



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

Center For International Education Exchange

January 20, 2022

Dear Exchange Partners sending students to the HUE Short-Term Exchange Program:

At the beginning of the 2021 Fall/Winter Semester, we started to believe that 2022 April would be a return to face-to-face class lectures and the return of international students from our exchange and network partners. The numbers of COVID-19 infections in many prefectures of Japan were down to zero and the situation looked hopeful. However, the situation after the holiday season has changed for the worst.

Numbers of infections of the new Omicron variant are increasing throughout the globe and the Japanese government has closed its borders. The Immigration Bureau has also temporarily stopped processing new visa applications for international students and others to enter Japan. With this background of confusion, our International Exchange Committee has decided today, regrettably, to again suspend our program for the 2022 Spring/Summer semester. This decision is based on the protection of the students' health and safety in the midst of the COVID -19 pandemic crisis. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide online courses for the next semester as well. Please forgive us for this continued inconvenience and we dearly hope that this situation will improve in the near future.

Sincerely Yours,

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

George R. Harada

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