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New Double Degree Program Begins with Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Nobue Nachi, International Relations Coordinator

On November 11, 2009, Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP) of the University of Tokyo signed a memorandum with National University of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy on the implementation of the double degree system. This is the first double degree program for the University of Tokyo. The news attracted media attention.

The double degree program is a form of international exchange which operates at a more advanced level compared to student exchange programs. It allows students to study at a university in a foreign country on a full-time basis while keeping their student status at their home university. Credits are mutually transferable, and it is possible for students to receive two degrees under the agreement. We expect that studying abroad as a regular student will help our students cultivate a truly international character, and increase their potential for working in the country or region where they studied.

In recent years, top tier public policy graduate schools are forming a network with a view to expanding double degree programs. GraSPP wanted to participate in such a network as a leading Japanese university so as to enhance cooperation with universities around the world. We started to work on the implementation of a double degree program about three years ago, in the fall of 2006. Back in 2006, I was in charge of administrative matters relating to student exchange agreements. I simply thought at that time that we would not attract much attention from the network unless we had a double degree program. Prof. Takatoshi Ito was the head of the GraSPP's international relations then. I still remember Prof. Ito sighed when I asked him if we were going to do a "double degree program". What I did not know was that the University of Tokyo did not have a double degree program back then. When (then)

Dean Morita explained to me that we were about to start coordinating faculties within the University, I felt like fainting. Nevertheless the introduction of a double degree program is in line with the Japanese government policies as well as these of the University of Tokyo to promote international exchanges. We have finally reached the start line, thanks to the efforts and endeavors of our professors. We are also starting a new program called the "Master of Public Policy/International Program (MPP/IP)". This program will be taught mainly in English so that we can attract many more foreign students of outstanding caliber. The classes will start in October, 2010.

GraSPP currently has student exchange agreements with Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (USA), Sciences Po (France), Hertie School of Governance (Germany), and so on. We will keep working with them as well and negotiate to set up a double degree program with them so that we can participate in the world-wide double degree network.



Report on the 4th GPPN Student Conference

Kayo Matsushita, International Public Policy Division, 1st year

The 4th GPPN (Global Public Policy Network) Student Conference was held at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, in November 2009. Thirteen GraSPP students attended the conference.

GPPN is a network of graduate schools of public policy worldwide. The conference was organized by the students for the purpose of facilitating the exchanges of ideas among students around the world. The 4th conference was attended by 130 students from Lee Kuan Yew School, Sciences Po (France), London School of Economics and Political Science (UK), Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (USA), Hertie School of Governance (Germany), the University of Tokyo, and so on.

The keynote speakers from international agencies and universities and unit sessions by students followed the theme "Crisis as Opportunities: What Policy Do We Need for Sustainable Development Today?" I was particularly impressed by the comment made by Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN. He said that we were the crew of a boat which needed leadership to steer it so as to change old organization and structures.

Many participants had experience working for governments, international agencies or the private sector. Discussions were lively and practical based on the participants' fields of specialty. At the unit session on development assistance, where the presentation was given on the Chinese ODA, students who were familiar with African Development Bank as well as the ODA activities of Japan

and UK voiced many different views and we all seriously debated the issue of "what is needed to improve the situation" .

We became acutely aware during the conference that our world was becoming increasingly diversified. This reinforced our recognition that it was essential to approach the issues by cooperation among diverse sectors if we were to solve the issues we faced. Although it is not easy to reach and implement any agreement, we were hopeful that we would create a future together with so many of those brilliant students. This was the second conference the University of Tokyo participated, and we increased the number of attending students to thirteen from four at the previous conference. We hope to expand our network and contribute to the world as a member of the global society.



Public Lecture by Mr. Ken Ash, OECD Director of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate

Kazuyuki Nemoto, Economic Policy Division, 2nd year

On December 8, 2009, Mr. Ken Ash, OECD Director of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate, gave a lecture on "International Trade: Free, Fair and Open?" The lecture was jointly hosted by the Public Policy Seminar and the Case Study (Financial Globalization and Regional Monetary Integration). In spite of the fact that it was held during lunch hour, many students attended and listened intently to Mr. Ash's lecture.

Based on the signs of recovery seen in economic conditions up to the end of 2008, Mr. Ash opened his lecture by giving an overall positive assessment of the responses of major countries to the current global financial crisis which included fiscal stimuli and access to short-term liquidity. Even though there was some concern for the public debt balances of the OECD member countries, rising unemployment and domestic procurement by governments, Mr. Ash welcomed the fact that there relatively few trade restrictions emerged after the outbreak of the global financial crisis.

Mr. Ash continued by emphasizing that free and fair multilateral trade, not protectionism, was essential if the world economies to enjoy sustainable growth and prosperity. This was the strongest message in his lecture. According to Mr. Ash, on the other hand, free trade per se would not be enough to spur growth which would have to be complemented by a wide range of social and

labor policies.

The 10-minute question and answer period that followed the lecture was filled with the students in attendance asking about the future of policy cooperation and government procurement programs. Mr. Ash emphasized the importance of intergovernmental cooperation if each country were to implement an appropriate exit strategy. With respect to the WTO government procurement agreement, Mr. Ash pointed out that the establishment of more effective penalties would be a challenge in the future.

We students rarely have an opportunity to listen to a frontline practitioner, and it was a valuable lecture. I believe that many students in attendance found Mr. Ash's lecture an inspiration for their future careers.



— I heard you are a father.

My son was born last summer (2009). My wife, who is also a student studying for a doctorate at the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences of the University of Tokyo, declared, "It's now or never if I am ever going to have a baby!" We are fortunate to be in a very good environment with a child care facility right on the campus.

Even though I intend to bear an equal share of child rearing and housework, actually, our shares are like six-to-four, or even seven-to-three. I feel sorry that she has ended up carrying a heavier burden. I try, but the baby won't go to sleep or stop crying (it's an excuse, I know).

— What made you decide to enroll in GraSPP?

I hardly attended classes in my undergraduate years. I was too busy playing baseball for the university. I was a typical "varsity baseball team" student who just wrote exams to collect enough credits. In my fourth year, however, I started to wonder about what I would do going into a world in such a condition. I also started to regard public service as a career option. These were two reasons which made me decide to enroll in GraSPP.

— How did you spend your days at GraSPP?

At first, I was frantically making up to the shortcomings of my four undergraduate years. Initially I selected the International Public Policy Division. While I was looking around for interesting classes, I ended up specializing in economics, which was the same as in my undergraduate days.

The most impressive class was "Development Studies" (Prof. Jin Sato) which I took in the winter term of my first year at GraSPP. I found sparring over opinions of other students with different backgrounds very stimulating.

Right now, I am focused on "Case Study (Real Estate Securitization and Urban and Regional Policy)" by Professors Kanamoto, Hihara, Naito and Mouri, as well as "Case Study (Japanese Macroeconomic Policy)" by Professors Ito and Hosen. The former explores the issues relating to urban transport policy using the case of the Nippori-Toneri Liner while the latter takes a look at policies to combat low birthrates. I am particularly interested in the latter subject because, in addition to the fact it is one of the key issues in the Japanese economy, I am now the father of a child. Japan's total fertility rate (TFR) is 1.37, but the motivation for having children is not that low. For example, if all wishes for marriage and childbearing were to come true (with a rate of lifetime singlehood under 10% and a couple producing more than 2.0 children during their lifetime), the TFR is likely to rise to 1.75 (by 2040)¹. What do we need to eliminate this gap between the ideal and reality? We hope to make policy proposals based on cost and benefit to improve daycare centers and the childcare leave system as well as economic assistance (i.e. allowances).

Off campus, I am working as a research assistant to Prof. Ryutaro Komiya at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry. Prof. Komiya is the special adviser there. It is a great learning opportunity for me to hear the kind of debates that were going on in the past. It is really the "opportunity of personally meeting the esteemed one". For me it is like a private seminar rather than a part-time job.

1. Document of a special group on demographic changes, Social Security Council, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (January 26, 2007)



Takeshi Asano

Economic Policy Division, 2nd year

Student Interview

— Have you found a job?

Yes, I have accepted a job at the investment banking division of Nomura Securities. My senpai of GraSPP told me that "it's the right job for you". (I don't know what he meant.) My wife is already putting pressure on me to "work hard and make a lot of money". I am determined to work hard because I feel this company is my destiny. However, I want to keep in mind that "a man who doesn't spend time with his family can never be a real man" [The Godfather (1972)].

(Interview and Text by Editor)

[Photo] With his baby son, Ryunosuke, in front of the Todai Kashiwa-Donguri Day Nursery



A Farewell Message

Tatsujiro Suzuki

Former Visiting Professor (currently Vice Chairman, Japan Atomic Energy Commission, Cabinet Office)

Three years and nine months have passed since I first came to the Administration Bureau Building 2 in April of 2006. Following a period being a founding member of the endowment lecture "Sustainable Energy/Environment and Public Policy (SEPP)", I have been involved in the "Innovation and Institutionalization of Technology Assessment in Japan" (I2TA Project) as well as teaching courses during summer and winter terms. It is regrettable that I have to leave GraSPP with these important duties unfinished as a result of my unexpected appointment to Atomic Energy Commission of the Cabinet Office (full-time) by the Diet. I would like to take this opportunity to express my regrets and leave a brief message before my departure from GraSPP.

My research has consistently focused on the relationship of society and science and technology, particularly nuclear energy. My particular interests have been the way public policy should be. I went to the United States in 1976 looking for a place to study public policy which was, and still is, difficult to find for a person with an engineering background. I was extremely fortunate that I

was able to work for GraSPP thirty years later, and work with Prof. Shiroyama to launch the Science, Technology and Public Policy (SciTePP) research unit to oversee the SEPP and the I2TA. Now I have been given another chance to apply the knowledge I accumulated through my research activities to the actual nuclear energy policy. As I see no way I can turn my back on this opportunity, I have decided to take up this challenge head on even if it means that I have to leave all other work behind. For the next three years, I will do my best as an atomic energy commissioner with the perspectives of a researcher and make contributions in any way I can to the decision-making on the actual policies and solutions to problems. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all of you who have been most supportive. As I will continue to be involved in the I2TA projects, I am looking forward to meeting you again sometime.

Lastly, I have a message for the students: Never forget your dream, and persevere in walking down the path you believe in.

See you again!!



Homecoming Day

On November 14, 2009, the 2009 Homecoming Day was another smashing success. At the end of the day, more than 100 professors, alumni and current students exchanged fond farewells for another year. Together with the career design seminar that preceded the main event, time flew like an arrow. The next spring will be the 5th anniversary of GraSPP Alumni Association. We promise to make the future reunions a place for alumni and current students to come closer.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I would like to thank Dean Kanamoto and all of the people who have given us helping hands.

Ken Sunohara, Nagano Station, JR East (Class of 2009)



I remember there was a sensational ad by the old Ministry of Health and Welfare in the mid-1990s, featuring a popular entertainer holding his child. It declared, "We do not call a man who does not raise his child father". More than a decade has passed since then, and a man holding his baby or leading his child by hand is an increasingly familiar sight. Perhaps it is before long when the photograph of the student with his child in this newsletter becomes an ordinary scene. (Editor)

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