Resiliency of Academic Activities for Global Citizenship at University of Tsukuba in Response to COVID 19

Dr. NOMURA Nakao

Regional Director for Southeast Asia and Taiwan, Office of Global Initiatives
Director, Division of International Exchange Support, Global Commons
Associate Professor, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences

University of Tsukuba, JAPAN
COVID-19 in Japan and actions taken by public sectors

Total number of patients confirmed as COVID-19 positive
- 1st wave April, 202, 2nd wave: August 2020, 3rd wave: January, 2021
- As of today, still daily more than 100 new positive cases reported.

Declaration of State of Emergency by the Prime Minister (Apr-7 2020, Jan-7 2021)
- Applied to prefectures with high number of infection cases in Japan
- designation of 9-13 prefectures with higher number of infected patients as ‘Special Alert Prefectures’
- Promotion of 3Cs practices (Closed spaces, Crowded places, Close-contact settings )
- No lockdown, just official request/warning from public sectors

Postponement of Tokyo Olympic for 1 year

Daily Confirmed Cases
Seriously Sick Patients
Cumulative Number of Death

SEAMEO-The University of Tsukuba Symposium IX
11 February 2021
Actions by HEIs

- Japanese academic calendar:
  - from April until March
  - with semester system (spring semester (Apr-) and fall semester (Oct-))

- Risk level in Overseas Travel Safety Information by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/masters/explanation.pdf)
  - 2: stop dispatching students
  - 3: stop dispatching faculties and students

- Start of new academic year was postponed around 1 month in most HEIs
- Courses in Spring semester are provided thru online or e-learning system in most HEIs
- Security issues related publicity/IPs in courses thru online was emphasized to both students and course instructors before start of semester.
- Re-scheduling of courses which cannot be provided thru online such as those including practical lessons (medicines, physical education, agricultures etc.)
- All exchange students who registered for Spring semester cancelled registration and some postponed to Fall semester.
- Requesting ongoing outbound students to return to Japan as MOFA increase risk level of all foreign countries to ‘3’.
Risk level in Overseas Travel Safety Information by Ministry of Foreign Affairs
https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/

Infectious disease risk

General risk

Risk level 1
Risk level 2
Risk level 3
Risk level 4
Actions by HEIs (Students support)

☞ **Freshmen students** from overseas
   Instruction thru **online** *(admission orientation, most of courses as well as mental health support)*

☞ **International Students graduated on March 2020**
   Providing **student status without additional tuition fees** and **University student residence**
   Extension of **government scholarship** *(April, May)*

☞ **Outbound students** who returned to Japan by following request from University
   **Financial support for travel cost** for emergency returning to Japan
   **Continuation of scholarship** for study abroad in case student continue taking courses provided by host universities thru online

☞ **Financial aid** for students
   By University of Tsukuba: **financially challenged degree-students** in University of Tsukuba
   By Japanese government: all people lining in Japan **including foreign citizen with living address and RC (residence card) in Japan** *(amount of 100,000 JPY(about 940USD) per person, as of Apr-27).*
Activities with ASEAN in UT

AIMS programme

Inbound:
- Spring semester, Apr, 2020 → all cancelled
- Fall semester, Oct, 2020 → all cancelled
- Spring semester, Apr, 2021 → online

Outbound:
- All students abroad returned to Japan by the end of April 2020
- Applications for next semester are in processes.

SEA teachers: Pilot study with 3 partner universities (CLSU-PH, KKU-TH, UPI-ID) on Feb, 2020

Inbound: 3-week in Affiliated High School, 1-week in UT (6 students)
Outbound: 1-month in partner universities (2 in each partner university)

Analytical studies ongoing (impact on students, institutions, faculties)
Results will be shared in next evaluation meeting.
Experiences from Great East Japan Earthquake

• Increase in demand for **science and technology** related with issues caused by current issues

• **Hopelessness** in students mindset

• Necessary for more student support in terms of **finance and mental health**
Recommendations

- Clarification of necessary capacity/competence for ‘Global Human Resources’

- Understand Student Mobility as one of the means to nurture ‘Global Human Resources’ and establish new KPIs to achieve necessary capacity/competence

- Explore cross-disciplinary approaches to solve issues related with COVID-19 and apply obtained outcomes to cope with Industry 4.0 or Society 5.0
Thank you very much!

どうもありがとうございます。