia-Pacific region and the improvement of education in the participating countries, will be carried over into a new round of international seminars on special education in the Asia-Pacific region.

### 1) APEID Seminar on Special Education 2000

Schedule: November 7-10, 2000

Venue: NISE

Main theme of the 6th cycle: Special Education Partnerships in the 21st Century Sub-theme of the 20th APEID Seminar: Strengthening and Encouraging School Development

2) APEID Seminar on Special Education 2001 and 30th anniversary of the founding of the National Institute of Special Education as an independently administered agency

Schedule: November 18-23, 2001

Venue: National Olympics Memorial Youth Center (Tokyo)

Main theme of the 6th cycle: (See above)

Sub-theme of the 21st APEID Seminar: Development and International Cooperation in Special Education in the Asia-Pacific Region

To mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of NISE, on the first day of the seminar, Professor Yoshitatsu Nakano of Sano International Information Junior College gave a lecture entitled "Lifelong Learning in the 21st Century for Children with Special Education Needs." That afternoon, the guests invited for the APEID Seminar on Special Education joined in a panel discussion entitled "International Cooperation in Special Education in the 21st Century - Towards Realizing the Doctrine of Normalization."

### 3) The 1st Japan-Korea Research Exchange Seminar

In accordance with the research exchange agreement between NISE and the Korea Institute for Special

It was agreed that NISE would continue to promote exchanges (including exchanges of research materials,

Education (KISE), the 1st Japan-Korea Research Exchange Seminar was held at the NISE offices on February 21, 2001. Three members of KISE were invited to take part in the seminar. The main theme of the seminar was "The Current Status and Future Trends of Special Education in Japan and Korea." After being briefed on the special education systems in the two countries, participants exchanged opinions on the seminar's main theme.

Dr. Lee You-hoon and Dr. Chung Dong-young gave addresses on behalf of KISE.

The following five speakers (in order of appearance) gave addresses on behalf of NISE: Senior Researcher Hiroyuki Sugai, Senior Researcher Nariki Osugi, Senior Researcher Mayumi Sawada, Section Chief Masayoshi Tsuge, and Senior Researcher Masashi Hayasaka.

### 4) The 2nd Korea-Japan Research Exchange Seminar

The 2nd Korea-Japan Research Exchange Seminar was held at the KISE offices on February 26, 2002. The main theme of the seminar was "The Current State of Special Education Communication in Korea and Japan and Issues for the Future." Three NISE representatives were invited to give addresses at the seminar.

Representing NISE were (in order of appearance) Researcher Akiko Kaizu, Section

Chief Megue Nakazawa, and Senior Researcher Nariki Osugi.

### 5) The 1st Japan-Germany Research Exchange Seminar

Dr. Walther Dreher, Dean of the Faculty of Remedial Education at the University of Cologne, and Dr. Barbara Fornefield, a professor at the same faculty, were invited to take part in the 1st Japan-Germany Research Exchange Seminar, held from February 26 to 28, 2002. The main theme of the seminar was "Independence and School Education for Children with Severe Disabilities - Study Support and Inclusion for Children with Severe Communication Disabilities." In addition to the two speakers mentioned above and Tetsuya Kono, Associate Professor at the National Defense Academy (who was invited to take part by the executive committee), Section Chief Susumu Ouchi, Department Director Ken Sasamoto, and Senior Researcher Masataka Ishikawa spoke on the main theme on behalf of NISE. publications, and other information, exchanged of researchers, joint research, seminars, and study

meetings) with the Faculty of Remedial Education at the University of Cologne, Germany, in accordance with a formal exchange agreement between the two institutions.

### **3. Overseas information gathering and accumulation**

1) Research into the teaching of children with special learning needs in major overseas countries

Research on this topic was conducted from March 1999 by a team led by Kouki Chida, Director of the Department of Education for Children with Visual Impairments, with the help of a grant-in-aid for scientific research from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The research was carried out in five major countries: the U.K., France, Germany, Italy, and the U.S.A. A final report was prepared in 2002 and distributed to the relevant organizations.

2) Commissioned research on lifelong learning for people with disabilities (Leader: Chikamori Oshio, Director of the Department of Education for Children with Intellectual Disabilities)

Research on this topic covered basic issues relating to lifelong learning for people with disabilities in Japan and incorporated research in four overseas countries (the U.K., Italy, Norway, and the U.S.A.) that are considered leaders in the area of lifelong learning for people with disabilities

3) Publication of Volumes 15 and 16 of Special Education in the World

Special Education in the World is published once a year by NISE. The contents include reports on research carried out with the help of grants-in-aid for scientific research, reports by overseas research fellows, summaries of APEID Seminars on Special Education, and reports on international conferences and seminars in which NISE staff participated, as well as related research materials. Volumes 15 (2000) and 16 (2001) were published.

### **4. Information disseminated overseas**

Volume 6 of the NISE English-language bulletin (Volume 7 is currently being prepared for publication), reports on the 20th and 21st APEID Seminars, and APEID newsletters (Nos. 15-18) were published.

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# The present office, Director-General, Yokohama City Central Area Habilitation Center for Children