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Celebrating the 10th Year Anniversary

Hideaki Shiroyama



On April 1 this year, I took over from Takatoshi Ito as Dean of the Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP).

Established in April 2004 as a "joint venture" between the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics and the Graduate School of Economics, GraSPP provides professional degree courses for training experts in planning, implementing, and evaluating public policy. Japan is going through major social and institutional transformations that include its changing industrial structure and an aging society with falling birthrate. Ongoing globalization, meanwhile, is another source of major change throughout the world. For Japan to ignore its relationships with the rest of the world would leave its politics, foreign policy, and economics without direction. This means that those people with a broad involvement in policy need the ability to identify issues accurately, determine how to respond, and build a consensus by presenting these ideas to the other parties involved. They must also be able to communicate this to the rest of the world. The objective of GraSPP is to produce people who can demonstrate these skills in the highly specialized fields of policy making in Japan and internationally.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of our founding, GraSPP is seeking to build on our successes to date and further enhance our research and teaching capabilities. Our first priority is to strengthen our international activities. Since 2009 we have offered double degree programs in partnership with Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore; the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University; Sciences Po Paris; Hertie School of Governance in Germany; the Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University; and the School of International Studies, Peking University. We have also set up academic exchange agreements with the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California, San Diego; Heidelberg University in Germany; and Business Administration School of São Paulo at the Getulio Vargas Foundation in Brazil. In 2010, we established the Master of Public Policy, International Program (MPP/IP) taught in English. This was followed in 2013 by the Campus Asia Program (MPP/CAP), which requires students to participate in exchanges through our academic exchange or double degree agreements with Peking University or Seoul National University.

We are also utilizing funding from various external sources to bridge the gap between the latest research and teaching and their practical applications. Our research programs include international transportation, energy and the global environment, healthcare policy, capital markets, urban and regional policy, maritime policy, space policy, e-government, and scientific and technology innovation policy. We are able to offer more advanced and practical research and teaching by drawing not only on our on-campus resources, but also on our extended network in the actual public policy world. Furthermore, these research and teaching activities also include our leading role in the Science, Technology and Innovation Governance Program, a cross-disciplinary program that encompasses departments across the university, and an important role in the also cross-disciplinary Ocean Alliance Program. From the 2013 academic year, GraSPP has also been taking a central role in the Global Leader Program for Social Design and Management, a MEXT-supported Program for Leading Graduate Schools that spans a wide range of disciplines, including the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, Graduate School of Economics, School of Engineering, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Graduate School of Medicine, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, and Graduate School of Frontier Sciences.

Through these activities, our aim is to achieve our core task of producing people with high aspirations underpinned by specialist knowledge, while also working on issues that include internationalization, engagement with society, and cross-disciplinary collaboration. I look forward to your support and cooperation.

Daisuke Ueda

Director for International Logistics Planning and Coordination, Policy Bureau,
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
[Project Associate Professor, GraSPP at the time of writing]



Cross-Disciplinary Fields

As the Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP) spreads its wings to undertake more activities far and wide, a set of underlying principles runs through these activities like a basso continuo. They are international, interdisciplinary and in-practice. I came to GraSPP from a practical field to be a member of the practitioner faculty, and found the opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary education and research on the theme of oceans which implies international perspectives.

Oceans may not be as familiar as land to many. Yet many people have lived near one since ancient times in spite of the dangers of tsunamis and storm surges in order to use the ocean for fisheries and transportation. In modern times, the oceans are attracting considerable attention as sources of energy and biological resources. They also play an important role in conservation of the earth's environment, and research, business and administrative activities relating to these aspects of ocean are being carried out.

The University of Tokyo has had many researchers working on studies of the ocean, each of which is being carried out autonomously. The University, however, recently created a cross-departmental organization called "Ocean Alliance." It aims at solving issues that transcend specialized fields with the participation of diverse

departments by providing educational programs that cross the borders of academic disciplines and by facilitating interdisciplinary research projects.

In order to explain the perspectives of the University's approach to ocean research, it is still convenient to identify major disciplines involved in this organization by their traditional names: physics, engineering, biology, fisheries, environment and public policy. Public policy, which suggests strong connections to politics, law and economy, might give one the impression that it is the only humanity studies in a lineup dominated by scientific names.

Changes in society, however, are closely associated with the rapid advancement of science and technology—from the Industrial Revolution of old to the big data of today. When one thinks of public policy, the fence between humanities and science should be as low as it can be. People with a humanities background must have certain respect and a high-level of literacy relating to natural science. At the same time, people in scientific fields are increasingly interested in public policy.

Those who study at GraSPP have the doors open to their paths leading to collaboration with science specialists based on their knowledge of public policy, or to acting as the cement between specialized fields or liaising with industry, academia and government. The glue may be thin, but it can be a propelling force for creating new society.

A Report on the iJFF Project

Masahiro Matsuura Project Associate Professor

Since 2011, we have been carrying out a project called "Integrating Joint Fact-Finding into Policy-Making Processes," also known as the iJFF Project, as part of the undertaking of the Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society of the Japan Science and Technology Agency. As iJFF is scheduled to conclude in November this year, I would like to take this opportunity to report on a wide variety of activities we have been carrying out across Japan and beyond.

The purpose of this project is to develop and spread the concept of "joint fact-finding" and its methodology as a framework in which specialized scientific knowledge is used in policy-making process. When there are politically conflicting opinions, people who are involved often retreat into a state of "defensive science" in which they pick up only the specialized knowledge that is expedient to them in order to underpin their opinions. This condition tends to create chaos in policy debates. "Joint fact-finding" is an effort to gather diverse stakeholders and professionals with clear role assignments for the discussion and building of a policy evidence (rationale) that can convince the majority, including prerequisites for and the models behind it.

As part of the iJFF project, we carried out action research projects such as wood biomass introduction in Tsushima, Nagasaki, and marine spatial planning in Bizen, Okayama. With respect to the establishment of standards for radioactive substances contained in food, we organized a public forum which involved specialists. We are currently formulating guidelines for a joint fact-finding activity based on what we as practicing researchers have learned by stepping into the actual scenes of action. These guidelines will be publicized at the final symposium scheduled for the coming fall.

Governance which combines policy and specialized knowledge is a hotly

debated issue around the world. As joint fact-finding is an effort initiated in North America, we carried out this project in close collaboration with primarily researchers and practitioners in North America. We invited the former Deputy Secretary of the U. S. Department of Interior to the symposium we hosted in 2012 to make an appeal for need for joint fact-finding. In March this year, we organized a workshop at the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii with top-rated practitioners and researchers in North America attending to discuss the basic principles of joint fact-finding.

Although iJFF Project will conclude in this November, I will continue to be involved in research into joint fact-finding based on its practice and review through science education and research programs in the Science, Technology and Innovation Governance (STIG) Unit of GraSPP.



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Student Interview

Satofumi Ushigami

Economic Policy Division, the Class of 2014



I enjoyed that trip a lot even though I came down with bad stomach trouble in La Paz, Bolivia. Stomach trouble is like a rite of passage for me. I chewed on CalorieMate and really felt how wonderful it was to be alive. As I was recovering, I was happy to see my walking distance getting longer by day—500 meters one day, and a whole kilometer the next day. When I came across a sandwich shop Subway in La Paz, I was so ecstatic to find something I could eat at last that I bought up several subs instead of one and made them a meal.

It was also in Bolivia where I had the most fun. I became good friends with a Bolivian whom I met during tour of Uyuni Salt Lake. He taught me how to seduce girls in the local Quechua language. I put it into practice right away, but I only got a blank stare back. The girl must have reacted first to my speaking Quechua, wondering what was going on.

—Have you found a job?

Yes. I've accepted a job offer from one of city banks. I became interested in finance when I took a course taught by Prof. Ito (former Dean of GraSPP). I was also motivated by my desire to work for the good of people. Bank's clients include corporations. Corporate activities need money for a starter. They use that money for something useful to people. So I thought I wanted to make myself useful to people by getting involved in this very first stage of financing. I began getting filled with trepidation after I saw the TV drama series Hanzawa Naoki (featuring a banker working for a Japanese megabank who fights against evil in his bank) though. Although I'm not likely to be given big responsibility at first in a Japanese bank, I will be getting solid training which I appreciate.

Actually, I was thinking of applying for a doctorate program at a university overseas. While I was writing my research paper, however, the feeling that I'd rather return my knowledge to society grew stronger than my desire to continue as a researcher in a field of my choice. When I asked Prof. Ito for advice, he told me, "Becoming a researcher might not be an appropriate choice for you if making social contributions is your priority. You can choose a research subject and social contributions as your fundamental goal, but it will be difficult to bring them to reality." His words were my biggest deciding factor.

—I heard that you travelled a lot inside and outside Japan

I travelled across four countries of South America for about a month at the end of last year. I went to Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil. I'd been yearning to see South America for a long time. It's a land of dreams, right? At the other side of the earth looking from Japan, there are jungles and a stupendous spread of nature. I also wanted to go to Venezuela, but a Colombian man I befriended while travelling convinced me that I should avoid going there no matter what. My basic mode of transportation was buses. I had *Shinya Tokkyu* (*Midnight Express*) by Kotaro Sawaki (*Shinchosha*) with me. You know it's a backpacker's bible.



In Argentina, I went to a town called Mendoza. It is famous for wineries. A town of Salta, which is often called "Salta la Linda" (Salta the Beautiful), had really beautiful streets. I strongly recommend visiting it.

When I participated in an all-campus program of the University of Tokyo in Hong Kong, I got there a few days ahead and went on to private sightseeing. I made friends with a local man (a local employee of a Japanese bank) I sat next to in a restaurant and was invited to his home. When I went to Guilin and Shanghai with a friend, I made friends with a Chinese man who sat next to me on the flight from Guilin to Shanghai. This man was the president of a company which made sundry goods and exported them to Japan. He took us on a tour of his factory once we were in Shanghai. He took us to a barbecue dinner and sightseeing around Shanghai. At the end of the day, we were treated to drinks at a bar in a high-rise hotel.

I trekked through 150 km of Nikko Kaido with my GraSPP friends the other day. It was a 3-night, 4-day trip. We stopped overnight in old post towns of Kasukabe-juku (today's Kasukabe city in Saitama), Oyama-juku (Oyama city in Tochigi) and Utsunomiya-juku (Utsunomiya city in Tochigi), sleeping at a super public spa, a manga café and another super public spa, respectively. It was the hardest travel I ever experienced inside or outside Japan. The section from Senju-shuku to Nikko was the road travelled by a famous haiku poet Basho Matsuo. We walked along telling each other that we were racing against Basho! Well, we couldn't outpace him. Basho either rode a horse or had strong legs like, maybe, a ninja, I think.

(Interview and text by editor)

Farewell Message

Takatoshi Ito



I have now completed my term as the Dean of the Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP) effective March 31. I was very fortunate that I had meaningful experiences during the management of GraSPP for a total of four years, first as the Deputy Dean and then as the Dean. I owe my success to the tireless support I received from the Dean's Assistant and the staff members at the Graduate School Office as well as the International Affairs Office. My heartfelt thank-you to you all!

I spent one-third each of my academic career as a researcher in the United States, at Hitotsubashi University and the University of Tokyo. I also had an opportunity to work at IMF and the former Ministry of Finance which gave me "practical" experience. It was an unexpected fortune for me that I spent the last two years of my academic life as the Dean of GraSPP.

Indeed, I have had a variety of experiences to reminisce about in these four years as the Deputy Dean and the Dean. The first was international collaboration, with a significant expansion of double degree program and student exchange networks. We created international programs. We developed the Campus Asia course. The number of foreign students increased ten-fold in the last several years, from just several students a year to several dozens. Our campus has developed into a cosmopolitan one. No one could imagine this when GraSPP as born ten years ago. GraSPP has secured an important position in Asia and the world through active participation in the Global Public Policy Network (GPPN), a network of world's major public policy schools, and the triple-campus exchange program of Japan, China and Korea. GraSPP is the only graduate school of the University of Tokyo to have implemented a double-degree program. My fond memories include achieving formal membership in GPPN and successfully bringing a GPPN conference to Japan. The speech given by Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, Governor of Bank of Japan, at the GPPN conference impressed deans of public policy schools overseas attending the conference. A network of friends I had cultivated during my time overseas helped GraSPP attain the membership in GPPN. With respect to the success of our international collaboration efforts, I would like to give the biggest applause to myself and the International Affairs Office led by Ms. Nobue Nachi.

Secondly, I demanded a building for GraSPP which had not been given proper facilities, through a budget request. The construction of a new building is well underway (although we can only have a half of it to ourselves). This endeavor gave me a precious experience in terms of the University's internal politics as well as national politics. While I had thought I just pushed through a demand which GraSPP deserved, I was told later that I had disturbed the internal order by jumping the queue. However, the "practical" network I had cultivated throughout my career helped me. I also received assistance from a "practitioner" professor of GraSPP. I learned that it was easier to push a good cause through at the government level than inside the University. I feel regretful that I will not have my office in the new building when it is completed. At least I can console myself by thinking of the building as my parting gift to GraSPP.

The last one was the successful acquisition of (the status of coordinating department for) a grant program for the "all-round leading graduate schools of the University of Tokyo". We started to develop a doctoral program. Since the program is still in its cradle at this point, I have to pass it along to the new Dean and the Deputy Dean before I could put it on track. I wish both of them good luck.

I feel that the position of professional graduate schools has not been made clear even at the government level. I would like to conclude my farewell message with a prayer that GraSPP, now succeeded in going global, will continue to evolve by taking advantage of being a professional graduate school.

Topical News

The commencement ceremony was held on March 24. 80 students received their diplomas and left the school to start their life in many parts of the world. It was a sunny day, perfect for outdoor photo shooting. Graduating students in their finest clothes smiled and posed for photographs with their beloved professors. At the thank-you party that followed the ceremony, everyone got into the swing grappling with a game of extreme GraSPP quizzes, trying to answer tough questions such as: When was the last time the study room was "raided"? Can you name the manufacturer of two elevators in the Administrative Bureau Building 2?

On April 11, the GraSPP welcomed 83 new students. Classes have started. Some classes did not have enough room for all students. In some, overflow students were seen listening to lectures in the hallway standing on their toes.



Editor's Postscript

The subject of *Shinya Tokkyu (Midnight Express)* came up during the student interview. Kotaro Sawaki wrote the book based on his experience of a journey from Delhi, India, to London almost exclusively by bus. The book enjoyed a cult-like popularity in the late 1980s as a backpacker's bible along with *Go Go Indo (Go Go, India)* by Jinichi Kuramae. *Shinya Tokkyu* ends with a scene in which the protagonist sends a telegram saying "Ware Tochakusezu (I HAVE NOT ARRIVED)." I suppose many of the readers will still remember this ending. For the first time in a long while, I started to feel like embarking on a travel such as this myself. (Editor)

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