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Human relationships – vital assets for me

Yasuhiro Kakinuma

Assets I gained during my student days naturally include the knowledge I learned from lectures by world-class professors. At the same time, what's equally important were encounters and friendship with highly talented people from different backgrounds. In particular, human relationships with friends, seniors and juniors with whom I shared joys and sorrows at our lab remain strong; even now we get together at least several times a year, thoroughly talking about everything from professional to trivial matters. Strangely, these casual talks often

inspire me with new seeds of research or vital perspectives for education. It seems that stimuli from other people are like catalysts in chemistry as they arouse new ideas formerly hidden within us.

When I recall my student days, I believed that I could solve any problem if I only studied hard. And I was confident in that belief. Some of you, readers of this web magazine, may think the same way as I did. When it comes to problems you face as a university student, there certainly is a solution or answer you can find for yourself. It's true. But things are totally different when it comes to "Research." Even if you work hard desperately, it could lead you nowhere. There is no paved avenue to solutions. I admit that my successful development of the electro-adhesive gel as a master's course

student owed much to the stimuli my contemporaries, seniors and juniors at the lab, gave me. But you should avoid merely relying on others for help. Above all, it's important to have your own opinion, but at the same time you should respect and listen to what others say. Other people's opinions, if you listen to them seriously, will serve as new stimuli and help you develop your own new perspectives and ideas.

Yukichi Fukuzawa, the founder of Keio, once put it: Learning from books is important but pleasantly associating with others and exchanging knowledge is equally important. Therefore, I'd like to advise both Keio freshmen and those wishing to enter Keio to develop your own potentials while enjoying exchange of knowledge with others.

Science and Technology Information

The 15th KEIO TECHNO-MALL 2014 "More Partnerships, More Dreams"

Date: December 5 (Fri.), 2014 10:00 ~ 18:00
Tokyo International Forum (Exhibition Hall 2, Basement 2)
Admission free. *No prior registration is required for any event.
For details, please refer to – <http://www.kll.keio.ac.jp/ktm/>

Keio University Faculty of Science and Technology 75th Anniversary Commemorative Event

For the coming KEIO TECHNO-MALL, we will offer a variety of special events, featuring guests from diverse fields, who will attract the audience with their passionate talks. We welcome your presence.

10:30 - 11:15	Keynote Speech "37 Years of University-Originated Entrepreneurship – Dreams and Realities"
Commemorative Event for Establishing KIF (Keio Innovation Foundry)	
11:25 - 12:10	Keynote Speech "The Japanese Economy Business-Academic Cooperation for Innovation"
Commemorative Event for Establishing KIF (Keio Innovation Foundry)	
13:30 - 15:00	Talk Session "A Future Center of Innovative Technology for an Action of Practical Learning (Saiyansu) : A True Picture of Innovative Cooperation among Industry, Government and Academia in Our Society"
15:40 - 17:00	Round-table Session "Developing a Healthier Society through Technological Innovation"

Editor's postscript

For this issue's front cover photo, we made a new attempt. Since Dr. Kakinuma had no suitably small object to take in his hand that could symbolically convey the image of his research, we photographed the machine and Dr. Kakinuma separately, then composed them. While photos were being taken, we were uncertain of what the end result would look like, but as you can see it turned out to be a wonderful cover photo showing the nature of Dr. Kakinuma's research.

Photographing took place in his lab and many students were watching and talking openheartedly to Dr. Kakinuma. This made us feel that Dr. Kakinuma's gentle personality was reflected in his lab's general atmosphere. We also asked him to actually set the machine in motion; this demonstration was really interesting for all of our staff.

(Manami Matsubayashi)



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