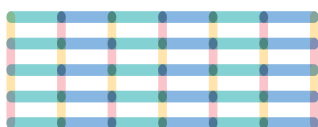


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New Appointment

Professor **Kan Suzuki** (Former Senior Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)



It is my great pleasure to announce that I took up a teaching post at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP) in February of this year.

I already had a number of connections with GraSPP prior to my arrival. About ten years ago, I was one of the commissioners of the Upper House Committee on Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, where I presided over deliberations on revisions to the School Education Act that dealt with the role in the higher education system of professional graduate schools such as graduate schools of public policy and law schools. Also, Prof. Kazuo Sugeno, who headed the Faculty of Law when GraSPP was set up, and who had been a seminar supervisor of mine when I was a student, told me numerous stories about the challenges they faced in getting the school established. GraSPP also had a central role in establishing a number of programs, including CAMPUS Asia and Global Leader Program for Social Design and Management, which were launched during my time as Senior Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Because of these very deep links I have had with GraSPP, I feel exceptionally honored to have been giving a teaching appointment here and I would like to express my thanks to everyone involved. As a new appointee, I would like to take this opportunity to make some comments about my goals.

The first of these is the training of genuinely global leaders. Leaders are people who do not shy away from dilemmas and adversity. They are people who can find different ways to create harmony out of chaos. We are at a turning point, living through a time of great change. As a nation at the forefront of various issues, I believe that for us to train people who can unflinchingly confront the problems of Asia and its various potential flash points head-on will provide Japan with genuine leaders who are able to act on the global stage. The sort of people I want to train are those who, while having an ability to formulate policy, have a firm grasp of history, their own philosophy, and the mental attributes to face up to challenges. In particular, I want to envisage the world to come while also possessing an in-depth understanding of issues such as the uncertainties faced by the modern nation-state system and fragility of global capitalism.

My second goal is to get Policy ThinkNet up and running. Whereas Kasumigaseki was once the preeminent think tank working to establish "Japan as Number One," we now lack any organizations or forums as the arena for analyzing and discussing all aspects of Japan and drawing on an understanding of the broader historical context to formulate national strategy and a vision for industry and society. This absence has exacerbated Japan's current disarray and lack of direction. This is why I believe it important that we proceed with the Policy ThinkNet concept to create opportunities for policy and strategy formulation through an open forum involving a number of outward-looking universities working together. Policy ThinkNet will transcend the barriers of profession, industry, and national borders to bring together not just academics, but also people working at the coal face in other areas, including practical policy making, business, and the media; people who can bring with them a diversity of information and knowledge; and who can engage in debate and seek actively to create, publish, and promulgate new thinking.

My third goal is to see GraSPP recognized as one of the world's leading public policy schools. While I have already made contact with schools such as the National University of Singapore and the University of California, San Diego, GraSPP also has an excellent existing network with other schools of public policy. We are working with such schools from around the world to build a global network of universities that can bring a variety of knowledge and human resources to bear on the task of solving the major challenges that confront people and the world, and that are difficult to make progress on through business or government acting alone.

None of these goals are things I can accomplish on my own. I look forward to collaborating with both teachers and students.

2014 Public Seminar for ERES Lecture Series Sponsored by Mitsui Fudosan Compact Cities and Use of Public Real Estate

—Greater Consolidation of Population and Urban Functions—

Masahiro Tsujita Project Professor

Held on June 30, 2014 at the Ito Hall, and as a part of research and exchange activities under the sponsored lecture series “Envisioning Real Estate Securitization (Mitsui Fudosan)” (ERES), the seminar was attended by more than 300 people from a wide variety of fields, including government (national and local), construction, real estate, consulting, finance, think tanks, and universities.

As Japan faces an aging society and declining population, the nature of the city and the way forward for urban development are at a major turning point, shifting away from the traditional approach based on expansion and sprawl that was predicated on a growing population, and moving instead toward “compact cities” in which urban functions are consolidated and where everyone, including the elderly, can get around on foot. However, beyond simply declaring that compact cities are the goal, there remain a host of issues that need to be overcome if this objective is to be achieved.

The seminar included a presentation by Mr. Noriaki Kyoda, head of urban development at Toyama City, nationally famous for being one of the leading compact cities. The presentation was entitled “Compact Urban Development Based around Public Transportation Hubs” and described that city’s urban development initiatives. Mr. Masatomo Miyazawa, Deputy Director of the City Planning Division of the City Bureau at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, then gave a presentation entitled, “Urban Development and Public Real Estate (PRE) — Amended

Act on Special Measures Concerning Urban Renaissance and PRE Utilization Guidelines” that described the ministry’s measures for supporting compact urban development by local governments.

We hope that the issues discussed at the seminar helped everyone who attended gain a better understanding of how cities can operate sustainably during a time of falling population.

The transcripts and accompanying documents of these presentations are now available on the ERES web site. Please visit the site if you would like a copy.
<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ERES/>



Mr. Masatomo Miyazawa



Mr. Noriaki Kyoda

GraSPP Course Report No. 12

Yuji Nishijima
MPP/IP 2nd Year

International Transportation Policy

[Instructors]

Prof. Masafumi Shukuri

Prof. Taizo Hayashi

Prof. Hiroshi Ohashi



Scene from visit to Osaka International Airport (Itami Airport)
and Kansai International Airport

Period 5, June 3. Instead of our usual class in the Administration Bureau Building 2, I was in a conference room at Kansai International Airport — The course “International Transportation Policy,” the subject of this report, has an omnibus format, consisting of presentations by professionals in the field of international transportation from government, industry, and academia. It covers the policy issues faced by the international transportation sector in Japan, particularly aviation and railways, along with relevant background factors. This is a particularly fascinating course in three respects.

• Interaction with notable presenters

The lectures are presented by people we would not normally have the opportunity to meet, including President of JR East, Commissioner of Japan Tourism Agency, and senior officials from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. The lectures are always followed by discussions with the small class of about 20 students, providing the opportunity to directly ask questions and express one’s own opinions.

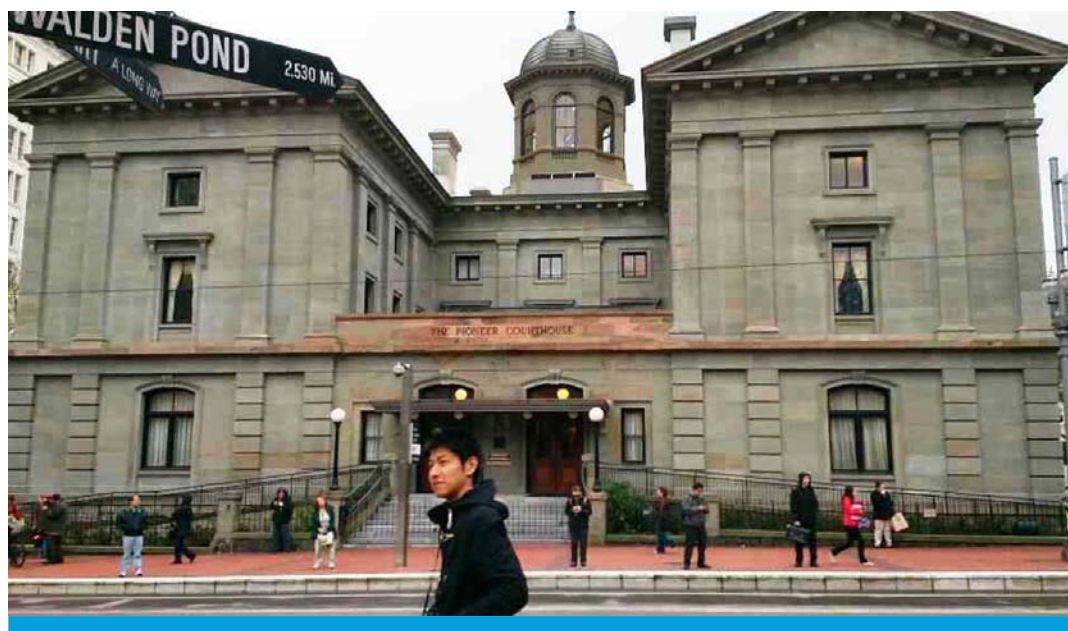
• Various different approaches to learning

Another major feature of the course is that it includes a variety of different approaches to learning in addition to lectures. As mentioned above, we visited Kansai International Airport and Osaka International Airport (Itami Airport) as part of our study of management reforms at airports. This provided an opportunity to deepen our understanding by observing first-hand the work being done by New Kansai International Airport Co., Ltd. to enhance the value of its airport business, including a low-cost carrier (LCC) terminal and freight hub airport, and also to have a fruitful discussion with Mr. Katsuhiro Yamaguchi, the company’s executive. In our study of open-sky policies, meanwhile, we used the UK and Japan as a case study, holding simulated bilateral negotiations in which we split ourselves into the two nation’s governments and airlines.

• Discussions covering a wide range of viewpoints

With many of the students coming from other departments and having a wide range of backgrounds, the course teaches you to look at problems from a variety of viewpoints.

The dictionary definition of “transportation” refers to movement of goods and people. I believe this course provides a real opportunity for intermingling of different people and ways of thinking on the subject of transportation. I can confidently recommend the course to anyone, regardless of their level of prior knowledge on the subject.



Student Interview

No. 18

Mitsuru Matsunawa

Economic Policy Division, 1st Year

— I understand your background is in architecture.

I graduated from the Department of Architecture at Waseda University. Because there was no liberal arts course, I spent four years studying architecture only. In my second year at junior high school, I spent a two-week homestay at a small town in Michigan, the USA. The view from the window during my flights there and back left me with a powerful impression of the differences between Japan and America. I was also fascinated to see how each of the towns I visited had a different look. That led me to an interest in studying the architectural aspects of urban planning, resulting in my choice of an architecture degree. However, when you look at a career in architecture in terms of contributing to making a difference to large numbers of people, it may be difficult to see how this can be done. It is a personal view, but I believe that architecture is in a large part about the potential for self-expression in designing attractive buildings for one's own satisfaction.

This led me to GraSPP out of a desire to learn more about the regulatory and other more macro-level aspects of urban planning. Also, my older brother (Hiroshi) is a graduate of GraSPP.

About once a week, I like to go out for a walk and look at buildings. Because the architecture course at Waseda was design-focused, it is always the design of a building that catches my eye. Likewise when I travel, it is almost always about architecture. One of the buildings I like around Hongo is St. Mary's Cathedral, which was designed by Kenzo Tange. I like the concrete walls and the way the light flows down along them. Viewing modern buildings with a strong design component is something I get a kick out of. I was very excited when I discovered the Mori Ogai Memorial Museum designed by Yoshiro Taniguchi, in Sendagi near where I live. The Yanesen neighborhood where this building is located is quite unlike anything in Niigata, with a very "shitamachi" feel that is neither urban nor rural.



Mitsuru (right) and his older brother Hiroshi (left)

I have a connection with Yanaka that goes back to my time as an undergraduate. For my graduation project, I worked with two other students on a proposal for a new Nippori Station building that earned us second place. Two things that characterize Nippori Station are 1) that it sits on the border between two administrative districts, and 2) that it is a major hub for changing trains, with only about one-tenth of passengers exiting from the station to the surrounding neighborhood. The aim of the project was to look at how to revitalize this divided area by encouraging transferring passengers to go out of the station. My work on this project left me with a strong sense of the need to consider how architecture impacts society, and of my own need to know about more than architecture.

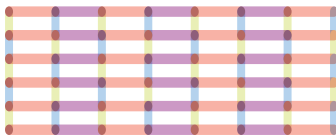
— Your graduate school life has been going for two months now. How are you finding the day-to-day reality of the Economic Policy Program?

There are a lot of compulsory classes that are keeping me very busy. As I only started studying economics for the entry examination, I am struggling to catch up with the other students who have been studying economics since their undergraduate years. If I am able to complete macroeconomics, microeconomics, and econometrics all together in this first semester, things should get a lot easier from the next semester on. With nine periods a week of classes in English, I am feeling swamped with preparation and review, so I'm gambling on the tests! I hate to lose so I don't want to do worse than those around me.

I will also start an internship at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. I anticipate this will involve working as a group with other student interns at the ministry on the sort of topics being covered in our classes, and then presenting this in the form of recommendations. We will be guided in this by ministry staff who will act as mentors.

As for my current ideas about future employment, I would like to find a job at a think tank or consultancy. My aim would be to develop myself as much as possible by building up experience so that I could take what I have learnt back to my home in Niigata. I hope to return to Niigata in the future. Because I love architecture, a job that combines architecture and economics would be ideal.

(Interview and text by editor)



Chronicles of a 'Ryugakusei'

Aswathi John MPP/IP 1st Year



When the China Airlines carrier in which I was flying finally landed at Narita, I disembarked with a bag of mixed feelings not knowing what to expect in the ensuing days. I met my tutor on the second day of arrival and got to know about some basics on 'life in Tokyo' which definitely eased my nerves. During initial exploration of the city, it appeared to me that, unlike in India, where human interaction is the order of everyday life, you could possibly get by a day in Tokyo sans such communication! Nonetheless the city was cordial and considerate, from streets (where people around you are always willing to spare a cue, if you are in need of any help) to shops (where shop assistants would welcome you with a greeting of "irashaimase"). I remember having felt that "Tokyo is manageable", when I successfully waded my way through the crowded metro and streets to the GraSPP building to join my cohort for the summer intensive course.

Settling down in the city, both physically and emotionally, was made easier by the affable ambience at GraSPP and gracious nature of the city itself. Tokyo enchants everyone who comes to find a shelter under its wings. In spite of being the epicentre of technology and fashion in Asia, historical conventions and customs still flavour the city ethos and I was amazed to experience this fine blend of sophistication and tradition around me. As I'm nearing completion of my first year in the city and at GraSPP, I have come to greatly appreciate what I have experienced and learned both inside and outside classrooms. Excitement of living in this unique city, pride of being a Todai student and keenness of pursuing the subject of my interest bolster my spirits to push the envelope each day.

On academic front, timeliness and appropriateness of pursuing policy management studies has never been more evident to me. Given the backdrop of global economic recoupment and persisting challenges toward attaining MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), deep understanding and analysis of policy issues has become more critical and relevant. Multi-disciplinary and practise-oriented approach at GraSPP effectively caters to this requirement. Since most of our professors are eminent practitioners in their relevant fields, lessons drawn from the repository of their experience add further value to the curriculum. GraSPP also provides opportunities to comprehend governance framework and policies in Japan which helps international students to draw lessons in comparison to their home countries.

GraSPP is truly a potpourri of cultures as there are students from all continents of the world. On personal note, getting first hand exposure to different cultures and cuisines has been a really exciting ingredient of the journey here. By being a part of this multicultural microcosm, one learns to expand her/his sensibilities and emotions beyond shackles of territorial borders and evolve into a global citizen. I hope that as potential future policy makers, each one of us would be able to act as bridges across societies and nations and would be instrumental in materialising effective policy solutions for the betterment of collective.

Topical News

12 IMF-JISPA scholarship students visited Hiroshima in early May on an IMF Academic Trip. Blessed with the invigorating weather of the Setouchi area, the visit included the Atomic Bomb Dome (a World Heritage Site), Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and Mazda Museum. In Miyajima, they also visited another World Heritage Site, Itsukushima Shrine, and tried their hands at making momiji manju, a maple leaf shaped bean paste bun. Everyone donned aprons and set to work making the buns, and got to enjoy the fruits of their labor hot of the griddle.



Mitsuru Matsunawa, the subject of this newsletter's student interview, previously had an older brother at GraSPP. This may well be the first case of brothers studying here. GraSPP has already been going for ten years, and hearing about this gave me a strong feeling of how it is through things like this that we build up our history. No doubt it won't be too long before we have students here who claim that their parents attended before them. (Editor)

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