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## The 39th Public Policy Seminar : Public Panel Discussion

## “Japan’s Global Warming Strategy – What are the Repercussions?”

Assistant Professor Masahiro Matsuura



The 39th Public Policy Seminar featuring a public panel discussion on “Japan’s Global Warming Strategy-What are the Repercussions?” took place on June 17 at Koshiba Hall in conjunction with the sponsored lecture series “Sustainable Energy/Environment and Public Policy”. Over 100 audience members comprising both students from the Graduate School of Public Policy and members of the general public participated. The event included presentations on Japan’s global warming strategy by an assortment of stakeholders from various fields with the sub-plot of the discussion focusing on emissions trading.

The key note presentation was given by Mr. Takaya Imai, former Director of the Economic Policy Unit (currently Director of Policy Planning and Coordination Division) at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, who presented a summary of the global warming dilemma and touched upon recent trends in the development of mitigation strategies. In the ensuing panel discussion that was introduced by Dean Yoshitsugu Kanemoto, presenters spoke on the current status of global warming mitigation efforts and

presented various perspectives in regard to the form that future developments should take in regard to global warming strategic planning. Proposals were put forth by Mr. Yoshihiro Kageyama (General Manager of the Environmental Department of the Tokyo Electric Power Company), Mr. Masayuki Sasanouchi (Senior General Manager of Toyota Motor Corporation), Mr. Naoyuki Yamagishi (Climate Change Programme Leader from the WWF) and Prof. Tatsuyoshi Saijo (Osaka University). From the presentations through to the ensuing Q&A session, all presenters candidly shared their opinions on the intended goal of the emissions trading system, methodological challenges and anticipated impacts of implementing such a system.



## New Project Introduction:

# The Development of Technology Assessment Techniques for Assessing the Impact of Advanced Technology on Society

Innovation and Institutionalization of Technology Assessment (I2TA) in Japan

Visiting Professor Tatsujiro Suzuki

Technology Assessment (TA) is a support tool for policy making which was pioneered in the 1960's in the US in order to comprehensively assess the potential impact on society (pros and cons) of technology before it is introduced into society. Subsequently, the technique became institutionalized in policy circles in Europe during the reforms of the 1980's and 1990's. Compared to the comprehensive nature of TAs conducted in the US and Europe which go as far as to assess societal impact, the necessary reforms have not been introduced in Japan to allow TAs to be used as policy support tools. Accordingly, it is amidst this backdrop that the current project has been proposed with the goal of institutionalizing the use of TA in Japan. Commencement of the proposed three and a half year project began in October 2007 with public research funding assistance provided by the Japan Science and Technology Agency's Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society.

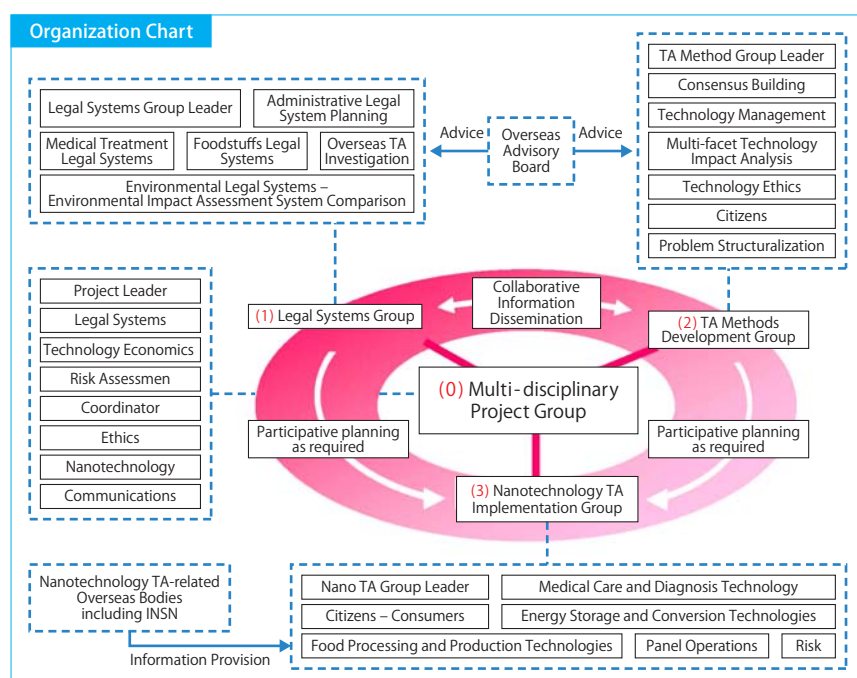
The aims of this project can be broadly divided into three areas. Firstly, in addition to shedding light on the necessary conditions for establishing a TA system, it is also necessary to clarify the barriers that have prohibited the institutionalization of TA as a tool for evaluating the impact of technology in Japan. From the 1970's through to the 1990's, there was political interest in the establishment of a Diet-controlled TA Agency modeled on the US Congress' Office of Technology Assessment but it did not come to fruition. Accordingly, a detailed analysis of the background to this case will be carried out. It is thought that this project can play a

role in catalyzing a resurgence of political interest in such an agency. Secondly, another facet of the project will build on the newest methodological developments for TAs in the United States and Europe to both construct and validate the effectiveness of new TA approach. Using the nanotechnology field as a technology focus, techniques designed to help anticipate the disparate problems of a diverse set of stakeholders (problem structuralization) will be integrated into TAs for evaluation. In order to customize a TA for nanotechnology evaluation, participation will be sought from researchers, industry players, social scientists, consumer groups and other actors that are active in the nanotechnology field. Thirdly, as the ultimate objective, the concepts, techniques and implementation framework of this new TA approach will be summarized in a proposal that concretely identifies the reforms necessary in order to institutionalize the new TA.

The Science, Technology and Public Policy unit (SciTePP) of the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Public Policy will serve as the host of the research collaboration which enlists the support of organizations such as the Kochi University of Technology, the Citizens Science Institute Japan and the National Institute for Materials Science. The seven participating members from SciTePP include Prof. Hideaki Shiroyama, Asst. Prof. Masahiro Matsuura, Special Research Fellows Ms. Ayako Kamisato, Ms. Makiko Matsuo, Ms. Ryoko Hatanaka, Mr. Go Yoshizawa, and Visiting Prof. Tatsujiro Suzuki. The entire research team is comprised of specialists in

technology policy, administrative studies, technology ethics, riskassessment, technology management, consensus building and risk communication. Participants have also been added from virtually every applied corner of the nanotechnology industry. Moreover, an advisory board comprised of four overseas specialists has been established to provide comments and feedback on all aspects of the project.

For society, TA is an essential process for ensuring a harmonious relationship between technology and the elements of society that are touched by technology. In order to contribute to truly understanding the synergies which exist between technology and society and to better capitalize on this relationship, no efforts will be spared during the undertaking of this project.



## Faculty Research



### Katsuhiro Yamaguchi

Senior Director for Logistic Policy, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism  
(\*Manuscript produced during tenure as Professor at the University of Tokyo)

Since the 1990s, growing importance of pursuing “value for money” in public investment has triggered paradigm shift regarding the manner in which government influences and intervenes the private sector. Before the turn of the century, transport field was encompassed by such a reform where cost-benefit analysis and regulatory impact analysis have been introduced. My concern, however, was that theoretical advances in transport economics and industrial organization have not been sufficiently utilized and applied in evaluating the impact of actual transport policies. Accordingly, the motivation for my research has been to try and make contribution in filling the gap.

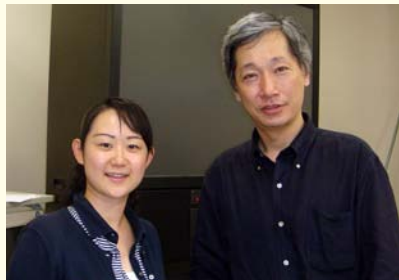
There are various ways to conceptualise research design. My view is that it is essential that following three elements are effectively integrated: appropriate policy agenda setting, adequate theoretical framework and sound data collection. My past works include macro-economic impact analysis of inter-regional transport accessibility in Japan and assessment of US “Open Skies” air transport deregulation policy on international trade. I have also attempted some policy simulations such as i) the influence that liberalization of air transport markets in Northeast Asia would have on air passengers and airline carriers, ii) whether it is more desirable to establish an absolute or intensity cap for the future airline transport global emissions trading scheme, and iii) what the competitive implications would be for the airline industry given the service level of railway in inter-city transport in Japan.

Education and research are two wheels on the same cart. In the Graduate School of Public Policy, I was able to cultivate a great deal of knowledge through lectures and applied research. Moreover, it can be said that superlative research activities are those which are couched in writing papers. The feeling that one gets from empirically confirming theoretical prediction is like that of striking a vein of ore amidst the seams of a rocky mountain. I hope to continue writing papers that may be short in length but are enlightening in substance.

## Graduate School Course Report

### No.6 : War and Film (Prof. Kiichi Fujiwara)

By Kazuyo Hanai (International Public Policy Course - Year 1)



The course “War and Film” is a research seminar which examines how war is expressed in film and the manner in which the expression of war changes over time.

As a mass art form, for a film to be a hit, it must incorporate elements that the viewer can connect with. Yet, how can viewers who have never had the type of experiences depicted in the film be connected to and moved by the film?

In his lecture, Prof. Kiichi Fujiwara presents selected excerpts from films to facilitate an analysis on why certain elements of a movie catalyze an emotional response in the audience. In battle scenes, unsteady camerawork, the sound of bullets resounding from the left and right speakers, and errant sprays of blood are all techniques that draw the audience into the battle and create a sense of being there. Therefore, in the climax, when the audience hears the lone survivor tearfully

declare “the sacrifices that were made in that battle, were made so that the rest of us could live”, they are moved by the moment. However, it is important to note that these techniques that are used to connect with the audience have also come into use as a form of propaganda.

Film is also a media for expressing the common ideals of society and films also reflect the times in which they were made. For example, hydrogen bomb testing gave rise to “Godzilla” and the events surrounding 9-11 gave birth to numerous anti-terrorist films. In depictions of the Pearl Harbor attack there are stark differences between films made in America versus films made in Japan or even such films made in the 1940s versus those made in recent times. The analysis of film is ineluctably entwined with the analysis of society during certain periods.

Prof. Fujiwara’s presentation of the material is enthralling. Those attending the lectures are drawn into the mysteries encrypted in the films eliciting moments of discovery and new insight.

Starting in June, the course incorporated a series of “discovery” presentations by the attending students. After being assigned to one of five themes, students took turns delivering presentations on films dealing with war propaganda, the Holocaust, post-war Japan, spying and anti-terrorism. Every week, impassioned presentations and debates ensued. Through the efforts made to dig deeply into the topics for new insights, it was clear that all the seminar attendees were infused with a passion for the enquiry. War and film has truly been an exciting course.

# Topical News

A six volume compilation entitled *Policy Reform and the Transformation of Governance* edited by Prof. Kazuo Ogushi, Prof. Toshiyuki Kanai, Prof. Hideaki Shiroyama, Prof. Susumu Takahashi, and Prof. Akira Morita is now being released by the University of Tokyo Press. In addition to works from the editors, the series includes insights by authors such as Associate Prof. Masaki Taniguchi, Visiting Prof. Tatsujiro Suzuki, JST Research Fellows Ryoko Hatanaka and Makiko Matsuo.



A Japanese edition of *Breaking Robert's Rules* by Lawrence E. Susskind and Jeffrey L. Cruikshank that was translated by Prof. Hideaki Shiroyama and Asst. Prof. Masahiro Matsuura has been published by Yuhikaku Publishing.



## Field Trip for Visiting Overseas Students

From June 5 until June 6, thirty-seven overseas students from the Graduate School of Public Policy and the Faculty of Law/ Graduate Schools for Law and Politics joined five staff members on an educational excursion to Nikko and Kinugawa. Arrival in Nikko on the first day began with a sumptuous yuba (soy milk skin) lunch. Then, after a guided tour of Toshogu Shrine, everyone got to experience first-hand the traditional Nikko craft of wood engraving by embossing hand-held wooden mirrors. Day 2 featured sightseeing tours to the Tobu World Square (world heritage building replicas scaled down to 1/25th of original size) and Edo Wonderland (Nikko Edo-mura)(traditional Japanese village). For the overseas students who participated, the trip left all with many memories, closer bonds of friendship and deeper cultural insights.

(Kotoko Ogawa, International Student Advisor)



A symposium on the Capital Markets and Public Policy will take place at the Tetsumon Hall on Friday, October 17.

Editor's  
Postscript

This is our first official first newsletter in English. We welcome your comments on it.

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