

International development strategies @ Okayama University

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International Research Partnership Development

URA division ----- Okayama University

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** Former Full Professor in TAIWAN Academia Sinica
** Joined Okayama University in April 2023
** Senior URA Oka-Dai

Bernard CHENEVIER
** Former CNRS senior Scientist – Materials Science
** Joined Okayama University in April 2014
** First contact with Japan: 1990



Okayama University - Globalising manifold strategies

1 – HORIZON -2020 / HORIZON EUROPE MSCA - SE

Numerous high-level OUTCOMES Strengthening the impact of a MSCA Staff Exchange in a Japanese University

2 – ERASMUS mobilities

3 – Research Internship + i-ELST

4 – Increased international visibility →

Invitation to other projects

A tremendous networking effect, « SNOWBALL » effect

Several Hundreds of Months of Mobility: EUROPE TO Okayama

MSCA Staff Exchange for JAPANESE partners:

→ Little logistics to do to participate

→ Extremely powerfull springboard to GLOBALISATION

Huge ROI



Okayama University is a comprehensive University
– **13 000 Students, 1700 Faculty** members



Okayama University and its research Institutes are most reknown in:

- *** High Energy physics – Cosmology, neutrinos → **CMB – INFLATE (MSCA Staff Exchange)**
- *** Solid State Physics – Superconductivity and related Engineering technologies → **NETSU**
- *** Institute of Planetary Materials – High-Pressure dept (Misasa Campus)
- *** Cybersecurity - → **SELFY**
- *** Plant studies – Genetic engineering (for salt resistance for instance) – Food / Fermented – Kurashiki campus
- *** Marine biology – Ushimado Marine station → **HESPRI**
- *** Preservation of Cultural Heritage – “Research Institute for the Dynamics of Civilizations” → **BE-ARCHAEO**
- *** Medical – The University Hospital is a reference in Chugoku (South West Japan)

Okayama University - Globalising manifold strategies

For many reasons, globalisation oriented a lot to **European Commission** programmes:

1 – HORIZON -2020 / HORIZON EUROPE

** Prestige of high-level Collaborations

** Impact in terms of Excellence of Research – Co-authored papers

** Simple logistics to apply

3 - I
International
Interdisciplinary
Intersectoral (Acad / Non Acad)
 and..... **G**ender balance –
 In the 2022- Gender Gap Report, Japan ranks last among the G7



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Ongoing

- HORIZON 2020 - MSCA → **I** BE-ARCHAEO and the **Kofun history in Japan / Archaeology**
- HORIZON 2020 – MSCA → **II** CMB-INFLATE – **Cosmology “ultra” early stages of the Universe**
- HORIZON EUROPE – MSCA → **III** HESPRI – Improving **Public Policies for Higher Education**
- HORIZON EUROPE – R&I → **IV** SELFY – **Cybersecurity for Automated vehicles**

Upcoming

- ‡ AI for Laser Technologies
- ‡ Geosciences (AI)
- ‡ Superconductivity for Health and Energy
- ‡ Responsible consumption (AI)



2 – ERASMUS (European Commission)

KA-171 program – Support

Both ways: FROM and TO Europe

6 months for students (MASTER) – 30 ECTS
900€ / month + transportation

Ph-D – various durations

Staff / Faculty –Up to 10 days



International Research Internship Programme @Oka-Dai and i-ELST

A by-product of the European Commission projects

An outcome clearly responding to the demand for more globalising of the University

From 2015: 300 European MASTER level (M1 / M2) students
(for 3 to 6 months in a Research Group)

5: Combining Lectures and Lab. Training (ECTS)

- Professional achievements

Likely the most active University in Japan in combined MASTER Course

→ In 2025, (50) European students

→ In 2026, (50-55) students

→ 2030 Target: 100/year



Additional Examples of Increased GLOBALISATION / Intern. prestige / Visibility

---- OUTCOMES resulting of MSCA SE ----

HESPRI mobilities: over the 4 years 2023-26 – 100 months of Mobility TO Okayama Univ.

In 2026: 20 months

BE-ARCHEO (completed in 2023) 200 months of mobility TO Okayama University

Upcoming new MSCA SE Proposals

**** CMB-INFLATE – II – deadline submission: April-2026**

CMB-INFLATE-I – 2021 – Aug-2026: 12 Partners

30 co-authored papers – 50 months of Mobility from EUROPE to OKA-DAI

**** Ferments of the Future - deadline submission: April-2027 –**

Feb-2026: Consortium building – 14 Partners – Targetting 1.4M€ budget

**** KAIZEN (continuous improvement) in European University - April-2027 –**

K-CREATE (Kaizen-driven Collaborative Research & Education for AI-Teaching Excellence)

Feb-2026: Consortium building Targetting 1.4M€ budget

CNRS projects

**** IRP (International Res. Projects) –**

2 joint IRP – CNRS Bio / Phys and Oka-Dai

French Embassy (Tokyo) programs

**** 1 EXPLORATION JAPON – 3 EXPLORATION FRANCE**

..... **Others like joint Ph-D**





From WASHU-Zan (Kojima next to Okayama city)



Conclusions: Holistic approaches for improved International development @Okayama University

★ Large Scale Consortiums supported by the European Commission (MSCA Action)

★ Several hundreds of months of Scientists Mobility TO Okayama

★ ERASMUS Mobilities TO and FROM Okayama

★ **Mobilities result in**

** More research projects such as SELFY and other types such as CNRS joint projects, French Embassy ...

** 40 – 50 students per year to Okayama for 3-6 months stays
Lots of efforts still to be made to balance the mobilities



Okayama University ERASMUS--Day 2025

OKAYAMA UNIV. European Commission

★ This 3rd Edition of the ERASMUS-Day at Okayama University (Last one in April-2019) will bring together students, professors, researchers and International Specialists of ERASMUS
Let's get together for a joint bright « ERASMUS future »

★ **ERASMUS +**
On 30 May 2018, the Commission adopted its proposal for the next Erasmus programme, with a doubling of the budget to 30 billions € for the period 2021-2027 (300 億€ = 3.8 兆円).