



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

Center For International Education Exchange

Message concerning the Suspension of the  
2021 Fall/Winter Semester Short-Term Exchange Program

July 20, 2021

Dear International Education Exchange Partners:

The “passive” lockdown in May had a significant effect on most of Japan. Hiroshima is now down to single digit infections and zero or very low numbers of deaths caused by the virus. However, the numbers of coronavirus infections in Tokyo have started to increase again (due to the spread of a new “Delta” variant of the virus) and with that the government has decided to continue the “passive” lockdown within the Tokyo region. Although most areas in Japan have improved, the government is not changing its previous position on keeping the borders closed for new visa applicants. According to our calculations, for students interested in attending our program, applications must be submitted to the immigration authorities by mid-July to meet the start of the program. At present, the borders are still closed and no change is expected in the next few weeks, therefore, and with regret, I am forced to announce that we will have to resume our suspension of the Short-Term Exchange Program for the 2021 Fall/Winter semester. We also regret that online programs will not be offered. Let us hope that this will be the last suspension and that the new year will bring a more positive, secure and safe state of conditions that will enable us to resume our global exchange among our partner institutions.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'George R. Harada'.

George R. Harada

Professor of Law & Director,

Center for International Education Exchange

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