JUNE DELEGATION ASIA VISIT REPORT
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
June 5–23, 2022
UT’S GLOBAL VISION

To enrich Tennessee through international development, global awareness and service on the world stage so that the University of Tennessee, Knoxville fulfills its promise as a modern R1 land-grant university.

VISIT SUMMARY

In June 2022, a UT delegation of five, led by Dr. Gretchen Neisler, Vice Provost for International Affairs, and Director of the Center for Global Engagement, visited Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the Philippines for two and half weeks. The delegation visited a total of 22 institutions and Hankook Tire & Technology’s R&D center, met with two foreign direct investment officers, and hosted two alumni events with an attendance of close to 80 alumni and friends. The trip resulted in multiple immediate impacts on advancing UT’s strategic vision and led to long-term projects that can make transformational progress.

DELEGATION MEMBERS

GRETCHEN NEISLER
Vice Provost for International Affairs
Director, Center for Global Engagement

RACHEL RUI
Director, Office of Asia Engagement
Director, Communications, Center for Global Engagement

KRISTA WIEGAND
Professor of Political Science
Director, Global Security, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy

NORIKO HORIGUCHI
Associate Professor & Chair
Japanese Program, Modern Foreign Languages & Literatures

MOONHEE CHO
Associate Professor
Tombras School of Advertising & Public Relations
JAPAN

JUNE 5–11
1. Kansai Gaidai University
2. Kobe University
3. Hokkaido University
4. Kaisei Gakuin High School
5. Muroran Institute of Technology
6. Gakushuin University
7. Waseda University
8. Tokyo University of Agriculture
9. Foreign District Investment Office
10. UT Alumni and Future Vols (Tokyo)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

JUNE 12–18
1. Ewha Womans University
2. Seoul National University
3. Chung-Ang University
4. Dongguk University
5. Kyung Hee University
6. Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
7. Yonsei University
8. Jeju Peace Institute
9. Foreign District Investment Office
10. Hankook Tire & Technology
11. UT Alumni and Future Vols (Seoul)

PHILIPPINES

JUNE 19–23
1. Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University
2. Philippine Women’s University
3. University of the Philippines Diliman
4. Ateneo de Manila University
5. Miriam College
6. Fulbright Philippines
VISIT OBJECTIVES
Discussions with partners on programming and opportunities were closely aligned with UT’s strategic goals

GOAL 1
Cultivating the Volunteer experience
Priority 2, 3 & 4

• Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)
• Short-term virtual certificate programs

GOAL 2
 Conducting research that makes life and lives better
Priority 1 & 2

• Depending on the visiting institutions’ or the companies’ strengths and interested areas of research, we presented our faculty members’ research, and shared our research agenda and information about four research pillars and opportunities presented by the University of Tennessee Oak Ridge Innovation Institute.

GOAL 3
Ensuring a culture where Vol is a verb
Priority 1

• English Language Institute’s 6-week virtual pathway program
• Dual degree programs (2+2)
IMPACTS AND STRATEGIC GOAL ALIGNMENT

Immediate Impact

- One student we met during the Fulbright reception in the Philippines was directly recruited to start the Food Science PhD Program with Professor Qixin Zhong in fall 2022. (Goal 1 metrics 2 and Goal 3 metrics 10)
- One program funded by the South Korean government to deliver a two-week virtual study abroad program to 12 students from Kyung Hee University (KHU). The program concluded on July 19. Program income is $18,900. The students’ satisfaction rating is 92.4 out of 100. (Goal 1 metrics 7)
- Two UT students received certificates from KHU’s water sustainability certificate program in August. Fee discounted by KHU, paid with grant funds from UT faculty. (Goal 1 metrics 5)
- Baker Center signed an MOU with Jeju Peace Institute that will include research collaborations and workshops. (Goal 2, priority 1 & 2)
- Baker Center signed an MOU with Yonsei University Institute for North Korean Studies that included research collaborations and workshops. (Goal 2, priority 1 & 2)
- Engaged 77 alumni in Japan and Korea opening the opportunity for student internships, employment and increasing the UT brand globally. (Goal 5 metrics 3)

Projects in Progress

- Building a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) training module for UT faculty that is open source and accessible by partners across the world. Moving closer to achieving FY23 goal to launch three COIL programs and expand COIL opportunities to include all colleges on the campus in the next five years. (Goal 1, priority 2, 3 & 4)
- UT is invited to visit LG and Hankook Tire, both in Clarksville, Tennessee, to explore further collaboration opportunities in research and talent development. This visit will be planned later this fall and will include Marc Gibson and Brad Day in the campus-based group to visit. (Goal 1 metrics 6 and Goal 2, priority 2)
- Working with the Fulbright office in the Philippines, CGE is leading the development of a two-week leadership training program for higher education administrators to visit UT in spring 2023. This can firmly establish UT’s global reputation. (Goal 5 metrics 4)
- Baker Center is developing an experiential learning program for undergraduate students called “Japan Ambassadors” in honor of Senator Howard Baker, Ambassador to Japan. Twelve UT students will visit Tokyo for two weeks; a partner in Japan will host the students (Waseda/Gakushuin). (Goal 1, priority 2 & 3) This program will also enhance faculty members’ collaborations between UT and these two Japanese institutions. (Goal 2, priority 1 & 2)
• Baker Center is working with Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA to seek funding to host a tri-country workshop focused on Indo-Pacific issues. The workshop tentatively aims for summer 2024 in Tokyo, Japan and Jeju Island, South Korea. (Goal 2, priority 1 & 2)
• UT is invited to apply for the FATS award in 2023 to host virtual exchange programs with institutions in Japan. (Goal 1, priority 2 & 3)
• Establish international alumni groups on Connect UT in fall 2022 and plans to host more virtual engagements. (Goal 5 metrics 3)

Alumni Engagement (Goal 5 metrics 3)

JAPAN
June 10, 2022

UT alumni, friends, current students, faculty, staff, and family in Japan and Korea attended these events. They included food, networking with Vols, sharing UT memories and memorabilia, UT trivia, and appearances from UT administrators.

“it was great to interact with former and future VOLS of all ages. I heard that here in Japan, people only join an alumni event of the same age, same year of graduation, and same department. So, many people were unsure and learned something new during the event. And it was great to talk about old and new experiences during our school years. It has been a very a long time ago so many memories were forgotten or lost. It was a great event to meet international people whom I never knew attended the university at some point.”

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
June 17, 2022

“In Seoul, other universities have annual events, this kind of reunion. But the University of Tennessee doesn’t have this kind of event or reunion so I just miss this kind of event. And also, I know lots of UT student alumni live in Seoul. They also want this kind of reunion. If you provide this kind of reunion they will definitely join and be together. I definitely think this should be an annual or biannual event.”

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Japan highlight reel
Korea highlight reel