

Academic Exchange and Cooperation between Kyoto University (KU) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU): Background and Future Vision

- Along with the closer relationship at governmental level between Japan and India, a partner city agreement was concluded between Varanasi and Kyoto, where Kyoto University is located, in August 2014. Since then, efforts to explore opportunities for collaboration between Kyoto University and universities in Varanasi and other parts of India have been accelerated.
- KU's Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GSGES) and BHU's Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development (IESD) concluded a departmental exchange and cooperation agreement in March 2015.
- KU's GSGES and BHU have already undertaken a joint study of "Climate and Disaster Resilience of Varanasi: City, Zone, and Ward profile" in cooperation with Varanasi City.
- As the result of the above study, both the universities have proposed measures to promote sustainable development in Varanasi. Based on their proposals, the city has been developing and implementing sustainable development policies in the fields of governance, education and technology (development and transfer). With regards to education, there are plans for faculty exchange, student internships, and academic information exchanges.
- To officially conclude the memorandum for academic cooperation and exchange and student exchange agreement between the two universities, Prof. Kayo Inaba, Kyoto University's executive vice-president for gender equality, international affairs, and public relations brought the two agreements, pre-signed by President Juichi Yamagiwa, to the signing ceremony in Varanasi on August 7, 2015, and both documents were signed by the Registrar of BHU.
- Kyoto University Profile:
 - ✧ Founded: 1897
 - ✧ Faculties: 10, Graduate Schools: 18, Research Institutes: 14
 - ✧ Undergraduate students: 13,569, Graduate students: 9,216 (as of May 1, 2015)