

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCES,  
HUE UNIVERSITY AND JAPANESE PARTNERS: ACHIEVED  
RESULTS AND POSED PROBLEMS**

**HỢP TÁC GIỮA TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC KHOA HỌC, ĐẠI HỌC HUẾ  
VỚI CÁC ĐỐI TÁC NHẬT BẢN: NHỮNG KẾT QUẢ ĐẠT ĐƯỢC  
VÀ VẤN ĐỀ ĐẶT RA**

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**Abstract:** *In the development and growth of the University of Sciences, Hue University in recent years, international cooperation plays a very important role in the following forms: expert, lecturer and student exchange; implementation of capacity building reseaches and projects; academic and information exchange; training and recruitment of high-quality human resources... In this process, Japanese universities, research institutes, international organizations, enterprises... are always considered the leading partners of the University. The article generally analyzes the context of the cooperation, initial results, posed problems and development solutions in the cooperation between the University of Sciences and Japanese partners and at the same time initially forecasts the prospects for the cooperation between the two sides in the coming years.*

**Keywords:** *cooperation in higher education; University of Sciences; Japanese partner; expert exchange.*

**Tóm tắt:** *Trong sự phát triển, lớn mạnh của Trường Đại học Khoa học (ĐHKH), Đại học Huế những năm qua, lĩnh vực hợp tác quốc tế đóng vai trò hết sức quan trọng với các hình thức: trao đổi chuyên gia, giảng viên và sinh viên; thực hiện các đề tài, dự án nâng cao năng lực; trao đổi thông tin và học thuật; đào tạo và tuyển dụng nguồn nhân lực chất lượng cao... Trong quá trình này, các trường đại học, viện nghiên cứu, tổ chức quốc tế, doanh nghiệp... của Nhật Bản luôn được xem là đối tác hàng đầu của Nhà trường. Bài viết phân tích khái quát bối cảnh hợp tác, những kết quả bước đầu và những vấn đề đặt ra, các giải pháp phát triển trong quan hệ hợp tác giữa Trường ĐHKH và các đối tác Nhật Bản; đồng thời bước đầu dự báo triển vọng hợp tác của hai bên trong những năm tới.*

*Từ khóa: hợp tác giáo dục đại học; Trường Đại học Khoa học; đối tác Nhật Bản; trao đổi chuyên gia.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

As one of the key members, with a history and name associated with Hue University, the University of Sciences was very early aware that it is only through international cooperation and integration, especially with other countries, that newly developed territories can access new knowledge, new models of management, training, and research and take advantage of external resources. In this process, the University identifies partners from Japan as the top priority partners because this is a country with advanced education, modern management, economy, finance and strong technology having cultural and historical similarities with Vietnam, including Hue ancient capital.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODS**

Historical and logical methods are mainly used by the research team; in addition, to a certain extent, the paper uses other interdisciplinary scientific methods such as synthesis, comparison, comparison, statistics.

## **3. RESEARCH RESULTS**

### **3.1. Background cooperation**

#### ***3.1.1. As for International cooperation activities and Japanese partners of the University of Sciences***

*- As for the university's international cooperation activities*

In recent years, expanding international cooperation has become the development strategy of the University. In addition to cooperating with many prestigious universities, the University of Sciences also actively seeks, expands and establishes cooperation with new partners, large companies and corporations in the world. Currently, the University is cooperating with more than 40 universities, institutes, research centers, associations, foundations, international organizations in 4 continents around the world<sup>1</sup> including dozens of large corporations and companies. Over the past 10 years, more than 150 staffs and lecturers of the University have received scholarships to pursue master's and doctoral degrees and dozens of students, trainees, and researchers to study, do internships and dissertations at training institutions, companies, and large corporations in the world and at the same time, effectively implement many major international cooperation projects,

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<sup>1</sup>Hoang Van Hien (2017). University of Sciences, Hue University with a pride in 60 years of construction and development (1957-2017). *Journal on 60th Anniversary of Construction and Development of University of Sciences (1957-2017)*, Hue, March 2017, p. 15.

programs and projects to improve professional qualifications for staff, lecturers, quality of training, research and international integration of the University. It can be said that these are the development steps in both quantity and quality in international cooperation and are the foundation and important premise for the University of Sciences to continue maintaining, enhancing and expanding international cooperation in the coming time.

*- As for the Japanese partners of the University*

*Firstly*, the Japanese partners of the University come from many state-owned, public or people-founded agencies and units, private institutions including universities, institutes, research centers, funds, associations and companies, large corporations... with different fields of expertise and careers and come from many regions and areas of Japan.

*Second*, the content and forms of cooperation between the University and Japanese partners are rich and diverse, focusing on specialized fields such as training, research in natural sciences, technical sciences and public technology, social sciences and humanities... through different forms such as research, exchange of experts, lecturers, students, interns, sightseeing, field research; implementation of scientific programs, subjects and projects; organization of international conferences, seminars, information and academic exchanges to improve the capacity of staff, lecturers, students...

*Third*, the scale and level of development of cooperation is increasingly expanding, especially the recruitment of human resources with the signing of many other cooperation agreements. Japanese enterprises not only conduct recruitment but also coordinate with the University to participate in training or joint training. The number of students recruited to work in Japanese enterprises is therefore increasing and the outlook will continue to increase.

### ***3.1.2. The context of cooperation between the University of Sciences and Japanese partners***

*First, the trend of international integration in education and training in the world and in Asia*

Globalization of education and training, of which the most important is higher education, is an objective, essential and vital trend in the development strategy of each country. In a constantly changing world, the mission of education in general and higher education in particular is to provide high-quality human resources for the adaptation, survival and development. To fulfill that task well, universities in the world in general and in Asia in particular need to strengthen cooperation and international integration in various forms to access modern higher education.

*Second, the strong development of a Vietnam-Japan strategic partnership*

After officially establishing diplomatic relations (September 21, 1973), especially from 2002 up to now, Japan - Vietnam relations have been continuously upgraded, from

"long-term reliable, stable partnership" to "Extensive strategic partnership for peace and prosperity in Asia" (March 2014). In the development of the Vietnam-Japan relationship, there are many factors, but "one of the most important... is human exchange"<sup>2</sup> Strengthening cooperation and exchange in the fields of culture and education and promoting mutual understanding between the people of the two countries Vietnam - Japan are the foundation of all cooperation<sup>3</sup>. This is the basis, premise and belief for the cooperation between the University of Sciences and Japanese partners.

*Third, the need for cooperation in training and research, especially the recruitment of highquality human resources of Japanese partners.* Japan has an advanced and modern higher education and always tends to disseminate it worldwide. It is a country with a great demand for human resources, especially high-quality human resources due to the situation of "The first super-aging society in human history"<sup>4</sup> Therefore, Japanese partners wish to promote cooperation in training and research, especially training and recruiting high quality human resources with universities in Vietnam to solve this shortage.

Particularly , Japanese partners pay great attention to the University of Sciences because this is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary training and research institution, including the fields and majors with strong staff and facilities, equipment that Japan is very interested in and wants to cooperate with such as Environment, Chemistry, Biotechnology, Geotechnical Engineering, Information Technology, Electronics - Telecommunications, Urban Planning, Vietnamese History, Archeology, Han - Nom... In addition, the students and graduates have been contributing to providing high quality human resources for Japanese companies in Vietnam and also in Japan, especially students majoring in Information Technology and Electronics - Telecommunications. On the other hand, the cooperation mechanism of the University is generally open and wide, so Japanese partners have quite favourable conditions when establishing and developing cooperative relationships.

*Fourth, the University's views and needs of cooperation with Japanese partners.*

From the view of cooperation, for many years, as stated, the University of Sciences has always identified Japanese partners as the top priority partners because these partners who have strengths in training, research, and a team of experts, finance, facilities, equipment, human resource recruitment... can support and supplement the University in the process of international integration. This is reflected in a number of documents such as the Political

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<sup>2</sup> Masahiko Komura (2008). *Friendship Magazine special issue 35th anniversary of Vietnam - Japan relationship*, Hanoi, p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> Tran Quang Minh (Editor) (2019). *Vietnam - Japan relations: 45 years looking back and looking to the future*. Information and Communication Publishing House, Hanoi, p. 180.

<sup>4</sup> Shimane Katsumi (2012). Lecture at the current Japanese economic - cultural - social seminar, Northeast Asian Research Institute, Hanoi, September 5-12.

Report of the XIII, XIV, XV Party Congress of the University of Sciences (2010 - 2020), the strategic plans for the development of the University of Sciences, Hue University through the period 2011 - 2015, orientation to 2020, period 2016 - 2020 and vision to 2030, the Principal's reports at the annual staff conferences... as well as in the instructions of the university leaders, among of whom the Rector is the one who directly instructs and signs the cooperation documents with many Japanese universities, research institutes and companies and corporations.

Regarding the need for cooperation, Japan currently has more than 780 universities not including a large number of colleges, vocational schools and professional secondary schools<sup>5</sup>, dozens of major corporations and also tens of thousands of small and large companies in Japan and more than 4,000 projects in Vietnam. The large number of universities, companies, corporations... will be a great opportunity for the University to cooperate to improve training and research capacity for staff, lecturers, students and create jobs for students after graduation.

### **3.2. Current situation of cooperation between University of Sciences and Japanese partners**

Cooperation activities of the University with Japanese partners only really thrived after the establishment of Hue University (1994). In the 10-year cooperation program (1998 - 2008), The university, together with Hanoi National University, Ho Chi Minh City National University, Hanoi University of Civil Engineering and Ho Chi Minh City University of Agriculture and Forestry, The University of Danang added later was a member of the network of 5 major universities in Vietnam cooperating with 5 major Japanese universities including Tokyo, Osaka, Kumamoto, Kyoto and Hokkaido in the Vietnam - Japan Cooperation Program: "Core University Program" (CUP - Core University Program), - Environmental Science and Technology for the Earth (CUP Program). The University of Sciences has been cooperating effectively with many Japanese universities, institutes, and research centers such as: Shizuoka, Tottori, Kyoto, Tokyo, Waseda, Hokkaido, Yamaguchi, Yokohama, Kumamoto, Kagawa, Sojo, Shizuoka...<sup>6</sup>, NAIST, Kyoto Department of Foreign Affairs, Japanese Association of Culture and Ceremony (NPO), Yutaka Social Welfare Corporation, Groups and companies such as: Mitani, Takatsu, Crearq - Nakashou, Brycen, Astrodesign, Grande - Etoile, Daystar, Eshuhai...

#### **3.2.1. These achievements**

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<sup>5</sup> Vietnam Embassy in Japan. Introduction to Japanese educational institutions. Available at: <http://www.vnembassy-jp.org/en/th%C3%B4ng-tin-%C6%A1-b%E1%A3n-v%E1%BB%81-h%E1%BB%A3p-t%C3%A1c-gi%C3%A1o-d%E1%BB%A5c-vi%E1%BB%87t-nam-nh%E1%BA%ADt-b%E1%BA%A3n>

<sup>6</sup>Department of Science and Technology - International Cooperation (2020). Report on outstanding cooperation activities of University of Science, Hue University with Japanese partners, Archives, Hue, p. twelfth.

*First, in the field of training and exchange of experts, lecturers, students,; improving the capacity of scientific and practical research for learners; supporting modern facilities and equipment.*

This is an area that the University and Japanese partners pay special attention to, especially for Japanese educational, training and research institutions. In particular, the CUP Program focuses on improving research capacity, training, and exchanging staff; sharing scientific information; providing chemicals and small equipment for research... The University has one staff member who is the member of the Project Steering Committee from the Vietnamese side and the Head of the reseaching team for Topic 1 (Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation) at Hue University. In the CUP program, 18 staff members went to Japan for academic exchange and training (02 doctoral lecturers). Kyoto University and Tokyo University in the period 2012 - 2015 cooperated with the Faculty of Environment in academic exchange and research capacity improvement. Many officials and students have come to Japan for short-term study, academic exchange and study; among of them 01 PhD student in Environment, 02 PhD students in Architecture have been trained. The parties have carried out small studies in Hue on the environment and the Japanese side has given measuring equipment, chemicals and funding for surveying, measuring, and analysis.

In order to improve the quality of training, exchange of experiences, skills, field research methods and students' self-research, since 2009, the Faculty of Geography - Geology (later Faculty of History, Sociology of the University of Sciences in collaboration with Tottori University has organized the program "Collaborative field research" (Overseas Fieldwork Research Program) and awarded certificates of completion to the participating students. Up to now, it has successfully organized 02 training courses and 08 field research sessions for students of the two universities. Through the program, the participants have had good connections and relationships with the community in the research areas, given communal houses necessary items such as televisions, fans, speakers... to create a close connection between the University, lecturers, students and the community in training and research; organized exchanges, discussions, and made reports on field research results of students of the two universities. The two sides also coordinate to organize programs, conferences and seminars to learn about training programs, research and send experts to give lectures to students. Co-supervising and sending lecturers and students for the study , internships, and graduation thesis are also interested in and facilitated by the two niversities. In 2011, 01 lecturer from the Faculty of Geography - Geology was awarded a short-term research scholarship in Japan by JSPS Fund; In 2019, 01 student of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Management joined the exchange program in Japan for one year in the framework of the signed cooperation agreement. Tottori University had Prof.

Dr. Tsutsui Kazunobu participate in guiding 01 doctoral student and 03 master's students (from two institutions) in their process of studying and researching<sup>7</sup>.

Shizuoka University has cooperated with the Department of Biotechnology in the Department of Biology since 2008, in the fields of research science, training and academic exchange, and taken turns to organize 10 seminars on academic exchange (2010 - 2018). It has trained 02 faculty members and performed staff exchanges. The University of Science also sends an expert to teach at the Faculty of Engineering, Shizuoka University, from January to December 2014<sup>8</sup>. In particular, the Japanese side has given the University 01 server system for online teaching (worth about 1 billion VND).

Some other universities and research institutes such as Kumamoto University signed the Academic and Student Exchange Agreement with the University since December 2008, have trained, instructed and received 04 lecturers and students doing research and short-term internships and given the University modern laboratory equipment and facilities. Yamaguchi University has recruited 01 staff to work as assistant professor for the collaboration in research on geology. Hokkaido University, in the period of 2008 - 2013, carried out the exchange of staff and lecturers and gave chemicals and equipment for research. Yokohama University, Shizuoka University... in the period 2008 - 2015 also conducted some academic exchanges. In addition, Kagawa University, NAIST Institute were also interested in training postgraduate human resources of the University in the fields of biology, information technology, physics, electronics, telecommunications...

*Second, cooperation on the implementation of scientific research topics, programs and projects*

The university has coordinated with a number of Japanese partners to successfully implement many major projects such as: "Research on the flow of recycled materials through unorthodox ingredients and recycling efficiency in Hue", (2011 - 2012), sponsored by Okayama University at a cost of ¥ 300,000 (JPY); "Classification of waste treatment system and evaluation of solutions in Asian countries (Sanicon-Asia)" (2010 - 2012) sponsored by Kyoto University with a cost of 1,200,000 JPY; the project on "Clean-up of Dioxin contaminated soil in Vietnam by horizontal transfer of degradation plasmid" under the project "JSPS Bilateral Joint Project" in collaboration with Shizuoka University, (2010 - 2013) and the project on: "Isolation and application research of dioxin-degradable bacterial

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<sup>7</sup>Faculty of Geography - Geology (2020). Report on International cooperation in training, field research for students between University of Science, Hue University and Tottori University, Japan of the Faculty of Geography - Geology, Hue, p. 1-7; Department of Science and Technology - International Cooperation (2019). Achievement summary 02 Japanese professors awarded Honorary Professor by Hue University, Archives, Hue, p. 1-9.

<sup>8</sup>Department of Biology (2020). Co-operation activities with Japan of the Department of Biotechnology - Faculty of Biology, University of Science from 2008 to present, Hue, p. 1-2.

strains in A Luoi district, Thua Thien Hue province" (2016 - 2018); Project on “Adapting Solid Waste Management to Flooding Conditions in Asia's Moderately Vulnerable Cities”, (2013 - 2015) and “Adequate Solid Waste Management for flood risk reduction through rehabilitation of drainage systems in Asian cities” (2017 - 2018) funded by the National Institute for Environmental Research of Japan; Project on "Technical development to optimize wastewater treatment design based on characteristics of wastewater quantity and quality" (2016 - 2018) sponsored by Kyoto University and Kitakyushu University; Project on "Research on Folklore in Thua Thien Hue Province" (2015 - 2017) sponsored by Kanagawa University...

Some faculties such as Architecture, Geography - Geology, Environment, Chemistry, Biology... have cooperated effectively with a number of Japanese partners. The Faculty of Architecture collaborated with Waseda University in surveying and mapping traditional house distribution in Thua Thien Hue province (2003) and organized a number of seminars related to Hue architectural heritage, Hue Imperial City (2008 - 2013); coordinated with the University of Tokyo to organize an international seminar on "Essential things for Hue City - Historical City" (June 2014); coordinated with Ritsumeikan University to organize a survey on the potential of heritage tourism and ecotourism in Hong Ha commune (2018 - 2019); specially coordinated with Kyoto University to organize the International Workshop on "Traditional Architecture and Community" (September 18, 2013) and "The Sustainability of Traditional Community House in a Modern Context" (02 / 2020). Both conference proceedings were published as reference books, monographs. The two sides also cooperated with the Vietnam National Academy of Culture and Arts in Hue to implement the project on “Rebuilding a Katu traditional communal house in A Ka village, Thuong Quang commune, Nam Dong district, Thua Thien Hue province”(2016 - 2018), as a result, in August 2018, the Guol House in A Ka Village was inaugurated and is one of the most beautiful traditional communal houses in the South East<sup>9</sup>. The Faculty of History collaborated with the Institute of Cultural Interaction Research (Kansai University) to research and publish the book "Hue Culture - History through the perspective of neighboring villages and external relations" (Thuan Hoa Publishing House, Hue, 2010) co-edited by members of the two sides. At the same time, the Faculty has coordinated with schools and research institutes from Japan to conduct field research trips, collect research materials, specifically: Cooperating with Kansai University to study Hue Culture and research and explore archaeological excavations of Thanh Hoa Chau (2007 - 2012); cooperated with Chiba University to study the socio-economic region of Hue (2008 - 2011); cooperating with Vietnam - Japan University (Hanoi National University) to study history - culture, Han - Nom documents (2010 - present); Cooperate in studying Mr. Tao Worshipping Faith with TS. Nabeta Naoko from 2013 to

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<sup>9</sup>Faculty of Architecture (2020). Report on some cooperation in training and research with some Japanese universities and enterprises of the Faculty of Architecture, Hue, p. 1-2.



present<sup>10</sup>... In addition, the Faculty of Chemistry also cooperated with Hokkaido University to study the environment of the Perfume River (2008 - 2013), The Department of Environment cooperated with Kyoto University and Tokyo University in the period 2012 - 2015 to carry out some small studies on the environment, with Yamaguchi University in research on solid waste...

Once the faculty of the University in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Tsutsui Kazunobu (Tottori University) implements projects such as: " Economy and regions for sustainable development in transition - Theory and history of Regional Economic Geography in Vietnam" (2006 - 2007); "Study on the impact of the regional economic development plan on the landscape and land use change in rural Vietnam" (2009 - 2010); "Developing methods of using GIS to support community development" sponsored by JSPS Foundation (2011); "Research Project on Application of Participatory WebGIS to" Spatial visualization of community problems "in rural Vietnam" sponsored by Toyota Foudation Foundation (2012 - 2015); "The issue of aging in rural communities in Thua Thien Hue" (2013); "The research on problems of" KASOKA:Depopulation "in Rural Area in Mid-Vietnam" funded by Heiwa Nakajima Foundation (2014 - 2015); "Geographic study on population mobility and social change in rural Vietnam in the doi moi era" (2016 - 2020); "Classification of rural communes of Thua Thien Hue province for socio-economic development towards industrialization and modernization" (2017 - 2018); "Study on Possibility of Neo-endogenous Rural development in Mid-Vietnam and Monsoon Asia under KAS - depopulation" sponsored by JSPS Fund (2020 - 2021). Up to now, Prof. Dr. Tsutsui Kazunobu and his colleagues published 18 articles domestically and internationally; 01 monograph and dozens of reports at domestic and international conferences and seminars<sup>11</sup>.

*Third, cooperation on information and academic exchange with many programs, conferences and seminars*

This is also an important content of cooperation that the parties pay attention to and regularly coordinate to implement. Kyoto University has invited representatives of the University of Sciences to attend international conferences jointly held by Kyoto University in Hoi An (2013), Can Tho (2014), Da Nang (2015); Thailand (2016); Hanoi (2017); Indonesia (2018); Japan (2018 and 2019) and sent experts to give a talk to students from both sides... Tottori University since 2007 has also invited representatives of the University

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<sup>10</sup>Faculty of History (2020). Report on outstanding activities in cooperation with Japan by the Faculty of History, Hue, p. 1-2.

<sup>11</sup>Faculty of Geography - Geology (2020). Report on International cooperation in training and field research for students between University of Science, Hue University and Tottori University, Japan of the Faculty of Geography - Geology, Hue, p. 1-7; Department of Science and Technology - International Cooperation (2019). Executive Summary 02 Japanese professors awarded Honorary Professors by Hue University, Archives, Hue, p. 1-9.

to attend many programs, conferences, seminars, training and researching programs, make a presentation on some topics in conferences such as Workshop to learn and exchange about training programs and development history of Geography (2007); Workshop and exchange of international cooperation projects, Spring Geographic Conference (2012; 2015); discuss training programs, participate in field surveys, make plans for scientific research, and give talks on some topics (2009; 2010; 2011)... In return, the University of Sciences has invited representatives and organizations to introduce international human resource training programs, international training and cooperation activities, learning process, and student activities at Tottori University to lecturers and students of Hue University and the University (3/2014, 3/2018). Kyoto University and the University of Tokyo in the period 2012 - 2015 cooperated with the Faculty of Environment to co-organize seminars and scientific conferences in Central Vietnam. In 2009, the Faculty of History cooperated with schools and research institutes from Japan to successfully organize the Conference on Culture - Society of Hoa Chau region: Past and Modern and Workshop on Hue Culture - History through the perspective of neighboring villages and external relations. Faculty of Social Work participated in the International Workshop on "Social Welfare Policy, Practices and Caregivers in Vietnam" held by Yutaka Social Welfare Group in Nagoya (January 2020).

*Fourth, cooperation in training to recruit human resources for Japanese businesses*

This is an area of special interest to the University of Sciences and Japanese enterprises. In recent years, the University has welcomed many Japanese business delegations to visit, work and sign cooperation documents such as: cooperation agreements with Mitani Group, Mitani Sangyo Company, Aureole Construction Software Development Company (September 2018); a cooperation agreement with Brycen Japan Company, Astrodesign Company and Brycen Thua Thien Hue Company (3/2019); the Memorandum of Understanding and Contract to implement the Project for students to practice in Japan (KIS Project) with Grande - Etoile Joint Stock Company (May 2019); Memorandum of Understanding with NPO (October 2019)... Up to now, the University has cooperated with dozens of Japanese enterprises in fields such as training high quality human resources, Japanese language training, , sending students to do internships, doing practical research, introduction and promotion of images of all parties, especially recruiting students after graduation to work in Japanese enterprises. As a result, hundreds of the University's students have been trained, approached and acquired new knowledge, had a field trip, done internships and been recruited to work in Japanese enterprises. Aureole Construction Software Development Company signed a 3-year research contract with the University on training and researching and applying construction software. There have been 3 students of the University recruited to work in the company, of which 01 student is allowed to go to Japan for training; Brycen Thua Thien Hue Company has about 350 people, of which a large proportion is the alumni of the University; GE & KIS is implementing the Internship

program with the Faculty of Information Technology and is expected to expand it to faculties in the next 5 years: Electricity, Electronics and Materials Technology, Architecture, Mathematics...<sup>12</sup>; For Grande - Etoile Joint Stock Company, after more than a year of implementation, KIS Project has recruited and trained dozens of students on N4 standard Japanese for free ; Professor Kondo has taught students basic knowledge and skills to adapt to the practice environment and living in Japanese businesses. About 30 excellent students, after being selected, will participate in 6-month internships at prestigious enterprises in Japan. It is expected that by February 2021, selected students will participate in internships, graduation thesis work in Japan and in the following years, the KIS project will expand for new majors such as architecture, electricity, electronics, materials technology, biotechnology... In addition, the University has also contacted and worked with Daystar Company, Crearq-Nakashou Group, Jibannet Vietnam Company... on recruitment, job recommendation in the right majors in Japanese companies. It is expected that in 2020, Jibannet Vietnam Company will establish its headquarters in Hue and recruit about 50 students of architecture; Takatsu Group will complete the application for investment license and branch building in Hue and proceed to recruit graduates of engineering and other fields of the University. In 2 years (2018 and 2019), Esuhai Co., Ltd. cooperated with the University to organize 8 Japanese classes with 128 students participating; the number of students participating in the Japan Job Program increased from 54 to 68 students, with 50 students traveling to Japan. It organized skill seminars and jobs for final year students of departments: Architecture, Electricity, Electronics and Materials Technology, History. In addition, the Company also sponsored football tournaments for students at the whole university, flights to visit Esuhai, Job Fair 2018, New Student Welcome Program, and New Year bus tickets for disadvantaged students, gave the scholarships at the beginning of the academic year with the total amount of more than 141 million dong<sup>13</sup>.

The above results of cooperation are very encouraging and bring benefits to both sides. From a university perspective, these results are:

Through cooperation with Japanese partners, the capacity of staff and students has been improved in scientific research, foreign language proficiency, skills... enhancing facilities and modern equipment for the University and some units.

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<sup>12</sup> Thua Thien Hue website (2020). Willing to cooperate with Japanese companies investing in Hue. Available at: <https://thuathienhue.gov.vn/vi-vn/Tin-tuc-su-kien/tid/San-sang-hop-tac-voi-cac-Cong-ty-Nhat-Ban-dau-tu-vao- Hue / newsid / 935C71EE-B823-423C-810E-AB5E012B5747 / cid / 2BEA0540-FCA4-4F81-99F2-6E8848DC5F2F>

<sup>13</sup> Esuhai company (2020). Report on activities in 2018 - 2019 "Cooperation in training and recruitment program to send students to participate in the Japan Employment Program", No. 211218 / BC on the Summary Report for 2018 - 2019, Da Nang, p. 1-2.

- Contribute to the gathering of interdisciplinary teams (which is a characteristic and strength of Japan that the University needs to learn) to step by step carry out major programs and projects between the two sides during the period next time.

Through cooperation activities, the name and position of the University of Sciences are increasingly confirmed on international education forums, contributing to creating opportunities for the University to participate in the network of universities and institutes, to seek opportunities for cooperation in training, scientific research and step-by-step technology transfer.

Through the cooperation process, 03 Japanese experts were honored to be recognized as the Honorary Professors of Hue University, including Prof. Dr. Kenji Furukwa (Kumamoto University) in 2011, Prof. Dr. Kobayashi (Kyoto University) and Prof. Dr. Tsutsui Kazunobu (Tottori University) in 2019. This event is to honor the important contributions made by professors in the cooperation process with Hue University and its member universities, but at the same time, it also expresses the efforts and successes of the University of Sciences and other faculties in international cooperation.

### ***3.2.2. The problems posed***

*Firstly*, despite initial efforts and achievements, up to now, the results of cooperation between the University and Japanese partners in general have not met the potentials and expectations of the parties. The University has not yet exploited highly effectively cooperation with partners with strengths in resources, especially universities and large corporations for them to participate actively and effectively in training, financial support, modern equipment for training and scientific research, improving professional qualifications for staff, lecturers as well as creating jobs for students after graduation. The number of doctors of the University trained in Japan is still modest compared to some Western countries.

*Second*, the cooperation between the University of Sciences and Japanese partners is not equal among specialized units, mainly inclined to the fields of natural science, engineering - technology in some faculties with strong international cooperation such as faculties: Environment, Geography - Geology, Architecture, Chemistry, Biology, Information Technology... Meanwhile, cooperation in social sciences and humanities is not as much as in the following faculties: Literature, Political Theory, Center for Social Sciences and Humanities...

*Third*, most of the programs and projects have been implementing cooperation among the parties. In general, the budget is not large, small, focusing mainly on a few areas related to environmental issues, IT, architecture... thus do not fully meet the goals of research and training in multidisciplinary and multi-disciplinary fields of the University. On the other hand, the exploitation and use of some modern equipment and machines sponsored by the

Japanese party is inadequate and ineffective The Online Meeting Room sponsored by Shizuoka University... not only causes waste of facilities but also directly affects the partnership seen from the supplier partner.

*Fourth*, up to now, the University has established and signed quite a few MOUs with Japanese partners, but not all MoU have been implemented immediately after being signed, even delayed or not implemented due to the lack of legal binding, the limited initiative in implementing cooperation of the University or the internal difficulties of the partners, such as signing MOU and implementing cooperation with Astrodesign or negotiating. The cooperation agreement with Ritsumeikan University was signed from January 2019, but so far has not been implemented in practice... The university and some faculties have not actively sought cooperation with large corporations and financial funds to have major projects, the program to support a number of disciplines (including Oriental studies) in teacher training, scientific research and student internship in Japan, while the fund is quite active in Vietnam. On the other hand, most of the cooperation between the University and businesses takes place in the form of agreements / minutes, "initial understanding" or "short-term cooperation" without actually establishing a relationship as "long term partner" and "strategic partner". Mainly, the two sides work together to build practical skills for students in practice; Enterprises recruit and create jobs for graduates, but play the role of "exploiting", "using" rather than "nurturing", "cultivating" high quality human resources for society.

*Fifth*, difficulties and limitations arise from both sides. On the side of the university, it is the foreign language capacity of some officials and lecturers, especially those with limited cooperation with Japanese partners, affecting the access and exchange of studies, teaching or guiding scientific research, graduation thesis for students, students from Japan, so the results are not as expected; Some units are not really active in cooperation, are not bold enough to seek partners and propose specific and appropriate cooperation plans, especially those in the fields of social sciences and humanities Literature; The material and technical foundations for training, research and international cooperation are uneven and limited. On the other hand, the quality of training, foreign language ability of students, especially the fields where Japanese businesses have great demand such as information technology, biotechnology, electronics, telecommunications, architecture... have still not really satisfied the actual work. As for Japanese partners, projects, topics and cooperation programs are mostly implemented in Vietnam, so funding is also a pressure and the opportunity to exchange experts, lecturers and students of the University of Sciences also have certain limitations. In particular, since the beginning of 2020, due to the outbreak of the COVID - 19 pandemic, the university's cooperation relationship with Japanese partners has been greatly affected, because both are facing many difficulties, can not be overcome, especially the problem of recruiting human resources from the Japanese side.

### 3.2.3. *Development solutions*

*First, the University needs to develop a specific and appropriate strategy, plan, and cooperation mechanism; actively strengthen the search and establish cooperation with new partners.* On the basis of the signed cooperation agreements, the University of Sciences and related professional units must actively develop for themselves a specific strategy and plan for cooperation in accordance with their specific conditions and the conditions of each partner to deploy highly effective cooperative content; at the same time promulgate the "regulations on mechanism of management, inspection, supervision and decentralization among units of Departments, Faculties, Centers and Institutes in international cooperation"<sup>14</sup> in general and with Japan in particular. The University needs to seek and expand more partners, identify priority partners with potential and potential cooperation in order to enhance financial support, expertise and modern equipment for training, research and job creation for students after graduation. Sending delegations, lecturers, and students to study and research in Japan also needs a careful and scientific choice, because they do not simply go to Japan for research, practice, learning... but they are also a "messenger", "bridge" of cooperation between the University, and future partners. In this process, the support of Hue University is essential.

*Second, looking for projects with large funding sources, interdisciplinary to meet the goals of research and training in multi-disciplines and fields of the University.* It is necessary to have an appropriate strategy and plan to expand the scale and resources of ongoing projects and programs in parallel with finding, moving and attracting projects with large and interdisciplinary funding sources from Universities, institutes, organizations, associations, especially large technology corporations, large financial funds from Japan in researching interdisciplinary issues related to history, culture, architecture, planning, landscape, environment, sustainable development... of the ancient capital of Hue - the heritage city has been attracting the attention of many branches, many genders, many regions of Japan, thereby gradually meeting the the University's research and training objectives for multidisciplinary and multi-field. In addition, the use and exploitation of more efficient modern equipment and machinery transferred by Japanese partners to the University in order to improve the quality of training, research and technology application are also needed is focused in the context of financial resources increasingly difficult.

*Third, besides continuing to strengthen cooperation in the fields of natural sciences, engineering, and technology, the parties need to promote cooperation in a number of social sciences and humanities.* This will contribute to the realization of the university's multi-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary training goals, focusing on calling, advocating and

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<sup>14</sup> Party Committee of University of Science, Hue University (2020). *Political Report of Party Executive Committee of University of Science, Hue University at the 15th Party Congress, term 2020 - 2025*, Hue, p. 22.

expanding cooperation to branches such as: History, Archeology, Anthropology, Oriental Studies, Literature... are the fields and fields where the University has strengths, a long history of training and research, associated with the name and brand of the House schools and a number of new disciplines are of great interest to the world (Social Work, Sociology). Through exchanges and cooperation, many partners such as universities: Kanagawa, Kyoto, Kansai, Waseda or NPO... are very interested in this field. This is an opportunity for the School to cooperate with these partners. Investing in Japanese majors to both promote the image of the University, while attracting the interest and cooperation of related Japanese partners, creating job opportunities for students after graduation.

*Fourthly, promote the implementation of signed MOUs into practical and effective operation with a strict and scientific management and supervision mechanism among the parties.* Japanese schools and partners should develop specific plans and roadmaps in each document of cooperation and joint management and supervision of work under an agreement mechanism, furthermore, the parties need to prepare all conditions for the signing of higher legal cooperation documents (such as science and technology tasks under the protocol...). Japanese schools and businesses also need to find out form of cooperation in training of human resources in line with world trends and practice of all parties. The two sides can coordinate in the development of training plans, content, programs and directly participate in training, equivalence, certification and mutual recognition. The school should coordinate with businesses to establish a cooperation center for training of high quality human resources, coordinate to build a formal labor recruitment mechanism from the University to work in Japanese enterprises. In addition, the University needs to increase communication with other businesses to increase their understanding, seek more cooperation opportunities and their recruitment needs.

*Fifthly, constantly improve professional qualifications and skills, especially foreign language proficiency and qualifications for staff, lecturers, students and students to facilitate cooperation with Japanese partners. more profitable and effective, especially after graduation students can go to work at Japanese enterprises.* The school needs a stronger policy and sanctions to raise awareness and responsibility in promoting foreign language learning, especially English and Japanese throughout the school, specifically teachers and students can participate. studying Japanese at Eshuhai Company with offices at the school, at Mitani Group; increasing the exchange rate of staff, lecturers, students, students, with Japanese partners, implementing training programs in English, Japanese...

#### **3.2.4. Prospects for cooperation in the coming time**

Although there are still certain difficulties and challenges, with the results achieved and some development solutions proposed by the authors, the authors have a tendency to strengthen international cooperation and integration in higher education. In the world today,

it has been and will create new opportunities for the University to continue strengthening cooperation with Japanese partners. This has quite a basis for implementation, because besides the increasingly developed Vietnam - Japan relationship, the governments of the two countries also affirmed to continue strengthening cooperation and exchange on education and training of human resources. Therefore, cooperation with Japan will continue to be promoted in the future, and Japanese partners will also have a certain interest and "favor" for universities in Vietnam, in which has University of Science.

Currently, the cooperation in training human resources in the field of higher education in Vietnam and Japan has many opportunities, in which the model of cooperation in training human resources based on research and knowledge transfer. Through universities, research institutes, centers, organizations, individuals and businesses will become the main trend, along with the policy of bringing many Japanese students, graduate students, and graduate students. Vietnamese study, research and vice versa will be a great opportunity for the University to improve the quality of human resource training and its position and reputation through deep, sustainable cooperation based on trust, understanding and goodwill with Japanese partners.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

International cooperation in general and cooperation with Japan in particular are always paid attention to by the University in the process of development and growth. Through cooperation with Japanese partners, the University has gradually approached a modern higher education with an advanced model of education management, research and human resource training, contributing to improving the quality of teaching, scientific research, technology transfer and making the University actively and positively integrate with the regional and world higher education. However, in addition to the achieved results, the cooperation process still has many difficulties and limitations, in terms of both objectivity and subjectivity, so it is necessary for all parties to work together to solve them. On the basis of analysis, evaluation of the pros and cons, and solutions given in the context of the current strong trend of international integration in higher education, it is believed that the prospects for cooperation between the University of Sciences and Japanese partners in the coming time will continue to be strengthened, expanded and more practical if both sides have specific and appropriate strategies, plans, roadmaps, solutions and right measures.

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