

## International students in the laboratories

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Host professor: Professor YAMAGATA, Toshio

Here is our new series of articles starting from this issue, featuring the international students in the laboratories. The first student to be featured is Ms. YUAN CHAOXIA, who came to Japan in October 2005, studied Japanese in the Intensive Course, and now doing vigorous research activity in the 1st year of Doctoral course at Department of Earth and Planetary Science, Graduate School of Science. We interviewed her and her host professor, Professor Toshio YAMAGATA.

### Ms. YUAN CHAOXIA

#### *[Why she came to Japan to study]*

I was deeply inspired by Professor Yamagata's paper "El Nino phenomenon in the Indian Ocean" which I read when I was a Master's course student at Department of Atmospheric Science, Nanjing University. I wished to study with Professor Yamagata, and I realized my wish in 2005. I came to Japan as university-recommended MEXT scholarship student.

#### *[Life in Japan]*

When I arrived in Japan, I did not understand Japanese at all. I took Class 1 (elementary) in Intensive Course at International Center for three and a half months. I then entered the Master's course, submitted the master's thesis "Respective Influences of IOD and ENSO on the Tibetan Snow Cover in Early Winter" in spring 2008, and now in the 1st year of Doctoral course.

#### *[Research activity and Japanese]*

I communicate with my professor mainly in English, but I use Japanese more often when I talk with my lab-mates. Japanese language is also very useful when I get the information sent by e-mail or attend the classes given in Japanese and participate in the discussions. I think it was meaningful to study Japanese intensively for certain period of time after arrival.

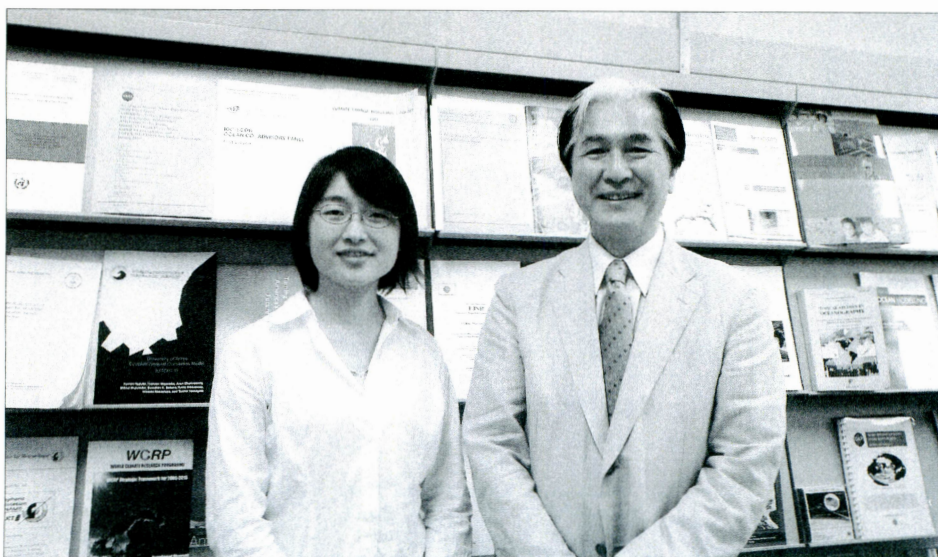
### Professor Toshio YAMAGATA

#### *[International students and research life]*

International student in my laboratory is now only Ms. Yuan, but Graduate School of Science as a whole accepts many international students. Japanese students tend to stay within their department, but international students freely and actively interact with other students in different department within Graduate School of Science. I think there is a merit in it. For example, when Ms. Yuan is talking with a Japanese student in the same department, an international student from the different department comes by and they get to know each other. Then, they can start interaction even if Ms. Yuan is not there. International students can play a significant role as the "catalyst" in research environment. They are not the people only to be supported.

#### *[As a host professor of international student]*

As a host professor of the international students, I am not only educating them now, but also appreciating the future when they become the leaders of their countries and interact each other in the borderless academic world. In that sense, my role is very important; it will be wonderful if such relationships go down to posterity. I learned such spirit at Geophysical Field Dynamics Laboratory designed by von Neumann, and I am proud to hand down such spirit to Ms. Yuan and many others.



At their Lab (Ms. Yuan (left) and Prof. Yamagata (right))