

SDVoE Technology Bolsters Flexible Communication for Hybrid/HyFlex Classrooms at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

About

Established in 2000, the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU), located in Beppu, Oita, Japan, is a multicultural campus that is home to nearly 6,000 students. Approximately half of APU's student body comprises of international students originating from 106 countries and regions. These individuals of varying languages, cultures and values study and live side-by-side with the goal of international mutual understanding. Moreover, one in two faculty members is of foreign nationality, and the official languages of the campus are English and Japanese.

The University's curriculum, which emphasizes discussion and practice between faculty and students, is separated between three distinctive colleges, including the College of Sustainability and Tourism, College of Asia Pacific Studies and the College of International Management. Notably, the College of Sustainability and Tourism, which opened in Spring 2023, aims to develop human resources who employ academic scholarly knowledge and innovative research to solve contemporary issues and global challenges in sustainable development and tourism.

Challenge

The College of Sustainability and Tourism focused on building circular communications while utilizing tourism to conserve resources and create value. The curriculum addresses humankind's inevitable challenges of the 21st century through a two-way approach – sustainability science, which examines the development of sustainable societies, and tourism, which influences local economies and cultures. APU's focus with the College of Sustainability and Tourism is to keep with the mission of emphasizing discussion and practice. The new building, which was constructed ahead of the colleges opening, required a new audiovisual system which bolsters flexible communications for hybrid and HyFlex classrooms.

APU required an audiovisual system with a simplified user experience. Each teacher has their own teaching-style, and the AV system was needed to be selectable by following teachers teaching-style. Additionally, APU's existing point-to-point base system did not provide a flexible experience and proved to be challenging for group-discussion between onsite and remote students. APU wanted to have the simpler system which integrates video, audio, and control as one system with minimum latency and noise on video and audio. APU required real-time monitoring of the progress of all group discussion to teachers and the status of the audiovisual system for real-time technical support.



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