

# LETTER



Contents

- 1: A new introductory video of the Campus Asia Program has been released!
- 2: Introduction of new faculty members
- 3: Student interview
- 4: GraSPP Alumni Webinar Series / TOPICS

## A new introductory video of the Campus Asia Program has been released!

**Kaneko Tsubasa (International Program, Class of 2021)**

Recently, the Campus Asia (CA) community released 4 videos after nearly a year of preparation. These videos introduce CA and its 10-year journey, with the hope that CA would be able to contribute to the enrichment of China, Japan and South Korea's trilateral relations, even under the context of newfound division that has been exacerbated through the pandemic.

Due to COVID-19, contributors planned each scenario, wrote the script and even coordinated the filming sequence while working online. As cliché as it might sound, we truly leveraged these circumstances to our advantage, as we were able to draw ideas and members across borders. In fact, it really wasn't until I saw the final film that I was truly able to appreciate the scale of the entire project.

When filming came around, many of the scenes proved quite difficult. Imagine not just your voice, but your every move being recorded while you flounder through a 30 minute monologue! Come to think of it, the scenes where I was supposed to be in a "zoom call" must have been quite awkward in plain sight. While it looks like a legitimate conversation on film, I had to nod and interject into thin air! Anyway, please don't pay attention to that while watching.

As a final word, I should warn you that 3 of the videos are quite long, since they are meant to be used as in-class material in other Universities. Nevertheless, I truly hope you would take the time to watch even a part of it, as I can guarantee that each of the contributors from CA have truly put their souls into it!

**Video URL** <http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/campusasia-news/2021-06-02-30224/>



Introductory video (left) and Mr. Kaneko (right).

Filming scenes at GraSPP.



# Message from new faculty members

## Naoko Munakata, Professor



Hello, everyone. I am Naoko Munakata, arrived at GraSPP in April 2021. I previously worked at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Prime Minister's Office, and other ministries to create and improve policies. What are the current priorities? What is the problem? What is the fundamental solution? What are the obstacles? How can we overcome them? Would this decision, even decades later, be viewed as best under the given circumstances? I kept wondering as I worked and learned from experts at home and abroad, who often helped find the way out.

Going forward, there are harder times awaiting us. The role of public policy will be even greater and we need to gather wisdom from all corners of the world. I hope you will acquire wide knowledge that will help you overcome difficulties down the road as well as to cultivate your ability to go on learning. I look forward to learning with you.

## Shinji Jikumaru, Project Professor



Hello, everyone. My name is Shinji Jikumaru. I joined GraSPP in April 2021 as a Project Professor. To date, I have worked at different departments within the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, before working all over Japan and also internationally, holding posts at the Miyagi Bureau of the Reconstruction Agency after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Katori City government, as well as in Shikoku and Germany.

My experiences have made me keenly aware that transport is a socioeconomic foundation that is closely connected to various policy challenges and perspectives, such as international affairs, the environment, digitalization, regional revitalization, tourism, welfare, healthcare, and education, and also that there is growing collaboration between transport and wide-ranging stakeholders and policy areas, particularly in recent years.

As a professor who is also practitioner, I look forward to presenting practical issues from the frontlines of transport and exploring those issues in great depth together with students from diverse backgrounds.

## Mayo Mieno, Project Associate Professor



Nice to meet you. My name is Mieno and I joined GraSPP in April. As an employee of Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), I have worked at the Japan Tourism Agency and the Reconstruction Agency (in a tourism-related position), and served as a Director of the Tourism Department at Kyoto City government. At GraSPP, I am currently in charge of lectures on tourism. At MLIT, I came up with the "Green Slow Mobility" policy, the first of its kind in Japan, and am researching low-speed regional modes of transport.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made people's values even more diverse. To create a sustainable society that can incorporate these new and diversifying values requires the ability to imagine a vision of society that can bring all of this together, and also the ability to formulate and implement individual policies to that end. As students study theory and application across a wide range of fields, I hope I can help them to become policy practitioners with broad perspectives.



Going forward, there are harder times awaiting us.

# Student Interview

No.

36

## Ikuko Tsuboya Newell

(Professional Degree Program,  
International Public Policy / 1st Year)

### —Your experience in the field of education is really extensive.

Yes, I've been working in child education for 36 years, including school administration and English-language instruction. In 1985, I created my own educational program, launching English Studio. After that, I became a mother and, wanting to educate my children myself, I started a pre-school, a primary school and then a middle school as my children grew older. Altogether, this became Tokyo International School. Our students include Japanese and non-Japanese students from around 70 nations.

Through my work in school administration, I met children with learning or developmental challenges and who have unique needs. That led me to launch the non-profit organization (NPO) Tokyo International Progressive School in 2000.

While wearing different "hats" as the chair of a school and an NPO, as the president of a company, and as a mother, I started getting more involved in social activities around 2011, when my own children started becoming more independent.

### —What made you decide to enroll in GraSPP?

I was involved in the formulation of the ninth proposal of the Cabinet Secretariat's Council for the Implementation of Education Rebuilding as an external expert. In those discussions, one of the arguments raised was that education should be considered from an economic perspective as well. In other words, the cost-performance of education should be evaluated. I was very uncomfortable with that line of thinking. However, I didn't think it was right for me, as someone who didn't know much about policymaking, to simply criticize it. That's when I first felt a desire to learn more.

Later, when the Council was formulating its 11th proposal, it allocated, at the end of 2019, over 200 billion yen to the GIGA School Program, which would provide elementary and junior high schools with one IT device for every student, as well as high-speed, high-capacity networks. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, that amount was increased and the plan was brought forward. Having been involved in the formulation of policies that use such a significant amount of taxpayers' money, I felt a strong sense of responsibility to educate myself further and decided to come knocking on the doors of GraSPP.

### —How are you finding student life?

Being already in my 60s, there's a lot that I'm still getting used to. In particular, I'm having a hard time with everything being digital and with student culture. When I got the syllabus, I had to fully rearrange

several months of my work schedule. But then, once classes actually started, there were a lot of sudden changes... I still haven't found a solution for that. Sometimes I feel down and wonder if I made too rash a decision after all, but I'm truly grateful for this learning opportunity and I'm trying my hardest while being supported by my professors, the staff, and everyone else. While trying to find the right pace and way to allocate my time, for now, I am prioritizing my studies, putting them into my schedule first, and taking pains not to neglect them.

### —How do you intend to apply what you've learned at GraSPP?

Education can transform children. Having worked in education for 36 years, I believe it has the power to change the future. I understand that Japan has a very high level of national debt. Nevertheless, I believe that education is the best investment for the future. I want to be able to make a theoretical argument against ideas or policies that view education only from the perspective of cost-performance. Everyone is different and everyone has something that makes them special. Discovering what that is, drawing that out and nurturing it, is what education is all about, and that has been the case ever since the time of the Ancient Greeks.

I intend to do my part as well to create a society where education is seen as an investment in the future, so that there is a place for everybody to shine.



She has been involved in school education and schoolchildren's education in English for 36 years.





# GraSPP Alumni Webinar Series

GraSPP Alumni Association Operations Team  
Economic Policy Program, Class of 2008  
Akira Morita

While the COVID-19 pandemic has made the holding of in-person events harder, it has also made online events more common. Since last November, once every two months, the GraSPP Alumni Association has been holding free webinars of about one hour each for students and alumni on a wide range of topics.

The invited speakers are mainly GraSPP alumni or members of the University of Tokyo. Since the first webinar last November, four Japanese webinars and one English webinar have been held. We hope that you will follow the GraSPP Alumni Association page on Peatix to get updates about upcoming webinars and that you will find and attend an event that suits your interests. Two webinars are scheduled in August.

GraSPP Alumni Association online event page:  
<https://peatix.com/group/7192369/>



If there are any alumni out there who are involved in any unique activities and want to speak about them or who have a topic in mind that they would like to hear a webinar on, please do not hesitate to contact the GraSPP Alumni Association Secretariat at any time!

For inquiries, please contact the Secretariat:  
[graspalumni.ut@gmail.com](mailto:graspalumni.ut@gmail.com)



GraSPP Alumni Association  
Operations Team  
Akira Morita

GraSPP同窓会 ウェビナー 第1回  
経済産業省 担当者に聞く  
行政デジタル化の課題と今後の方向性  
11月29日 (日) 19:00 - 20:00 (ZOOM)  
吉田 泰己  
経済産業省 商務情報政策局総務課  
情報プロジェクト室長  
(GraSPP 2008年修了生)

GraSPP Alumni Webinar Series  
Student Social Movements &  
Female Empowerment in Japan  
January 31st (Sun) 11:00 - 12:00 (Zoom)  
Co-founders of WE Int.

GraSPP同窓会 ウェビナー・シリーズ  
東大卒業生に聞く  
民間経験を活かした国際協力・国際機関のキャリア  
2月20日 (土) 21:00 - 22:00 (ZOOM)  
田島 大基  
国連WFP 在ケニア東アフリカ地域事務所  
予算担当官 (DPO)  
日野 薫郎  
国際協力機構 (JICA) 民間連携事業部 海外投資課  
Investment Officer

Wide-ranging speakers, including GraSPP alumni and members of the University of Tokyo

## TOPICS

### TTPU- New Publications -

Two books have been published by the faculty members in charge of the Transportation and Tourism Policy Research Unit.

“Regional Public Transportation Policy” (Edited by Masafumi Shukuri and Tomoharu Hase, University of Tokyo Press) (photo left)

It is based on the “Regional Transportation Policy Research” class held in the winter semester of the Graduate School of Public Policy, and from depopulated transportation to autonomous driving and MaaS, you can learn about the challenges and future directions of local public transportation, which is at a turning point.

“Green Slow Mobility: Small Low-Speed Electric Vehicles Change Public Transportation and The Region” (Edited by Mayo Mieno, Gakugei Publishing) (photo right)

This book conveys power and potential of the small “low-speed public transportation,” from local cases to knowledge for introduction and operation of “green slow mobility,” that is being introduced nationwide as a “foot” for the region, mobility for tourists, and “face of the town.”



## Editor's Postscript

Dr. Teruo Fujii has been appointed the 31st President of the University of Tokyo. At his inaugural press conference, he mentioned how important it is that the university “builds trust through dialogue based on deep mutual understanding.” The CAMPUS Asia Program, mentioned on the first page of this edition of the newsletter, truly symbolizes the history of “mutual understanding” and “dialogue” among Japan, China and South Korea. I hope you take a look at the full video online. (Editor)

vol.

63

NEWS  
LETTER

(Editor & Publisher) Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo  
(Date of Publication) August 24, 2021

7-3-1, Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 113-0033 Japan  
E-mail [grasppnl@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:grasppnl@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp)  
<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>