

LETTER

GraSPP
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

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AY2020 GraSPP Autumn Diploma Presentation Ceremony



Hiroshi Ohashi, Dean (Graduate School of Public Policy)

The GraSPP Autumn diploma presentation ceremony AY2020 took place on September 18 at SMBC Academia Hall in the International Academic Research Building. 59 students were conferred the diploma this September.

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 in PhD program and one in Master program respectively.



My reflection of GraSPP and Tokyo Sa Kimleng (Cambodia) Class of 2020, MPP/IP



Two years at GraSPP is an unforgettable memory for me. The program is well organized with diverse students from different places around the world. Professors and faculty members are friendly and helpful. I came to know various people from different backgrounds. I made friends who always supported and encouraged me. I do feel we enjoyed our campus life together. In a

way, GraSPP teaches one how to be an independent person. Looking back, what reminds me of GraSPP are the vending machines where I could enjoy a cup of coffee and relax. My life in Tokyo was quite special. Of course, living in a foreign country, just like many other foreign students, I went through both good and bad experiences. Although life is not always as I wish, living in Tokyo brought me joy,

peace, and happiness. Japan is a very beautiful country with many places to visit. Maybe I did not travel as much as my friends, but I did experience the culture and nature in Japan to some extent. Taking this opportunity, I would like to



express my sincere gratitude to my research supervisor, professors at GraSPP, faculty members, and friends that helped me a lot during my time in Tokyo.



“GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2020” Event Report



On October 17, the “GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2020” was held online, with participation from about 70 alumni, current students and faculty members.

At the first talk session, Prof. Kiichi Fujiwara and Prof. Akio Takahara made a presentation about “International Political Situation under COVID-19 and US-China relations” under the moderation of Prof. Jun Arima. There were active questions and comments from the alumni and students.

The next alumni panel discussion had four panelists, Ms. Faelasufa (MPP/IP ‘16), Mr. Sakthishwarran Kalasegaran (MPP/IP ‘16), Ms. Miyuki Tsuru (CAMPUS Asia ‘18) and Ms. Yuuki Nakao (MPP/IP ‘20), with Mr. Sandeep Rajgopal (MPP/IP ‘15) as the moderator.

The panelists talked about their individual experiences at their workplaces under the COVID-19 and provided advice on how to cope with this unique situation.

The event concluded with a chat session, where the participants were divided to groups of graduation years followed by mixed groups in a joyful and relaxed atmosphere.

Mr. Sandeep Rajgopal

The GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2020 was a grandiose success with the online format facilitating the participation of alumni and students from more than a dozen countries around the world. A notable highlight was the chat session after the very interesting panel discussions, as they not only included fascinating discourses on current affairs, but also brought together alumni who hadn’t seen each other in years. It is fitting that GraSPP, as an innovative and interdisciplinary school of public policy, capitalized on the current situation around the world by adapting and providing a unique experience.



“Discover GraSPP”

—A new approach to overseas recruitment in partnership with the alumni and partner organizations

GraSPP shifted swiftly to offer online education in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure continuous learning opportunities for our students. Since the global fight against the pandemic continues, we were not able to deliver our message in person to aspiring current and future public policy professionals at information sessions nor to enjoy reunion with our alumni. Despite such a constraint, however, we organized our annual recruitment activities in a virtual setting with the support of our alumni communities and long-standing partner organizations abroad. We have had seven online information sessions titled “Discover GraSPP” targeting prospective applicants to our Master of Public Policy, International Program (MPP/IP) in various countries and regions. Panel discussion sessions led by our alumni with some current students provided not only an opportunity to share their experience at GraSPP with the audience, but also served as a forum to discuss “Public Policy Challenges beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Professors Takahara, Nishizawa, Aoki, Nakata and Kucheryavy helped deliver our messages effectively to a large number of prospective applicants to our MPP/IP and deepen international exchanges successfully among the participants. **(Nobue Nachi and Sachiko Suzuki)**

August 6	Nepal
August 22	Indonesia
August 25	Myanmar
September 13	India
September 26	Philippines
October 24	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan
October 31	East and Southeast Asia



Introducing GraSPP's first PhD holder!

On September 18, two doctoral students (2016 enrollment, Hay Chanthol, 2017 enrollment Quentin Verspieren) were awarded doctoral degrees (public policy). The titles of the papers are posted on the WEB page (<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/news/2020-10-02-27032/>). This time, we received comments from Quentin Verspieren, who has excellent grades, and Professor Shiroyama, who is an academic advisor.



Message from Graduate Representative

Quentin Verspieren

The GraSPP doctoral program has been a turning point in my life, allowing me to bridge my initial expertise in sciences and engineering with my desire to pursue a career in space policy. Rather than seeing it as an obstacle, my non-traditional background was always considered valuable by GraSPP faculty members. In parallel, participating in the Global Leader Program for Social Design and Management (GSDM) helped me develop a strong multidisciplinary mindset and to further develop the necessary links between academic research and concrete social issues.

The value given by GraSPP to practical experience has been extremely valuable in my case. While I always strived for academic excellence, I felt the need to stay grounded, in connection with the 'real' world: civil society, government, industry, etc. My field, space policy, is very pragmatic. Its countless constraints— including physical ones, do not tolerate the ravings of disconnected scholars. I therefore chose,

with the strong support of my PhD supervisors, Professor Shiroyama and Professor Heng, to continue to be involved in numerous side projects related to governmental affairs, diplomacy and even space engineering. This was a true luxury that very few doctoral programs would allow.

Having finally received my doctorate, I was fortunate to be offered a research position at the Science, Technology, and Innovation Governance (STIG) of GraSPP, where I work on outer space sustainability, the military uses of space, space diplomacy, etc. At the STIG program, I can find the right balance between my love for academia and my need to work on concrete policy or industrial issues. On the one hand, I am part of ambitious studies for various Japanese governmental agencies (e.g. MOFA, MEXT) and on the other hand I was kindly asked to contribute to five courses offered in GraSPP as guest lecturer or mentor. I am truly honored by the confidence of the professors having invited me.

Finally, I would like to give a modest advice to future generations of GraSPP doctoral candidates: do not restrict yourself to your main research topic! You should try as much as possible to discover different fields, even if they seem at first disconnected from your main interest. It is only through a wide, interdisciplinary perspective that you will be able to acquire a critical view of your domain, and to develop truly innovative ideas and concepts. GraSPP, the University of Tokyo and GSDM have the resources to help you discover numerous issues beyond your traditional scope: use them!



Message by Professor Hideaki Shiroyama

Congratulation for Dr. Verspieren who wrote PhD. dissertation which is the insightful analysis of space traffic management from political science perspective. The dissertation also includes policy relevant recommendations on the future form for space traffic management. He had space engineering background at master level and combined the engineering knowledge and the public policy knowledge in effective way. He also finished Global Leader Program for Social Design and Management.



Professor Shiroyama and Quentin Verspieren.

GraSPP Public Policy Talk Series

Professor Yasutora Watanabe

We started the GraSPP Public Policy Talk series from this year for the purpose of increasing the reach of GraSPP to potential applicants, mainly targeting professionals and undergraduate students in Japan. As GraSPP has been actively arranging recruitment events for potential applicants outside Japan, we have pushed the effort locally as well so that we can reach out to a more diverse set of students who might not be interested in GraSPP otherwise. We have held three talks so far. The first talk “Careers in Public Policy” had three panelists: Ms. Kishitani (worked for NGOs, UNICEF, WHO, and currently works for Z Holdings Corporation), Ms. Matsuda (ex-bureaucrat and currently the Manager of Public Policy at Amazon Japan), and Ms. Ogasawara (worked for JBIC, JICA, Bain, and currently works for Social Innovation and Investment Foundation). The composition of the panel reflects the trend that an increasing number of positions in the private sector are available for careers in public policy. The panelists discussed their work, their passion, and their career choices, including work-life balance and life-changing decisions they made, sometimes covering more private topics.

The second event, held in August, was the Intellectual Dialogue among the deans of GraSPP, Peking University’s School of International Studies, and Seoul National’s School of International Studies, co-hosted by the CAMPUS Asia Program.

The deans shared each country’s experiences of COVID-19, especially regarding the use of big data for government policy making and the reversal of globalization.

The third event, held in September, titled “Central Bank Economists” featured 5 professors teaching at GraSPP who are ex-central bankers: Prof. Aoki (former economist at Bank of England), Prof. Kitao (former senior economist at Federal Reserve Bank of New York), Prof. Kato (former division chief at Bank of Japan), Prof. Nakata (former principal economist at the Federal Reserve Board), and Prof. Wakamori (former senior economist at Bank of Canada). The professors discussed the relationship between policy work and research at central banks and how they may differ across central banks, with many behind-the-scenes stories only available to those who worked in those institutions.

We are planning to develop the series by combining two types of events: recruiting events in Japanese to attract local students who may be interested in GraSPP (with the first event planned for February 2021) and the GraSPP Public Policy Talk series to cultivate a broader set of potential applicants who might be interested in the topics of public policy more broadly. We hope that the name “GraSPP” will spread across the country and entice future public policy makers to this school.



1st Public Policy Talk



2nd Public Policy Talk



3rd Public Policy Talk

TOPICS

- The first recruitment of the 2021 PhD program. The application period is from November 20th to December 18th, 2020. Please check the following website for details.
<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/education/doctoral-course/>
- Under recruitment of students for the 2021 MPP / IP course. Please check the following website for details.
<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/mppip/>

Editor’s Postscript

The theme of the “Davos Conference”, the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum next year, has been decided to be “Great Reset”. Leaders and managers from around the world will discuss the review of the global economic and social system for an after-corona society. Review is a necessary act in various situations. The days are difficult to predict, but I would like to make appropriate reviews and changes from time to time. (Editor)

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