

AP NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of MIC-AP

School Year 2014-2015: March, 2015

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Project Summary

Miyazaki International College was selected to carry out its proposed project for Themes I and II of the Acceleration Program for University Education Rebuilding (AP), one of the programs sponsored and implemented by MEXT for 2014 University Education Reform. This project is founded upon our educational achievements thus far, and proposes to develop methods of visualizing the major educational outcomes of our program – critical thinking and English skills – and to develop, put into practice and systematize the best practices in active learning activities that optimize these outcomes. The 3 main features of our project are 1) clarification of the best practices among the active learning activities we have implemented thus far, 2) visualization of outcomes in development of critical thinking and English skills through active learning, and 3) development of rubric-based syllabi that will assist in the visualization of the relationships between active learning, critical thinking and English skill development and the creation of a PDCA cycle for further improvement of the program overall.

What is “Acceleration Program for University Education Rebuilding”?

The purpose of Acceleration Program for University Education Rebuilding (AP) is to support colleges and universities in carrying out their progressive projects that match with the new direction of university education reform which is indicated by the educational reforms executive committee to implement such reforms at the national level. For 2014-2015 school year, 46 projects have been selected as AP projects out of 250 projects that were submitted. Our school project is selected as a project that encompasses two themes (Theme I: Active learning, Theme II:

KICK-OFF SYMPOSIUM

Development of International Liberal Arts through Active Learning in Small Classes

Our Kick-Off Symposium commemorating commencement of MIC's participation in the Acceleration Program for University Education Rebuilding (AP) was held at MIC on October 18th, 2014. “DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LIBERAL ARTS THROUGH ACTIVE LEARNING IN SMALL CLASSES” was the main theme of the symposium. We were fortunate to have many participants from educational institutions inside and outside of the Miyazaki area such as high schools, colleges and universities. Dr. Nagata, the president of MIC, marked the beginning of the symposium with his opening remarks. The administrators of the project followed with introductions of MIC and its AP project. The leaders of the project's five working groups (WG) – Active Learning WG, Critical Thinking WG, English Skill WG, e-Portfolio WG, and Rubric-based Syllabus WG – introduced their plans for the AP project. This was followed by a question-and-answer session among MIC faculty and participants.



New Hires

Assessment Officer

Tomoyuki Yokohara

B.A. Tohoku University
M.S. Japan Advanced Institute of
Science and Technology
A.B.D. Hiroshima University
Major: Higher Education Studies

“I will make every effort as
assessment officer to ensure the
success of the AP project and of
MIC.”



AP Project Administrative Assistant

Yumiko Ikeda

B.A. International Christian University
M.A. SUNY at Buffalo
Major: Communication

“I hope my bilingual skill can be helpful
for the AP project and MIC.”



Overseas Workshops

CAT Test Workshop

1. First Workshop

Date: Oct 30-31 Place: Santa Fe, New Mexico U.S.A.

Participant: Lloyd Walker, Administrative Leader

Summary: Walker completed a two-day training workshop organized by staff from Tennessee Technological University (TTU).

Results: Walker received training in administering and assessing the CAT (Critical Thinking Assessment Test) developed by TTU with funding by NSF and established the relationship between MIC and TTU to conduct CAT in Japan.



2. Second Workshop

Date: March 5-6 Place: Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Participant: Dr. Benjamin Peters & Monica Hamciuc, Critical Thinking WG Members

Summary: Peters and Hamciuc completed two days of CAT training.

Results: Peters and Hamciuc are now qualified to administer the CAT and to organize and facilitate assessment sessions at MIC. They also received training in developing critical thinking assessment for the classroom and continued to pave the way for further interaction with TTU representatives.



Working Group Activities

- Students used PC tablets in their classes in January as part of an e-portfolio pilot study on active learning planned by the e-portfolio working group.



- The Critical Thinking Working Group administered the CAT (Critical Thinking Assessment Test) to fifteen MIC students in March. These were the first students ever to take the CAT in Japan. The results will be analyzed and used for test administrations planned by the working group in the next school year.



2014-2015 AP Activities

- Sep.** MIC is selected as one of 46 grant recipients in the Acceleration Program for University Education Rebuilding (AP)
- Oct.** Kick-Off Symposium
- Oct.** Walker participated in training workshops for the critical thinking assessment test in Santa Fe.
- Nov.** Joint-Working Group FD
- Nov.** Membership in the critical thinking CAT program
- Dec.** Installation of a server and wireless LAN system for e-portfolio system completed
- Jan.** Tablet PCs used in classes for a pilot study
- Mar.** Peters and Hamciuc participated in training workshop for the critical thinking assessment test in Boston
- Mar.** Assessment officer hired
- Mar.** CAT tests administrated to 15 MIC seniors
- Mar.** Year-end joint WG workshop

Visit / Exchange

Kentaro Harada, a researcher of Kansai University's Division of Promotion of Educational Development, visited MIC on March 13, 2015. Kansai University, like MIC, was selected to carry out a project under Themes I and II of the Acceleration Program for University Education Rebuilding (AP). He is one of the members of the team in charge of carrying out this project. We exchanged information on the progress of each other's projects. The visit was very informative and fruitful for both institutions.