

Exploring a New Model of International Collaboration Integrating Regional Economic and Cultural Development

On October 10, 2025, a delegation from Shimonoseki City University officially visited the University of Siena in Italy. This visit followed the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) held in May of the same year at the Italian Pavilion during the “EDU Day” event at Expo Osaka.

Founded in 1240, the University of Siena is one of the oldest universities in Europe and is internationally renowned for its excellence in the humanities and social sciences, law, economics, and medical fields.

During this visit, discussions were held not only to deepen academic exchange but also to expand university–industry collaboration with local enterprises and university-based ventures. In particular, the delegation explored initiatives such as developing new varieties of sake and wine through yeast exchange between an Italian winery and a sake brewery in Shimonoseki, and creating innovative products through collaboration in traditional crafts—fusing culture and technology in multiple dimensions.

Furthermore, discussions were held on potential joint initiatives in biochemical technology—including the development of soap made from recycled chestnut shells and burrs, and beer infused with silicon—as well as business development and collaborative research, which could be implemented globally under the cooperation between the University of Siena and Shimonoseki City University.

Beyond academia, this partnership represents a new model of international collaboration that integrates regional economic and cultural development, and the relationship with the University of Siena is expected to play an increasingly significant role in the future.

