

BIODATA



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Dr. NOMURA Nakao is currently serving as Regional Director for Southeast Asia at Bureau of Global Initiatives, Manager for International Admissions at Admissions Center as well as Associate Director for International Exchange Support at Student Support Center in University of Tsukuba, Japan. University of Tsukuba is designated as national coordinating institution for AIMS programme in Japan and Dr. Nomura is member for the AIMS programme steering committee as representative from HEIs in Japan. His research specialty is Bioprocess Engineering particularly application of biotechnology for environmental renovation or food production with collaborations with international partners. He is conducting teaching and research as associate professor in Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba.

Online Socializing Activities for Support and Promote Virtual Student Mobility with Partner Institutions

Virtual student mobility is now widely applied as a sustainable study abroad under pandemic for a few semesters. Many online platforms have been developed to support virtual mobility. Before pandemic, online platforms were mainly employed to offer lecture contents in course work as e-learning. Through the experiences of pandemic situation where all contents in course work, even whole degree programs have to be done without face-to-face mode, other contents such as course assessment, seminar, entrance examination, course orientation thesis defense have been managed in online mode using new platforms. Most of HEIs are now capable in conducting most of educational activities online.

One important function of university campus is to provide valuable experience through student interaction/socialization via extracurricular activities. Since all students stay home/dorm under pandemic situation, doing socializing activity face-to-face is quite difficult. Many universities tend to put more effort to conduct online educational activities under curriculum resulting in online extracurricular activities particularly student socializations were managed with commitment by student group or association. However, socializing activities between exchange students in virtual mobility and students in host university remains difficult. University of Tsukuba has been conducting series of online socializing activities specifically with students in partner universities abroad including virtual exchange students. Through 2-year experience in online socializing activities, it was found that commitment of university is quite important not only for interaction with virtual exchange student, but also promoting study abroad as well as strengthening institutional linkages for future academic collaboration.