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東京大学公共政策大学院

LETTER

GraSPP
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

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Dean's Greetings to New Students

Congratulations on entering the Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo.



I was looking forward to participating in the opening ceremony at the Hongo campus together with you and your families on April 1. To prevent spread of the COVID-19, however, the ceremony has unfortunately been cancelled, giving priority to protecting everyone's health. I wanted to congratulate all of you on your entrance to GraSPP just the same, so I am sending this message, albeit via our homepage.

Many people have died from the novel coronavirus in Japan and overseas. To begin with, I would like to express my condolences to their families, and also to express my sincere wishes for an early recovery to those who are undergoing medical treatment.

In normal years, we arrange opportunities for you to meet and come to know faculty members, and fellow students through our guidance and orientation programs before classes begin. These activities also had to be cancelled amid the spread of the virus. Classes are being conducted online in accordance with university policy. Across-the-board online education is new to our faculty as well, and many students and faculty may initially be inconvenienced. GraSPP faculty and staff will work together to arrange an environment where our students can study safely, and we intend to provide supports if our students need, and . Our fight against covid-19 will not end very soon, but I believe that together we will overcome obstacles we face, and our academic research and education steadily advance, even under the adverse environment.

The Graduate School of Public Policy has prepared diverse opportunities for you to start your studies here to make great progress, after these difficulties are endured. The GraSPP offers the opportunities for you to gain three key capabilities:

The first is an international perspective. As domestic and international trends become increasingly uncertain, it is necessary to consider the international impacts of all policy measures. To those ends, a multifaceted grasp and understanding of different cultures and societies is essential. This is also the ability to transcend stereotypical cultural perceptions that have become conventional wisdom. GraSPP presents many classes in English, and provides a learning environment where you will be studying together in the same classroom with other future global leaders.

The second is communication skills. Policy making requires consultations with stakeholders, consensus building, and the incorporation of diverse requests, as well as the work of gaining support for the policy. This must be backed by the high-level communications skills of persuasively conveying one's idea to others and of listening to and understanding others' opinions. These others are not limited to people in Japan. In a globalized society, the ability to debate and negotiate in English is indispensable. At GraSPP, we foster high-level communications skills via interactive classes conducted in English.

Third is the ability to analyze evidence-based policy-making processes. Policy formation and assessment must be scientific and fact-based, and evidence should be made when necessary. Realizing such capabilities requires gaining a solid foundation in political science, public administration, economics and other academic fields, as well as the skill to apply academic principles to real-world problems.

The educational objective of this graduate school is to develop professionals who can manifest these abilities required for policy making backed by a high sense of ethics. Today, such aspects of personal capacity are necessary not only in the public policy field but also as top management at private sectors as well

While classes are being initiated under a different format than the usual because of COVID-19, I look forward to all of you making full use of the resources GraSPP provides making great progress toward achieving your life dreams over the next two years.

Congratulations, once again, on entering the Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo.

SDG Fieldwork and

Prof. Roberto ORSI

SDG Fieldwork – Experiencing International Organizations at First Hand



After the United Nations embraced the SDGs as the comprehensive framework for economic and social development in 2015 and until 2030, Japan has fully committed itself to this agenda. In this framework, GraSPP is becoming the leading School for SDG-related education at UTokyo. Among the many initiatives towards this goal, I have been in charge of organising a dedicated *SDG Fieldwork*, namely a special course for eight selected students. The course comprised firstly the attendance of three seminars in November-December 2019 with distinguished speakers. The first seminar was led by Mr. Masato Miyazaki from the World Bank office in Tokyo; the second by former Executive Director of IEA Professor Nobuo Tanaka; the third by Mr. Koji Yamada and Ms. Akiko Oda from JICA. Afterwards, we travelled to Europe to visit several organisations in Paris, Geneva, and Rome, on 12-24 January 2020. In Paris,

we visited AFD (French Agency for Development), OECD, and IEA (International Energy Agency), braving a wave of strikes in France. In Geneva, we visited WHO, ILO, and UN Office, gaining a unique perspective on a series of pressing global issues related to health, work, and workers' conditions. We were delighted to meet with UN Inspector Ms. Keiko Kamioka, who generously hosted our visit at the UN Joint Inspection Unit. In Rome, we visited FAO, as well as the World Food Program (WFP), learning from high experienced practitioners about the persistent problems with food insecurity. We also had the chance to visit LUISS, a leading university in Italy, which is entirely dedicated to the social sciences, with a strong focus on public policy.

I am proud to say that students were very diligent and extremely active, to the point that we received words of sincere appreciation from the many professionals we encountered. Students were enthusiastic about the whole experience, providing extensive feedback, which will allow me to build another exciting *SDG Fieldwork* class for the 2020 academic year.

GPPN Annual Conference 2020 in London

The GPPN Conference is the annual event of the Global Public Policy Network, made up of seven leading schools of public policy worldwide. This year, it took place on 29 February – 1 March 2020 in London, as it was hosted by LSE. Unfortunately some Schools and Deans were not able to join because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Still, it was an exciting and productive event, which saw on the one hand a fruitful exchange among the Deans for the strengthening and further development of GPPN, and on the other, a brilliant contest among public policy projects, the annual Global Policy Challenge (GPC), developed by student teams from the various schools. The topic selected by LSE for this year was “inequality”. GraSPP students had been working on their respective projects and presentations since last autumn, initially divided in 15 groups. After the internal selection at our School, five groups were admitted to the conference in London, for a total of twenty students. The five teams from GraSPP delivered very

high-quality presentations, and won two prizes. The “best analytical project” was awarded to a project on land acquisition in India, and the runner up team was a project on wearable ID for homeless people. We are now looking forward to the next GPPN conference, which will take place in Tokyo around February 2021. If you are a GraSPP student and wish to showcase and test your ideas in front a high quality audience, you should definitely join the next GPC! After the conference, and thank to Professor Arima's efforts, the GraSPP delegation visited two important institutions in London: the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), and the House of Lords, meeting experts and practitioners. In both cases we had a very fruitful exchange with presentations on several political topics, from the geopolitics of Asia to the global economy, to energy and the environment. GraSPP students were very engaging to the point of being openly praised by our hosts. Well done everyone!



GPPN Conference 2020 Report

Rakesh Kumar CHAURASIA (MPP/IP, 2nd Year)



I was privileged to get selected for both SDG fieldwork and GPPN conference. These life-changing events have imparted me invaluable experience under the guidance and mentorship GraSPP Dean Prof. Akio Takahara and of Prof. Roberto Orsi.

We were assigned to solve the problem of a particular/ group of SDGs by formulating a project. I was fascinated by the variety of ideas that came up as a result of the diversity in interdisciplinary background of different group members, and from the different International organizations we visited. Such organizations were ranging from financing institutions like AFD; food security and poverty alleviation like FAO and WFP; labour welfare organizations like ILO; and health-related pioneer organizations like WHO, apart from UN, OECD, IEA, LUISS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. These diverse institutions in France, Switzerland, and Italy have provided us with real insights of their working culture as well as of how they manage their ramifications, within each respective sector, in the developing regions of Asia and Africa. Many scholarly discussions led by our mentor, Prof. Orsi, turned out to be rich sources for further study, and reaffirmed our belief in extraordinary faculty base of GraSPP. The whole study tour was well-planned and highly effective.

The GPPN conference at LSE (London School of Economy), London was another fantastic experience, a high of my academic career. It was a competition between public schools worldwide, but it became also an occasion of *collaboration*.

The agglomeration of innovative ideas to reduce inequality in various aspects, and to improve the condition of society as a whole, was a great chance of mutual learning for all. Our team was awarded as the 'Best Analysis Team' for our proposal called DEAL (Development with Equitable Acquisition of Land), while another GraSPP group won the 1st runner up award. Seeing GraSPP students being able to perform splendidly throughout the conference was quite very satisfactory.

Thanks to Prof. Arima, we got a chance to visit Chatham House, a world-leading international affairs institute and think tank. Further, our visit and tour of the UK House Lords at Westminster Palace mesmerized me. The exchange of ideas with the Lords and members of Parliament about environmental issues and other governance issues left in me a deep impression.

All these achievements would have not been possible without the flawless support from GraSPP administrative staff, especially Ms Aoi Ohno, who was a mainstay for all of us, throughout our GPPN conference and SDG Fieldwork from the very beginning. Finally, I would like to give my utmost thanks to Kotaro, John, Febitna, Lisaho, Vanessa, Schyler, Han, Kai, and Kamal for helping me in my professional enrichment, and personal support during both study tours.



Shiori ITO (International Public Policy, 2nd Year)



I am grateful for the chance of attending the GPPN conference, where I enjoyed an amazing motivational experience.

My group worked on the topic of homelessness in Tokyo for the whole winter semester. As 3 out of 4 group members were studying abroad, we needed to relate on teleconferences, but we managed quite well. We also contacted stakeholders such as U-Tokyo laboratories, NGOs, media, and policy makers, who offered helpful advice. Through this project, we hope that governments can reduce unequal access to public services and ultimately assist the homeless out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

At the GPPN conference, during the first round, I was one of the speakers for 3-minute presentation. To my surprise, our team was shortlisted as one of the finalist, so I had to make a 5-minute presentation after just 2 hours preparation. During the second session, we all presented on the stage, and tried to convey our idea in the most detailed way we could. As a consequence, we were honoured to win the second prize. It was

the very first time to stand on an international academic stage, which seemed to overwhelm me from the beginning. However, this experience of presenting made me feel confident in public speaking and prepared me for my future career.

The conference was a very fruitful experience, as I could also learn from a wide variety of presentations about inequality, and about communication styles.

While it was a tough journey, I truly enjoyed working together with all group members and participating in the conference. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my group members for letting me have an unforgettable experience, and also to GraSPP professors and staff, especially Prof. Suzuki, Prof. Orsi, and Ms. Ohno, for their academic advice and devoted support.



Challenges Facing GraSPP are Ongoing



I cannot express how grateful I am to everyone who has been so helpful during my two years here at GraSPP. That I have been able to make it through my term as dean without serious incident, and despite taking up the position with little knowledge of the job ahead, is a testament first and foremost to everyone in the teaching and administrative staff who

provided such strong support for someone so underqualified. Thank you so much for that. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to everyone else who has provided their understanding and support, both inside the school and outside, and to the students who exchanged greetings with me with such bright-eyed expressions. It seems that I, too, in my way, have managed to “graduate”.

The first concern that struck me on arriving at GraSPP was a fear of exposure to international competition. The GPPN international network of public policy graduate schools to which we belong is full of prestigious university names. Moreover, we are also facing well-known rivals outside the GPPN. For all that The University of Tokyo has made a strong name for itself in Japan, this is not something we can count on internationally. GraSPP finds itself thrust into a cutthroat international competition where we need to determine how best to attract talented students. Moreover, at the same time that this is happening, we also need to fulfil our duty of supplying many of

the public policy professionals who will serve in Japan’s government agencies and other such roles.

This is a competition we cannot allow ourselves to lose. One thing I have realized is that if you fail to move forward you will be left behind; if you don’t swim, you sink. Fortunately, the number of places we are able to offer annually has increased from 110 to 135 for professional master’s students and from six to eight for doctoral students since the 2020 academic year onwards, and we have also added a number of additional teaching staff. Of course, bigger is not necessarily better. Staff and students need to come together and strive to make GraSPP a better institution in whatever ways we can across a range of areas. Were we to slacken our resolve and simply accept the status quo, we would lose the momentum for development and GraSPP would find itself on a slippery slope that carries us into an abyss.

I look in particular to GraSPPers who are still with us or have already graduated. You represent our hope. Are you keeping the student lounge and the elevator hall clean? Don’t forget that the spirit of public service is fostered through the accumulation of small actions.

GraSPP as an institution is still developing, still at the stage of institution building, and as such we have yet to establish an identity for ourselves. While the focus to date has been on teaching, the future calls for greater emphasis on research and for putting forward policy proposals. As the newest and smallest of faculties at The University of Tokyo, as we grapple with problems such as the lack of space and numbers of teaching and administrative staff, GraSPP continues to face challenges. I hope that I can count on your ongoing support in this endeavour.

TOPICS

The GraSPP spring diploma presentation ceremony AY2019 took place on Monday, March 23 at SMBC Academia Hall in the International Academic Research Building.

70 students were conferred the diploma this March.

In order to prevent spreading the Coronavirus, the ceremony was conducted on a smaller scale and the diploma was presented by Professors of the

Graduate School of Public Policy and congratulated for their completion of the program together with GraSPP staff.

The commendation ceremony for high-achieving graduates was also held. The Best Performance Award was presented to one student and the Outstanding Performance Award was presented to three students.



Editor’s Postscript

Currently, COVID-19 is spreading worldwide. GraSPP promotes various infection control measures following the guidelines of the University of Tokyo. We will carry out research and educational activities such as online classes, placing the health and safety of staff and students first. **(Editor)**

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