

## GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2017 Report

The GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2017 took place this year on Saturday, October 21. It was the eleventh anniversary of our Homecoming Day, now called "GraSPP Alumni & Student Day" or "GASD" with the hope of enhancing alumni and student networking opportunities. The day began with a plenary session, followed by four parallel sessions and a networking reception. About 170 alumni, including 48 invitees of the ASEAN & South Asia Youth Mission to Japan organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, joined current students, faculty and staff members to participate in these activities. The number of participants was larger than the previous years despite scattered showers throughout the day due to a huge typhoon approaching Tokyo. This gathering at our new home base, called the "International Academic Research Building" was very much exciting and fruitful.

### Plenary Session



Plenary Session at the SMBC Academic Hall in the International Academic Research Building

Prof. Jun Arima gave opening remarks at the Plenary Session, followed by President of GraSPP Alumni Association Kunro Hino's remarks and Dean Toshiaki Iizuka's welcoming words to alumni and current students.



(From left) Ms. Yuna Yamamura (Class of 2012, International Public Policy Program, Vice President of GraSPP Alumni Association) and Mr. Akito Goto (Class of 2018, MPP/IP) as masters of ceremony, Prof. Jun Arima, Mr. Kunro Hino (Class of 2013, Economic Policy Program, President of GraSPP Alumni Association) and Dean Toshiaki Iizuka

The alumni panel discussion had three panelists, Ms. Lully Miura (Class of 2006, International Public Policy Program), Ms. Lindsey Tan Lim (Class of 2015, MPP/IP) and Mr. Arthur El Medioni (Class of 2017, MPP/IP), joined by Ms. Yuri Tsuyusaki (Class of 2016, Campus Asia Course) as the moderator. The three panelists talked about their individual experiences and expectations of the alumni network. Ms. Lim, representing the alumni invitees in ASEAN & South Asia Youth Mission, shared with the audience the outcome of the brainstorming discussion which took place in the morning among Mission participants. Following input from the audience, Dean Iizuka and Mr. Kunro Hino (Class of 2013, Economic Policy Program) expressed their thoughts for activating the Alumni network going forward.



(From left) Ms. Yuri Tsuyusaki (Class of 2016, Campus Asia Program) as the moderator, Ms. Lully Miura (Class of 2006, International Public Policy Program), Ms. Lindsey Tan Lim (Class of 2015, MPP/IP) and Mr. Arthur El Medioni (Class of 2017, MPP/IP), joined by Dean Toshiaki Iizuka (above), Mr. Kunro Hino (President of GraSPP Alumni Association) (below)

## Parallel Sessions

Four parallel sessions were organized after the break. In Parallel Session 1, challenges faced by local government administrations were discussed based on the reports made by Mr. Ryuichi Takahashi (Class of 2005, Legal Policy Program), Ms. Emi Ebara (Class of 2006, Public Management Program) and Mr. Atsushi Okada (Class of 2009, Public Management Program). Prof. Emeritus Akira Morita (the first Dean) also joined the discussion. Parallel Sessions 2 through 4 provided professional networking opportunities by field of expertise. Country alumni teams from Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand took the lead during each session, with Prof. Jun Arima and Prof. Toshiro Nishizawa joining the discussion.

Parallel Session 1 "How can we learn about local government administration at GraSPP?"

Parallel Session 2 "Share Your Story!" (Government Group)

Parallel Session 3 "Share Your Story!" (Bankers' Group)

Parallel Session 4 "Share Your Story!" (Business & Research Group)



Parallel Session 1



Parallel Session 2



Parallel Session 3



Parallel Session 4

## Networking Reception

The finale of the 2017 GraSPP Alumni & Student Day at "Goten" in Sanjo Conference Hall with many current and former faculty members (without honorifics): Jun Arima, Nobuhiko Fuwa, Eiichi Hasegawa, Toshiaki Iizuka (Dean), Isao Kamae, Yoshitsugu Kanemoto (the second Dean), Masatoshi Minowa, Akira Morita (the First Dean), Toshiro Nishizawa, Hikaru Ogawa, Akio Takahara (Vice Dean), Yoshihiko Uchida and Naoki Wakamori. All the participants, including the current students and staff, renewed their ties, fostered new friendships, and strengthened their networks in a joyful and relaxed atmosphere.



Networking Reception at "Goten" in Sanjo Conference Hall

At the Networking Reception, while introducing the newly-launched "GraSPP Alumni Association Portal" website by the GraSPP Alumni Association ("Tatsuoka-kai"), Mr. Kunro Hino (President of the Association) and Mr. Arthur El Medioni delivered a joint message: "The GraSPP Alumni Association is going to be open to the world since the school has been attracting an increasing number of international students these days. For this reason, the Association has launched GraSPP Alumni Association Portal to facilitate our alumni, current students, and faculty and staff members to keep in touch and communicate easily across borders."

►GraSPP Alumni Association Portal  
<https://www.grasppalumni.com/>

**GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2018 is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2018.**

### **ASEAN & South Asia Youth Mission to Japan**

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) provided GraSPP with an opportunity to invite a youth group under its "ASEAN & South Asia Youth Mission to Japan" program, in particular targeting GraSPP alumni from ASEAN and South Asian countries. Responding to the call for participation, 43 alumni and 5 guests from GraSPP partner organizations joined the Mission. The program of activities from October 18 to 24 included two site visits (Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park and the Japan Environmental Storage & Safety Corporation), an environment and disaster prevention seminar, brainstorming future alumni activities, participation in GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2017 and a field trip to Nagaoka City in Niigata for tree-planting and site visits (such as the Nagaoka Disaster Archive Center Kioku Mirai, Yamakoshi Recovery Communication Center Orataru, and Nagaoka City Fire Department among others).



Welcome lunch hosted by faculty and staff members with opening remarks by Prof. Akio Takahara (Vice Dean) at Capo Pellicano in Faculty of Medicine Experimental Research Building



Lecture on "Energy and Climate Change" by Prof. Jun Arima during the Seminar on the Environment and Disaster Prevention at SMBC Academia Hall in the International Academic Research Building



Panel session on "Regional Collaboration in Satellite-based Data Application for Disaster Risk Management" during the Seminar on the Environment and Disaster Prevention at SMBC Academia Hall in the International Academic Research Building with panelists: Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED), Mr. Takayoshi Fukuyo, Project Associate Professor, Center for Spatial Information Science and Advisor to Cabinet Office and Mr. Toshihiro Obata, Researcher, Intelligent Space Systems Laboratory, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Graduate School of Engineering, joined by Mr. Quentin Verspieren, doctoral student, GraSPP as the moderator.



The Mission' brainstorming future alumni activities at Lecture Hall B in the International Academic Research Building



Lunch with current students at SMBC Academia Hall in the International Academic Research Building