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GraSPP Day

—International Outreach Event



Wilson Tadashi Muraki Junior, 2nd Year, MPP/IP

The LKY (Lew Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore) Japan Trip was designed to be an opportunity for students from abroad to have a general idea of what Japan is, the way its government works, some of the most relevant ongoing social and economic debates and a little part of its cultural aspects.

Firstly, we had a seminar where we were presented with the future prospects of energy policies in Japan by Dr. Tatsujiro Suzuki (Vice Chairman of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission). The lecture was followed by a discussion session where the students played the roles of different stakeholders involved in the debates on energy. The purpose of that was to stress the fact that the policy process is affected by various interests, and achieving consensus on an issue such as the future of Japan's nuclear policy involves compromising and intense negotiations. In the following three days, we had a series of meetings with ministry officials, representatives from the civil society, politicians, etc.

The LKY Japan Trip was a great opportunity for understanding how public policy-making works in the real world. Something I found interesting was to hear about the different stakeholders' interactions on a certain matter. In the case of energy policy, for instance, we had the chance to hear about the disputes that exist between local business and civil society, or among different agencies within the government. The current situation of Fukui Prefecture was another topic that especially caught my attention. Fukui has many nuclear reactors. Shutting such reactors down has not only created problems to the prefecture's budget but also had a negative impact on its economic activities.

I think that every Public Policy student should have the chance to explore public matters as much as we did. Interacting with LKY students was a great opportunity to exchange ideas, opinions and views on a variety of things. There are students facing challenges, both personally and professionally, that are very different from my reality, and those students have a lot to teach. I am grateful for having had the chance to visit amazing places in the company of such wonderful people.



Sadae Hayashi, Public Management Division, the Class of 2013

This year's SIPA (School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University)-GraSPP Day was held on March 21 at the Hongo Campus. About forty students from SIPA and GraSPP gathered to have lunchtime discussions on two topics: (1) What qualities do political leaders need?(2) Can an advanced country be defined as an economic power?

In spite of a very tight schedule, GraSPP's executive committee decided on the discussion topics and carried out the promotion of the event with tremendous team work, and GraSPP was close to being ready to welcome SIPA students by the end of February. The event schedule, however, had to be changed to accommodate changed circumstances on the side of SIPA. At one point, we even considered the possibility that the event might have to be cancelled. We pulled it off in the end, and the event went without a hitch.

The committee members were not sure whether the students could interact only in an hour. That worry, however, was unnecessary. Not only did the students discuss the topics presented to them but they also exchanged diverse opinions amidst the occasional bursts of laughter. Some students were seen exchanging contact information at the end of the session. We were gratified to see that the event offered a great networking opportunity. SIPA students kindly let our executive committee members accompany them to a meeting for an exchange of ideas with LDP members of the Diet. We participated in free-for-all discussions. Discussions focused on a wide range of issues which were of interest to the students, including territorial rights, TPP and education. It was a great learning opportunity to be able to listen to opinions coming from different positions and viewpoints, and at the same time very stimulating.

There was one unforgettable incident: SIPA students, many of whom already had work experience, treated GraSPP students like kids! I am, however, certain that with such an incident it was a good chance for us to learn how to present ourselves when dealing with the outstanding students of the world as well as how to get along with other people.

On a personal note: With so many changes in quick succession right up to the event, I was very busy constantly talking to the American counterparts and Ohno-san of the International Affairs Office through Skype and telephone even when I was travelling. Still, this experience has given me a precious memory of the final year of my GraSPP days. I am sure the team working power of the executive committee has gone way up!

Keiichiro Seki Professor

Intersection of Academia and Business



In the Meiji Period, the University of Tokyo seemed to have a closer affinity with the business world than it does today. So were Waseda University and Keio University.

Yukichi Fukuzawa, who founded Keio Gijuku (now Keio University), not only supplied young intellectuals to the financial world and the media but, by cooperating with Shigenobu Okuma, to the government as well.

Okuma, on the other hand, gathered Fukuzawa's pupils, who had become mid-level bureaucrats, around him to help work over his ideas. He then proposed to introduce British-style party politics to Japan and establish a National Diet as soon as possible. Fukuzawa supported Okuma's ideas through the activities of Kojunsha, a club formed by financiers, journalists and lawyers who graduated from Keio Gijuku. However, Okuma fell from power in 1881 due to the conflict between views on newly introducing constitution and an incident regarding the sale of properties owned by Hokkaido Development Commission, which created a chasm within the government.

Once out of power, Okuma took an openly confrontational stance with the government by founding Tokyo Senmon Gakko (now Waseda University) and the Constitutional Reform Party. His intention was to educate men of ability and supply them to his party in order to put his own policies into practice.

The government felt a sense of crisis when it saw that the initiative to develop the country's elite was controlled by private institutions. In 1886, the University of Tokyo was reorganized into an imperial university, and became an institution for the development of national leaders, such as bureaucrats, engineers and academics.

Although the universities in their cradle years were more closely attuned to the trends in the business world, they appear to have shifted their focus to the academic world over time.

On the other hand, GraSPP exists to foster a collaborative and harmonious relationship between academia and business so as to be responsive to policy needs of Japan, now a front runner in the world. I would like to contribute to making GraSPP a dedicated educational institution that develops the capable people who are essential to the future of the country. I expect you, students, to work hard as well.

Graduate School Course Report No. 11



Atsushi Yasuda
Public Management Division, 2nd year

Case Study (Urban and Regional Policy and Infrastructure Finance)

[Instructors]

- Prof. Yoshitsugu Kanemoto
- Prof. Katsuya Hihara
- Prof. Nobuhiro Naito
- Prof. Takuya Kurita

This Case Study (Urban and Regional Policy and Infrastructure Finance) is a practical study course covering a wide range of infrastructure policies, including cities, transportation and infrastructure. The students attend lectures on the latest policy issues, and then group themselves around the area of their interest. They carry out interview surveys of the people in the field, analyze data, and discuss the issues of and solutions to the study topic. As the professors come from diverse backgrounds, the students receive extensive and hands-on guidance. Although it takes a lot of time and energy to prepare for weekly presentations, we receive valuable feedback that matches the amount of energy we spend. Discussions sometime heat up so much that class time had to be extended by more than an hour (i.e. the situation also known as the "battle with a growling stomach").

My group worked on the topic of community bus services that support an aging society. We carried out a policy evaluation by focusing on a cost-benefit analysis as well as other analyses of the data collected through interviews and questionnaire surveys of the national and local governments. I still recall vividly the interview survey of bus riders at bus stops in order to collect data for our analysis. It had a profound significance for my thinking about real policies to get feedback from bus riders directly. I ended up coming down with the record fever since I started university (39.5°C!), though, because I was working outdoors all day in the middle of January. A field study trip to Matsuyama was also really memorable. The water of Dogo Hot Springs was just so comfortable.

Over a year, I learned how important it is to think of a policy based on data analysis and to get an actual feel for the effects of the policy at the street level. I can say that this class represents what GraSPP is all about – learning both theories and their practical applications.

Student Interview

No. 14



Satoshi Nakano

Economic Policy Division
the Class of 2013

— I was surprised to find out that you mailed out 1,000 questionnaire sheets to the citizens of Musashino city, Tokyo, for your case study. You also did a similar questionnaire survey in Hamura city, Tokyo. You are a man of action, aren't you?

Well, thank you. We had a nearly 25% response rate which was more than I had expected. The professors were surprised too. We got feedback from the professors about the paper we wrote on the results of the collected data, and presented it after some revisions at a study session held by the MLIT (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism). I got many comments at that session too. We are finalizing the paper by incorporating these comments into it.

I think it is important to "earn" your data by legwork. When I started to look into the rate of introduction of telecommuting for my case study last year, I found an overwhelming number of the companies had not disclosed whether they allowed telecommuting. Then my professor suggested that I should phone them and ask. So I negotiated with GraSPP office to get a phone line installed in a meeting room. There I just called the companies one after another. With the help of a buddy, I think we called about 300 companies. About one in five companies answered our question. We gathered data and analyzed them, and found that large companies and IT-related businesses tended to have a relatively high instance of having a telecommuting program while smaller companies away from the metropolitan area were the opposite, perhaps because of the issue of cost or some psychological reluctance. Whether they prefer face-to-face communication seems to be a factor too. Doing this study made me realize how important it was to spend time and effort of my own to gather data.



— You majored in education as an undergraduate student (at Kyoto University). What brought you to GraSPP?

I was always interested in policies, and studied education policy as an undergraduate student. I thought of studying education not as an impressive theory as it tended to be discussed but as something more realistic supported by concrete data and evidence. That was when I chose GraSPP where I could study policies in a comprehensive framework, such as policy evaluation and financial issues. I could have chosen another public policy school, but the advice I got from my senior in my undergraduate days had a huge influence. He was already studying at GraSPP ahead of me, and told me, "Given your awareness of the problems, GraSPP is the school for you."

— Where have you found employment?

I accepted an offer from Japan Finance Corporation (JFC). JFC is involved in a special financing program relating to the Great East Japan Earthquake. I want to get involved in that program. I went to Minami-sanriku as a volunteer several times since August 2011. I have built up a trusting relationship with local people. As a volunteer, I worked on transporting goods, cleaning shelters, helped children with their study and assisted in a public market organized in Minami-sanriku as a symbol of reconstruction and in festivals. I got well acquainted with the people in the fishing industry. Its seafood, especially salmon and octopus, taste really good. They take mail orders—well, I've been asked to do some promo on their behalf.

My first volunteer work in the earthquake-damaged areas taught me about the real issues of providing assistance and the limitations of volunteer help. While a massive amount of relief supplies arrived, they just piled up without making their way to the people in need. I also saw an excess stock of sweets and cup noodles which children ate day in day out. A huge number of canned goods stayed were left undistributed too. At the same time, eggs and other perishables were in short supply. I heard that the Self-Defense Force took care to serve food that used eggs at their emergency distribution stations. I came to understand clearly through my experience that you cannot tell what the real needs are without going there to see for yourself.

(Interview and text by editor)

The Present Situation and Future Perspective of Ocean-related Investigation and Research Business

— A challenge to grasp the whole picture of various existing ocean-related investigation and research movements and trends in Japan and overseas, and to explore their future —

Daisuke Ueda, Project Associate Professor

While a variety of entities are making diverse efforts within the framework established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Basic Act on Ocean Policy and other related laws to increase the effectiveness of Japan's ocean governance, it is important for the establishment of ocean governance to enhance scientific knowledge of oceans through research and study activities, as well as to generate and promote a business that deals with the development, use and conservation of oceans.

With the focus on the ocean-related investigation and research business in which the above two and a multitude of other elements intersect, GraSPP held the above-titled symposium jointly with the UT Ocean Alliance and Todai Policy Alternatives Research Institute with the sponsorship of the Fisheries Research Agency on February 26, 2013 with an aim to gaining a wide view of the present state of research and study projects being carried out in the academic and business areas inside and outside Japan by various entities in industry, government and academia and understand their sharing of roles and responsibilities, as well as to explore their future.

Following the opening address by Professor emeritus Naoya Okuwaki, and an overview of the background and aim of the symposium by Prof. Hideaki Shiroyama, Deputy Dean of the GraSPP, Prof. Ken Takagi of Graduate School of Frontier Sciences of the University of Tokyo presented the first keynote lecture on the future perspective of the generation and promotion of ocean-related business. Dr. John Gunn, CEO of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), presented the second keynote lecture on the development of relationship of effective collaboration between science and industries in the ocean-related fields in Australia.

The keynote lectures were followed by lectures by Prof. Yutaka Michida of the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo

on the efforts for the consolidation of ocean-related information and private sector investigation and research organizations; Mr. Yoshihisa Shirayama, Executive Director of Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, on the possibility of making environmental assessments as ocean-related business. In the session in which experts in various fields discussed the current state and outlook, the lectures were given by Mr. Sumio Yamano, Managing Director of Fugro Japan Co., Ltd., in the area of oceanic minerals and energies, by Mr. Tokio Wada, Executive Director of Fisheries Research Agency, in the area of fisheries, by Mr. Satoshi Suzuki, Global Environment Unit Leader of Japan NUS Co., Ltd., in the area of ocean-related environment assessments, and by Mr. Jun Kita, Senior Researcher of the Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth, in the area of prevention of global warming in the oceans. A panel discussion followed the lectures with all lecturers participating as the panelists and Prof. Shiroyama moderating.

This symposium was organized as an experiment which juxtaposed the research projects and studies being carried out in each of the academic and practical worlds so as to explore possibilities for the industrialization of ocean research. About 120 people participated in the symposium and engaged in meaningful discussions.



Topical News

A website for CAMPUS Asia programs is now open. You will find detailed explanations of CAMPUS Asia programs provided by GraSPP in collaboration with Peking University and Seoul National University, as well as GraSPP's CAMPUS Asia Course that started in April of this year. The "Report" section will carry personal reports from GraSPP students studying at Peking University and Seoul National University. Latest news will be uploaded as they come. Please visit the site at: <http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/campusasia/index.html>

The book entitled Economic Evaluation of Medical Technologies and Public Policy (『医療技術の経済評価と公共政策』), with supervision of Prof. Isao Kamae, Prof. Ryozo Hayashi and Prof. Hideaki Shiroyama, has been published from Jihosha on April 20, 2013. Japan faces the dilemma of meeting increasing medical needs and curbing soaring medical costs at the same time. The government has started an examination of a medical service fee system which incorporates cost effectiveness. In this book, a team of authors consisting mostly of the GraSPP faculty introduces evaluation techniques and actual case examples from other countries, and presents the issues and a direction toward instituting them into a program in Japan. The book also contains a roundtable discussion which included Chairman Akira Morita (Professor emeritus of the University of Tokyo) of the Central Social Insurance Medical Council of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. The book is recommendable to those who are in the administration, working members of society, and students alike as a good primer for the formulation of "value-based" public policy.



The Hongo Campus is home to a wide variety of flowering plants. Perhaps it was the weather, Yoshino cherry trees came into full bloom quite early this year. After they were gone, double cherry blossoms beside Akamon Gate delighted our eyes. Now, red Chinese peony is putting up quite a show in the garden of Kaitokukan. It is really good idea to relax from time to time and cast your eyes away from your chores. (Editor)

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