

## Three Reasons Kosen Students Study

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Study is watering; study is fertilizing. That is what I learned last March while I was studying abroad in the US. I couldn't imagine what I would become in the future and I had no idea what to do before graduating from KOSEN. That's why I went to the US and found three reasons why the students at KOSEN should study.

The first reason is that KOSEN students have an unparalleled environment in which to study. There are workshops for practical training, dormitories, and libraries, and besides the facilities, there are many opportunities to meet diverse people such as excellent teachers who bring various experiences and friends with enthusiasm for engineering. Despite these ideal surroundings, many students fail to take full advantage of them.

The next reason is that every student in KOSEN should have their own weapon. By "weapon" I mean a strength that surpasses everyone around you. Let's say you are in a job interview. If you were asked, "What is your weapon?" Could you answer the question right away? In the US, I talked to many people such as the CEOs of some startup companies and their Japanese employees. I realized that everyone I spoke with was filled with passion for their business and confidence in themselves. They all know their own weapon and use it in their struggle in a competitive society. I couldn't answer the question at that time. I wasn't used to reading books, but now I read about various fields to find my weapon. A Japanese man whom I talked to in the US told me that command of foreign languages is the second priority to work abroad but the first one is having high technical skills, so we must not forget that taking classes at KOSEN crucially underlies the next level of your study.

The last reason is that KOSEN students have five years before graduating, while high school students have only three years, and it has passed before we know it. Do you know a plant called Chinese bamboo? When you plant Chinese bamboo seeds, they are underground for the first four years. You can't see what is happening, but the huge root system will be developing. In the fifth year, as soon as the plant surfaces, it grows rapidly to a height of over 20 meters. What can we learn from that? To achieve the rapid growth in the fifth year, the four years of preparation are necessary. Now, do you understand what I said at the start of this speech? Watering and fertilizing mean the preparation before graduating from KOSEN. If you neglect watering or your studies, nothing will emerge in the fifth year of your KOSEN life. Although you can't see the results of your efforts, the root of your plant becomes deeper in proportion to the amount of your study.

Before I visited the US, I assumed that I was a beginner at programming so I couldn't take part in any contests or hackathons. The visit has changed my life completely. I've presented my product at the hackathon held by Yahoo! JAPAN. I think the experience, which worked as a fertilizer, made me more confident. There is a vision that can only be seen by those who have the tallest Chinese bamboo. Let's see who will

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have grown the tallest bamboo when we graduate. If you go on to university or get a job, then you will gain new seeds of the Chinese bamboo. Study has no end.