

The “Modern Silk Road” Carrying Youths’ Dreams: The Kyrgyz–Japan Academic Research Center Sets Sail as a Bridge to the Future

Opening Ceremony of the Kyrgyz–Japan Academic Research Center

On September 2, 2025, the Kyrgyz–Japan Academic Research Center, jointly established by the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic and Shimonoseki City University, held its official opening ceremony.

The opening ceremony was attended by numerous distinguished guests and university representatives, including Prof. Changwan Han, President of Shimonoseki City University; Prof. Risbek Nurgaziev, Rector of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University; H.E. Hideki Gouda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic; and Mr. Kotaro Nishikata, Director of JICA Kyrgyz Republic, among others. Together, they celebrated the establishment of this new academic hub.

In his congratulatory address, President Han quoted from the Kyrgyz national epic Manas, stating: "Friendship is like a tree rooted in the earth; it endures wind and snow and remains green and flourishing through the passage of time. These words perfectly symbolize the new friendship being forged here today."

President Han further expressed three aspirations for the Center:

That it will serve as a bridge between Japan and Kyrgyzstan through academic exchange and joint research.
That it will expand opportunities for young Kyrgyz students to study in Japan and contribute to the development of their country.

That it will become a “Modern Silk Road” that helps youth realize their dreams and serves as a bridge to the future.

Founded in 1932, the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University is one of Kyrgyzstan’s leading national universities. It offers a wide range of educational and research programs in agriculture, veterinary medicine, economics, data science, and environmental science, and has conducted internationally significant research in areas such as sustainable agricultural technologies and responses to climate change. The establishment of the Kyrgyz–Japan Academic Research Center represents a new hub to further advance these international initiatives.

Concluding the ceremony, President Han stated:

"We believe that this research center will become an invaluable asset not only for both universities but also for students and local communities that shape the future of our countries."

He also expressed the hope that academic cooperation and friendship between Japan and Kyrgyzstan will continue to grow across generations.

The opening of the Center marks a symbolic step in educational and research collaboration between the two countries and is expected to become a new hub contributing to sustainable agriculture and addressing environmental challenges.

