



Signing of an Internship Agreement with the International Christian University

Remarks by Angel Gurría
OECD Secretary-General

Friday 13 April 2018
Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan

Dear President (Professor) Junko Hibiya, Colleagues,

Allow me to begin by thanking the International Christian University, and in particular, President Junko Hibiya, for this engagement with the OECD. It's unfortunate that we did not get a chance to hold this event in the beautiful campus of the ICU in Mitaka and enjoy the rows of cherry trees blossoming at this time of year, however I'm sure we'll have other occasions to visit you there.

ICU is an outstanding university with a strong reputation. I understand that the expression "fit for a princess" is in this case apt, given that Princess Kako of Akishino is an alumnus. We are honoured to deepen our collaboration with Japan by including ICU as the newest partner to the OECD Internship Programme.

As the OECD's ties with Japan become increasingly close over the years, we see great importance in having more Japanese nationals working in the Organisation. In this respect we also desire to attract highly qualified and motivated Japanese students such as the ones enrolled at ICU.

I am certain that we will benefit from having your students as interns at the OECD. They will be able to contribute to our diverse body of work. In turn they will have the opportunity to improve their analytical and technical skills while gaining experience working within an international environment under the supervision of our experienced OECD staff.

We see time and time again how OECD interns grow during their short time in the Organisation and pursue new endeavours following their internship, be it in the academia, enrolled at advanced degrees, or by starting their careers in the public or private sector. In any such case we see them as a part of the OECD family and trust that they make use of the tools we provide them by developing an independent, evidence-based mind-set and by daring conventional wisdom when confronted with complex issues.

President Hibiya, at last month's spring commencement ceremony, you called out the names of each one of your students – 447 undergraduate and 30 graduate students in total – in keeping with ICU's tradition that has continued since its first commencement ceremony. Today I want to call on your students and ask them to make use of this exceptional opportunity and become interns at the OECD. In reference to your vision and aspirations for ICU, this will not only enable them to realise their potential but also help them discover their calling.

The students of the International Christian University are a great source of inspiration and we look forward to welcoming them at the OECD. Thank you.