

Partnership strengthened between University of Luxembourg and Sophia University

Japanese University opens office in Limpertsberg

Trips to Tokyo for the nine best students from Luxembourg



Establishing closer contacts: The relations between Sophia and Luxembourg go back to the year 1908. Today, the Japanese Ambassador, Wataru Nishigahiro, Mgr. Jean-Claude Hollerich and the rectors of the two Universities, Tadashi Takizawa and Rolf Tarrach, concretized the partnership.

The Sophia University, most important partner institution of the University of Luxembourg in Japan, opened yesterday an office at Campus Limpertsberg.

The Archbishop of Luxembourg, Mgr. Jean-Claude Hollerich, the Japanese Ambassador in Luxembourg, Wataru Nishigahiro, as well as the rectors of the two Universities, Tadashi Takizawa and Rolf Tarrach, took part in the opening ceremony.

The Japanese Government added the Sophia University to the “Global 30”-group of the top universities of the country. As a Global-30-University, the Sophia University commits itself to open an office in Europe, and it chose Luxembourg. The Sophia-office at the University remains modest at first with one volunteer staff member. In return, the Sophia University invites the nine best students of the school year 2012/2013 from the University of Luxembourg to a three-week summer school in Tokyo next summer. The nine participants are chosen by the deans of the three faculties.

“The University of Luxembourg is proud to have been chosen as the base of the European activities of the Sophia University. We hope that our collaboration – whether in the exchange of students or staff members or in the area of research – will be further strengthened”, explained Jenny Hällen-Hedberg, International Relation Officer at the University of Luxembourg.

The special relations between Sophia and Luxembourg go back to the year 1908, when the Sophia University in Japan has been founded by three Jesuit priests – among them the Luxembourg national Father Dahmann. In 2008 the universities Sophia and Luxembourg signed a cooperation agreement. The initiative for this agreement came from Father Hollerich, the current Archbishop of Luxembourg and at that time Vice-rector of the Sophia University. Since then the two universities have been exchanging several Bachelor and Master students. Many Luxembourgish students are interested in pursuing a semester abroad in Japan, and some of them already have knowledge of the Japanese language and culture.