

Press Release

April 28, 2014
Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation

Fourth Valley Concierge, announces business alliance with Pearson Japan Supporting universities applying for the MEXT Top Global University Project

Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation (HQ: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, President Yohei Shibasaki, herein after Fourth Valley), provides support for overseas study and overseas job opportunities for young future leaders, and Pearson Japan (President Brendan Delahunty, herein after Pearson) Japanese subsidiary of Pearson PLC (UK), the largest educational company operating worldwide, including such brands as the "Financial Times" and "Penguin", have agreed on a business alliance to support the internationalization of domestic educational institutes, and to promote overseas studies to Japanese students.

Japan currently faces an uncertain outlook for the future due to declining birth rates, an aging society, and a decline of presence globally. As a strategy to rejuvenate Japanese society through education, MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) has announced the "Top Global University Project". MEXT will subsidize a maximum of 800 million JPY to 30 universities with innovative research and/or programs to increase international competitiveness of the universities in global university rankings.

Fourth Valley, with its extensive network of 700 universities, a large global network of students worldwide, and experience hosting overseas recruitment fairs, will provide support for student recruitment including international students, and overseas promotion of universities through an agency service. Pearson, with its established reputation in English education and assessment of English proficiency, will provide quality support in English curriculum, resources, assessments, and various other educational services.

To give an example of our business alliance, by utilizing the largest qualification body in the world owned by Pearson, students are given increased opportunities of pathways to progress into degree programs collaborated with predominant overseas universities. For the benefit of the students, this may allow progression into the final year of an overseas degree program which allows degrees to be obtained with just a single year's additional study. In addition, with Fourth Valley providing support for recruitment, we offer a solution with no disadvantage to students studying abroad in their career after graduation compared to other students in Japan.

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■ About the support for the creation of Top Global Universities in Japan

This new high priority support program to be launched by MEXT in 2014, targets universities with leading global programs and/or world class research. The program aims to raise the global competitiveness of Japanese higher education and pursues rapid internationalization by partnership with predominant overseas universities and the transformation of domestic universities. Universities will be classified into two categories; "Top Class" and "Global Leaders". Those institutes aiming to rank within the top 100 global universities will be considered "Top Class" (total of 10 universities to be selected), and will be subsidized a maximum of 500 million JPY. Universities with leading research and serving as a model for all domestic universities will be considered "Global Leaders" (20 universities to be selected) and will be subsidized up to a maximum of 300 million JPY. In each case, the subsidy will continue for a maximum of 10 years.

【Fourth Valley Concierge Corporate information】

Company name: Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation

Representative: Founder and CEO Yohei Shibasaki

HQ: 3F Kojimachi 7thAkiyama Building, 5-3, Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Founded: November, 2007

Capital: JPY 48,000,000

Business:

- Consultation for Universities/promotion of overseas exchange/studies
- Multinational and global human resources support "TOP CAREER"
- Overseas research, translation, interpreting, inbound market support for tourism

U R L: <http://www.4th-valley.com>

【Pearson Japan Corporate Information】

Company Name: Pearson Japan KK

Representative: President, Brendan Delahunty

HQ: 21F Izumi Garden Tower 1-6-1, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Founded: December 2012

Capital: JPY 496,000,000

Business:

Provider of English materials and digital educational solutions

- English proficiency assessment, skill assessment, endorsement and qualification
- Curriculum development, technological/digital services, school education services

- U R L: <http://www.pearson.co.jp/>