

LETTER

GraSPP
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

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Departure... to a New World: AY2018 GraSPP Autumn Diploma Presentation Ceremony



The GraSPP Fall Graduation Ceremony for 2018 was held on the fine autumn afternoon of September 14 at the SMBC Academia Hall in the International Academic Research Building. Resplendent in their academic gowns or suits, the 49 graduates who attended the ceremony did so with a degree of trepidation in their faces. The ceremony took place amid a hushed atmosphere and before a large audience, many of them family members. The congratulatory speech to the graduates by Dean Akio Takahara saw more than a few students tearing-up at the warm message conveyed. This was followed by the Dean presenting degree certificates individually to the graduates, who received them with bright and happy smiles and an exchange of handshakes. The subsequent announcement of the top academic achievers was greeted with strong applause. The happy day then closed with a group photograph of graduates and faculty, leaving smiles all round among those attending.

Message from Graduate Representative

Class of 2018, MPP/IP

Jacqueline Yoshiko ENZMANN

Summing up my time at GraSPP in just a few hundred words has proven to be quite the difficult task considering the breadth of experience I've had over the past two years. As I look back, I am most grateful to GraSPP for bringing together a diverse student body of global academics united by an interest in public policy and a passion for building bridges between countries. While I will be sad to see many of my friends and colleagues return to their home countries or pursue opportunities elsewhere, I take comfort in the fact that I have built a network of connections across Asia and around the world, a souvenir from my time at GraSPP that I will surely keep with me long into the future. On an academic level, the coursework at GraSPP also challenged me to deepen my understanding of international relations and policy analysis, while also pushing me to explore more unfamiliar topics ranging from regional economic development to geopolitical and security issues.

Now with my diploma in hand, I am excited to take the next step in my career with my new job as an editor in the communications department for a nonprofit organization in Japan. I would like to close by thanking my teachers, friends, and family for their support and guidance over the last two years. I'd also like to wish everyone in the autumn graduating class all the best in their future endeavors. We made it!





CAMPUS Asia Okinawa Study Trip Report



From 25 to 27 July, 2018, a group of 22 students and teaching staff from the University of Tokyo, Peking University, and Seoul National University went on a field trip to Okinawa to mark the conclusion of the CAMPUS Asia Joint Course: International Public Policy in East Asia for this semester.

The group visited a number of war and historically themed sites in Okinawa, including the Peace Memorial Park, Himeyuri Memorial Tower, and Itokazu Abuchiragama, a natural cave that was used as a military hospital during the war. Other destinations included a tour of Shuri Castle and attending a performance of Ryukyu classical dance to give the group a taste of Okinawa's distinctive culture, and also Kadena town office, Kakazutakadai Park, and the Okinawa office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which were chosen with national security in mind. The trip also included a factory tour to study the economy and industry of Okinawa and the regional economy, industry, and workforce, and also a seminar by academics from Okinawa International University and Seoul National University.

Despite the limited time available during the three-day field trip, it served as a meaningful opportunity for everyone involved to remind themselves of the significance of the CAMPUS Asia program, further deepening friendships between teaching staff and students while engaging in wide-ranging and well-balanced studies. (International Planning Team)

<Participating student impressions>

- I couldn't help but notice that many of the casualties were from Korea and China. When we visited Peace Memorial Park, many CAMPUS Asia students seemed surprised to see a stone monument commemorating Korean casualties. We realized that the Battle of Okinawa was not just a war between the US and Japan but part of a huge war across all of East Asia. (Japanese Student)

- This three-day Campus Asia trip to Okinawa was an insightful and eye-opening experience to me as a Korean, having been taught that we were the victims of war. I strongly felt the desire of the Japanese people to remember the brutality of war, but also to move forward so that Okinawans could have a brighter future of peace and growth. (South Korean Student)

- The study trip to Okinawa reminds me of my initial impetus to learn more about the region, "I want to be immersed in a variety of cultures and languages, to understand their suffering and delight, and to become a real East Asia citizen." International politics is not only about states and top leaders. It should be felt and interpreted in the daily experience of every individual person. I will never forget the moment when all the visitors turned off their flashlights in the cave, feeling how dark it was and imagining what life would be like living inside the cave with feeble light for months. We should all let the light of peace lead us out of the cave of conflicts. (Chinese Student)

GraSPP Research Seminar Report



International Public Policy, Doctoral Program Year2 Cesare Scartozzi

On July 11, 2018, the Graduate School of Public Policy was pleased to host Dr. Giulio Pugliese, lecturer at the Department of War Studies of King's College London, to give a talk on China-Japan relations and present his latest book co-authored with Aurelio Insisa (*Sino-Japanese Power Politics: Might, Money and Minds*, Palgrave: 2017). The conference was moderated by Dean Akio Takahara and co-hosted with the Policy Alternatives Research Institute as part of the GraSPP Research Seminar series.



Dr. Giulio Pugliese

The GraSPP research seminar series began the past year with a renewed focus and vigor, having already hosted close to a dozen distinguished speakers who addressed expert audiences.

Dr. Pugliese spoke to a broad audience about the complicated and multifaceted relationship between China and Japan. He suggested that, as is the case with the Senkaku Islands dispute, the two countries are playing a "zero-sum game" where each attempts to achieve relative gains at the expense of the other. Dr. Pugliese then argued that China and Japan have become locked in a geo-strategic competition that is played in the domains of "might" (military competition), "money" (economic competition), and "minds" (propaganda and public diplomacy).

Dr. Pugliese discussed in great detail the domain of minds, which was of particular interest to the audience, outlining the latest developments in public diplomacy and information warfare. He pointed out that Japan, prompted by the increasingly bitter rivalry with China, has moved from a simple use of public diplomacy to a proactive campaign of strategic communication. Finally, Dr. Pugliese noted that Japan's message abroad has also significantly changed, with the country now depicting itself as a balancing force against China, a reliable partner, and a guarantor of the international liberal order.



Photograph with the Singaporean Ambassador to Japan

— **I heard you have been working since April?**
 That's right. I have become what they call an "adult student" (laughs).
 I have always been interested in academia, and this is what got me thinking about continuing my studies at graduate school. I was a law student, and the period during my third and fourth undergraduate years when I was wondering about what topic to work on for my masters was a time when the issue of the TPP came up frequently on television and the net. Those news reports and other coverage fed my steadily growing interest in the agricultural economy, leading to my enrolling in the Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences. My supervisor at that time, as well as being an academic, also served on government-related committees, something that struck me as an interesting path to follow. Inspired in part by this teacher, I decided I would like to keep studying with a focus on the intersection of agriculture with politics and policy. That was what led me to apply to GraSPP.

After starting at GraSPP, in addition to my studies, I also devoted myself to embassy volunteer work through the student union and other extracurricular activities. Although I still had concerns of my own, such as my career path and other aspects of my future, my way of thinking about it was that regional economies will not do well if primary industry fails to prosper, and that without prosperous regional economies, the economy of Japan as a whole will fail to thrive. This is what led me toward working in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. I was fortunate to get an agreement allowing me to commence work while still at university, I so started at my job from April of this year.

I inevitably encounter the same terms being used at my workplace in the course of my duties as I hear in my lessons at GraSPP, something that makes me aware of the overlap between study and work. Examples include open databases (making data held by government openly available) and evidence-based policy making (EBPM), both terms that have been referenced in lessons as well as coming up in my work. This gives me a very strong sense that I am working at the same time as I am a student. I find it fascinating how my study and my job are tied together and progress in tandem. This also serves as a reminder of the benefits of studying at GraSPP.

Yoshimune Nakahara

(Year 2, International Public Policy Course)



— **Is there anything special you do to combine work and study?**

Not really. I guess that is because I like school (laughs).
 I always study at the university because I only get distracted by other things if I try to study at home. So whenever I have the time, the university is where I am usually found, especially on weekends. When work finishes early, I drop off my things at home and go straight to the university to keep studying. Of course, I take care not to let this impact my work on the day after. I'm someone who has always liked university. Friends often ask whether trying to do two things at once is difficult, but in fact, because I like university so much, coming here is actually a way to relieve stress. For me, school is the place where I feel most relaxed. That's why I tend to think of myself as a "university hikikomori" (laughs).

Personally, I would like to continue both with my work and my study at the university. If possible, I would love to go on and do a doctorate. Moreover, rather than just deskbound study, I would like to get more people to take an interest in Japan and in agriculture and other forms of primary industry. My hope is to get involved in extracurricular activities that convey the positive aspects of Japan, such as our cuisine which has been growing in popularity overseas in recent times.



Tambo (paddy field) Art at Inakadate Village in the Minamitsugaru District of Aomori Prefecture visited in 2017. Moved by the beauty of paddy fields.



The original California roll in Los Angeles: an opportunity for fresh thinking about Japanese food

MPP/IP 2019 Enrollment Information Session



Future Public Policy Professionals Wanted!

GraSPP hosted 2019 Enrollment Information Sessions for the Master of Public Policy, International Program (MPP/IP) in several Asian cities. Our alumni, faculty members and program coordinators, collectively called "GraSPPers", worked together on a number of occasions. We hope that our face-to-face dialogue with promising future public policy professionals will successfully motivate them to join GraSPP. The cities visited so far this year are Jakarta (July 28), Yangon (July 29), Nay Phi Taw (July 31), Bangkok (August 4), Kathmandu (August 5), Manila (August 7), Ulaanbaatar (August 17), Delhi (August 25), Phnom Penh (September 8) and Vientiane (September 9).

Alumni Contribution to GraSPP Recruitment Efforts

- On July 28 in Jakarta, the 2019 MPP/IP Enrollment Information Session attracted more than 70 Indonesian young professionals who expressed their interest in MPP/IP. I am satisfied that this year's event turned out to be more successful than in the past. We utilized the alumni network to disseminate information on the event so that the number of registrants exceeded 150, including those from remote cities! We have formed a WhatsApp group to keep in contact with participants. GraSPP alumni in Indonesia are ready to help promising Indonesian professionals to know more about GraSPP and to apply for the program

without difficulty because it is the only way for us to give back to our alma mater. We hope that more Indonesians will join us GraSPPers! David Syam Budi Bakroh (Class of 2016, Ministry of Finance, Indonesia)



- We successfully organized an MPP/IP information session open to a wide range of young professionals in Thailand for the first time in 2017. In preparation for the event, a group of Thai alumni, both from the public and private sectors, spent months designing and arranging the program. Our experience last year made this year's event on August 4 in Bangkok even more successful. We provided targeted government agencies with the program brochure and disseminated the event announcement through social media. A GraSPP alumni panel talk enabled the audience to learn more about GraSPP and MPP/IP by sharing their experiences. Suteera Sitong (Class of 2013, Ministry of Finance, Thailand)



TOPICS

Homecoming Day was held on Saturday, October 20th.

At GraSPP, we held a lecture and a discussion meeting entitled "GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2018". A lot of active and graduated students participated. For details, please visit the Homecoming Day site.

<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/tag/homecoming-day/>



Editor's Postscript

Looking back, it seems that this "last Heisei summer" has been full of memorable events, including the heavy rain that struck western Japan in July, followed soon after by typhoons in August and the Hokkaido earthquake at the beginning of September, not to mention the hottest of heat waves. I would like to pass on my heartfelt wishes for the future endeavors of all our new graduates setting out from GraSPP in this historic year of 2018. (Editor)

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