

Turkish President Erdogan visited the Koshien Hall and was awarded a honorary doctorate by the university

Date : June 27 (Thursday), 2019

On June 27, 2019, one day before the commencement of the G-20 Summit in Osaka City, the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited the Koshien Hall at the Kamikoshien Campus, where he was awarded the “Mukogawa Women’s University Honorary Doctorate” by the university’s president, Kazuyoshi Seguchi.

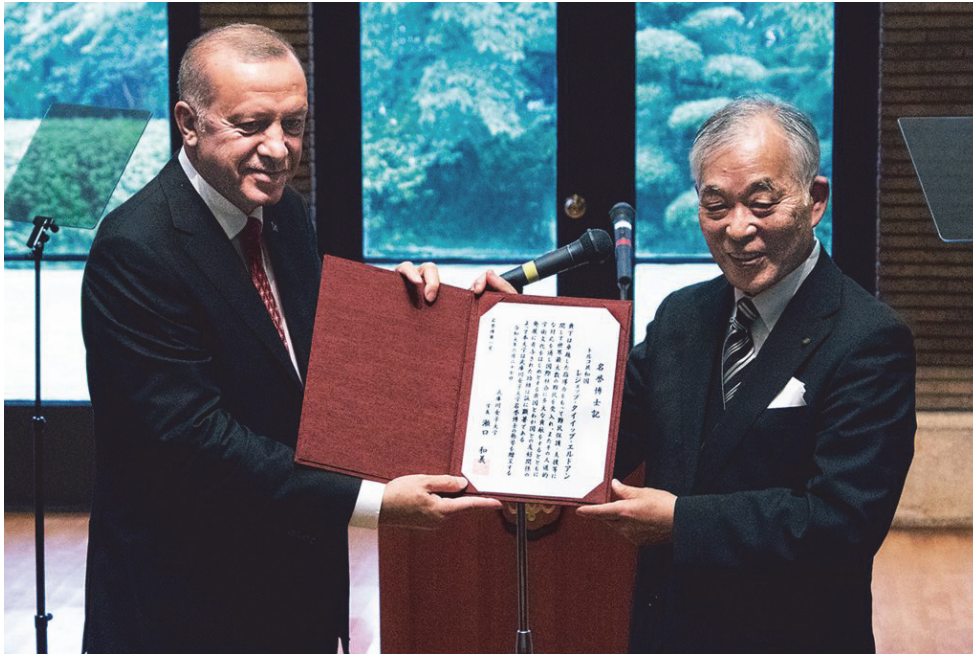
In 2008, the University signed a general exchange agreement with Bahcesehir University in Istanbul, Turkey. Since 2009, there have been active academic exchanges—students and teachers from Turkey are accepted mainly through the Department of Architecture, and graduate students from the university visit Turkey to participate in preservation and restoration works. Turkish architecture and culture are showcased as exhibits and studied at the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies located inside the Koshien Hall.

Upon their arrival, President Erdogan and the first lady were greeted by the university’s chancellor Ryo Okawara, his wife, and the University President Seguchi. Thereafter, they went to the Koshien Hall, smiles gleaming on their faces, before moving to the teahouse in the garden, where they were served by yukata-wearing members of the tea ceremony club.

The honorary doctorate presentation ceremony was held in the West Hall of the Koshien Hall. Professor Shigeyuki Okazaki (Department of Architecture), the Chairman of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies, said, “Many students came to our university from Turkey. Some of them moved on to the master’s program,” reflecting upon years of academic exchange between the two universities. President Seguchi highlighted the strong bond between Japan and Turkey, which dates back to the Ertugru tragedy of 1890 off the coast of Wakayama Prefecture, saying, “We praise you for your contribution to the advancement of academic culture, on the basis of over 100 years of friendly relationship between Turkey and Japan,” handing the president—the first person ever to receive this honor—the diploma and placing the academic hood over his shoulders.

The venue played host to about 300 students and faculty members, together with representatives from the Bahcesehir University and several journalists. During his commemorative speech, President Erdogan cheerfully asked, “Can you please move your cameras a little so I can see the faces of the students,” drawing a huge round of applause. He added, “Women are very active in Turkey as well. There was no such concept as women’s university so far, but we want to look into the possibilities of women’s universities in our country as well so women can make greater contributions,” before stressing that “I am so proud I am awarded the honorary doctorate. I would like to move our friendly relationship between Turkey and Japan further.”

Thereafter, the president joined the students and said, “Let’s take pictures together.” He was immediately surrounded by cheerful, affectionate students who fully utilized the opportunity to be clicked with the President of Turkey.



Mukogawa Women's University Honorary Doctorate presentation ceremony



Explanation of the history of academic/cultural exchange with the Republic of Turkey by Professor Shigeyuki Okazaki (Department of Architecture), the Chairman of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies



Commemorative speech by President Erdogan



Communication of President Erdogan and the first lady with the students of the Department of Architecture and the Architecture Major