

The Staff Exchange Week at Kanagawa University (25-29.11.2019) followed a programme containing presentations and workshops defined by the key-word **diversity**, and it represented the opportunity of an extraordinary meeting. During the final week of November 2019, 17 representatives of 16 universities from across the world, hosted by the Kanagawa University with which they had signed collaboration agreements, had the excellent opportunity to get to know each other, on the one hand and, on the other hand, to discover the Kanagawa University in situ and its offer as part of the inter-university exchange programs.

We believe that the idea of assigning a theme of major interest to the meetings, as is that of **diversity** in its different aspects (the universities' policies regarding religion and ethnicities, migrants, disabled persons etc.) is both important, in terms of the evolution of the universities, and provocative in relation with the current requirements of the university education system. Due to the fact that the presentations had a central theme, the participants' interest could focus on the common vs. different aspect that, in the end, made the dialogue between the participants to the workshop possible. Thus, the programme was constructed in response to the new and highly diverse challenges of the contemporary world, as are the universities' response to the needs and rights of certain sexual, social, ethnical and religious identities, issues that the development of the university education system, on an international level, will no longer be able to ignore in the future.

The optional activities in the programme included, among other things, a visit to the university campus which proved to be extremely useful and instructive. Considering that, starting with spring of next year, as a utilisation of the MOU signed this year by our university and the Kanagawa University, two students of the Faculty of Letters, from the Japanese Language and Literature major, will become exchange students of the Kanagawa University, we believe that the week spent during this programme represented an excellent opportunity of gaining a deeper knowledge of the facilities offered by this university to the foreign students, so that, upon our return, we may answer all the questions raised by our students concerning their stay at the Kanagawa University.

The one-day trip to Kamakura represented not only an opportunity to discover Japanese traditions, but also a manner of reminding everyone that respecting other people's rights can be made through the mutual acceptance of each other's differences and that one of the key components that contributes to reciprocal knowledge is culture.

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