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10th PoP Seminar: Green Innovation Today—Where, Who and What Now?

Takuma Tabata Public Management Division (1st year)

The 10th Policy Platform (PoP) Seminar was held on July 18, 2013, with the title “Green Innovation Today—Where, Who and What Now?” to which young officials from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) were invited to speak. The seminar was organized by a program named STIG (Science, Technology, and Innovation Governance).

STIG is a program designed for the “development of talents who will be in charge of governance of science and technology ... based on specialized education at the graduate level in the area of humanities or science.”* As one of the initiatives of STIG, the PoP Seminar is held with the goal of building a platform by which to connect industry, government and academia. It provides an opportunity for people inside and outside the University of Tokyo to gain an understanding and to establish a collaborative relationship through common themes. At the same time, it also provides an opportunity for the students in both science and humanities faculties on campus to come together to engage in discussions and share their ideas and opinions. In fact, I have made friends with science students to engage in discussions every time I participate in a PoP Seminar session.

At the 10th PoP Seminar, the officials who were invited from three ministries gave lectures under the theme of the “Green Innovation.” First, Mr. Satoshi Yoshida of MOE (Deputy Director, Climate Change Policy Division, Global Environment Bureau) illustrated the value and present place of green innovation in the large-scale story envisioned by the projected conditions of the world and Japan in 2030 - 50. Mr. Takashi Kono of METI (Deputy Director, Global Environmental Affairs Office, Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment Bureau) was the next and described the state of international negotiations in respect of climate change policies from the past to the present as well as their trends for the future. Lastly, Mr. Tomoyasu Shimakawa from MLIT (Deputy Director, Environmental Policy Division, Policy Bureau) enlightened us on the measures currently in place in Japan under the environmental and energy policies relating to social infrastructure. I believe that the differences in the delivery style of individual speakers indicated the differences in the approaches to the issue among the ministries, although they might have been largely a matter of individuality.

There is no doubt that formation of the platform signifies the key role played by GraSPP in organizing these PoP Seminars. I remember listening

to a speech when I entered the school this year. It said “diversity is the distinguishing characteristic of GraSPP, and this diversity is something to be reckoned with.” The 10th seminar held under the theme of the “Green Innovation” attracted a large audience from inside and outside GraSPP, and the attendees made connections with one another. These connections not only represent the conceptual aspect but also lead the practical paths to the “go-to” person for any particular topic. I deliberately refrained from discussing the details of the speeches in this article, because it is the privilege of a seminar participant. If you find it vexing or want to know more, be sure to come to the next seminar. Tell us about your ideas. Let’s talk. Let’s get together to build policy platforms (as well as personal networks, if you and I have a chance).

*From the STIG website, “About STIG” <http://stig.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/about.html>



Nobuo Tanaka Professor, Former Executive Director, International Energy Agency (IEA)



International Students from Asia

I have been teaching at the Graduate School of Public Policy of the University of Tokyo since April. I teach energy security in English. Of 24 students in my class, only three are Japanese. The language problem seems to be a handicap for Japanese people even now.

On the other hand, some students from China and Korea are fluent in Japanese. Students from other countries who want to work in Japan are also very good at Japanese. A third-generation Japanese-American student said to me, "I feel at home at last." CAMPUS Asia is a program under which the University of Tokyo in Japan, Peking University in China, and Seoul National University in Korea offer their special subjects taught in English to exchange students from other member universities. I was surprised at the large number of Chinese and Korean youths in the Program speaking Japanese, Chinese and Korean as well as English effortlessly.

A Chinese student expressed her gratitude to Japan passionately. She had come to the GraSPP after receiving Japanese language instructions under a Japanese scholarship. Students like her are so passionate about Japan that they seem to take no notice of the recent territorial issue and difficult diplomatic relations between the two countries. Many enthusiastic international students also apply for a Japanese firm's internship. As many of them hope to find a job in Japanese companies, they will become formidable competitors to the Japanese students.

A large number of students have also expressed their interest in working for international organizations. My experience tells me that, they would have to have a doctorate in a specific field as well as work experience to realize their dreams unless they are officially posted by their governments. While some Japanese students also aim at working for international organizations, the strait gate awaits them because there is no special graduate school in Japan to prepare them for international careers.

GraSPP is trying to be a trailblazer in this area as the leading graduate school in Japan. It is not enough to inspire the youth if Japan wants to develop talented people. It needs to create an innovative infrastructure.

These young people will shape the future of Japan, China and Korea.

*This essay is a revised and edited version of the article published in the serial called "Economic Observation" of Mainichi Newspaper on May 30, 2013.

The 73rd Public Policy Seminar

The 73rd Public Policy Seminar was held on May 22, 2013, at Koshiba Hall with Mr. Ikuo Kabashima, Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture, giving a lecture entitled "The New Frontier of Administration -- Kumamon's Political Economics." Governor Kabashima is a former law professor of the University of Tokyo, and currently serving his second term. Before he became a professor of the University, his unconventional career path took him from working as a staff member at a local agricultural cooperative after graduation from high school to studying in the United States as an agricultural trainee student where he graduated from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Governor Kabashima then went on to study at Harvard Kennedy School and obtained his PhD.

Under the Kabashima Administration, the goal of the prefectural government of Kumamoto is to maximize the happiness of Kumamoto citizens by making significant changes in an administrative style that used to focus on guidance, regulation and control. Four factors are involved in the maximization of happiness of Kumamoto citizens: Economy, Pride, Security and Hope. The effects of political measures on these factors and contributions toward increasing the happiness can be analyzed using a total differential of the goal (i.e. maximization of happiness of Kumamoto citizens). For example, Kumamon, the famous mascot character of Kumamoto, is one of these political measures. Kumamon as a political measure is affecting these four factors in a positive way. The existence of Kumamon itself makes the Kumamoto citizens happy.

At the conclusion of the speech by Governor Kabashima at the seminar, Kumamon made a surprise appearance and performed *Kumamon Taiso* (Kumamon's dance moves). Even after the seminar, Kumamon was busy handing out his business card and the Governor's lecture text to each of the participants. He even posed with them cheerfully for photographs. It was the scene that made me understand the reasons the political measure embodied by Kumamon was such a huge success.

(Text by editor)



No. 4

Student Interview

— What made you choose the CAMPUS Asia Program?

Haemin (“H”): I went to junior high school in New Zealand, and high school and university in the United States. When I completed all necessary credits at Seoul National University for my graduate study and had nothing more to do but to wait for the graduation ceremony, the news of the CAMPUS Asia Program arrived. As I was hoping to live in Japan and China someday, I thought to myself, “It’s now or never.” I appealed to my advisor directly to have my graduation delayed so that I could apply for the Program. Although the people around me were surprised, I am deeply grateful to my advisor who allowed me to postpone my graduation and to apply to enroll in the CAMPUS Asia Program.

Since I have completed the degree requirements at Seoul National University and Peking University, GraSPP is my last stop. I wish I could remain a “student” for a little while longer as I feel I might need some courage to make a debut as a full-fledged member of society.

Kkogsongi (“K”): I lived in Japan with my family and spent the period from elementary school to Grade 11 (1996 – 2004) here. As I attended an international school during that period, I did not go to traditional Japanese schools, and I returned to Korea with regrets that I might have missed an opportunity to learn about real Japan. I am grateful that the CAMPUS Asia Program opened the door for me to realize that lost opportunity. The Program requires students to study in Korea, China and Japan. I applied for the Program without hesitation because I was also interested in visiting China and Japan in person so as to get the sense of what made East Asia the way it is. International relationships always come with struggles and misunderstandings. I want to help to encourage conciliation and cooperation in East Asia through the Program.

Jinsun (“J”): Unlike Haemin and Kkogsongi here, I had never travelled outside Korea until I went to university.

I majored in diplomatic studies at the university because I wanted to become a diplomat since I was in junior high school. When I was a sophomore, there was a chance to study at one of the affiliated universities in a foreign country as an exchange student. My first and second choices were in Spain. Unfortunately, my choices did not go through, and I studied at Osaka University, my third choice, for a year. Before long, I started to think I wanted to work for an international organization rather than becoming a diplomat. I applied to enroll in the CAMPUS Asia Program because I would need a master’s degree in order to work at an international organization. I also wanted to think about regional cooperation in Asia by actually placing myself in a country in East Asia.

Compared to Tokyo, Osaka still has a strong air that shouts “THIS IS JAPAN!” A great number of students at Osaka University were the “100% Japanese” who had never travelled outside Japan. Although I experienced some discrimination during my stay in Osaka, there were people who told me they loved the Korean Wave. I made good friends. Because of that, I have been ambivalent about Japan. Three and a half years later, however, Japan experienced the great hardship because of the earthquake and economic problems, and I felt strongly that I wished Japan to succeed again.



Haemin Choi
Kkogsongi Park
Jinsun Lim

CAMPUS Asia students from Korea

From left : Haemin, Kkogsongi and Jinsun

International

K: Bilateral relationships are influenced mainly by politicians and the mass media. If you know someone in the other country, you can reduce misunderstanding as you can ask him/her for candid thoughts on the issue directly. As I believe that bilateral relationships are essentially not different from interpersonal relationships, an “international communication” in which people learn more and discuss about issues is important.

H: I lived in different countries and experienced some discrimination. Before coming to Japan, to be honest, I was afraid that the Japanese people might discriminate against Koreans because discrimination exists in any country. Actually, that is not the case, and I have never been discriminated against in person. I have nothing but fond memories of Japan thanks to the support of Kkongsongi, Jinsun, fellow students from Seoul as well as Japanese friends at GraSPP. Oh, how much I hate to see my study in Japan comes to an end and to go back to Korea!

J: Having said that, the GraSPP students we associate with have an international perspective and are open-minded. I think they are a rare type of Japanese people. We can’t call ourselves typical Koreans because we have experienced studying abroad and we come from Seoul National University where almost all the classes are taught in English. Students in the CAMPUS Asia Program, being a collection of such people, are motivated to try to understand others. So, I believe the Program will be successful.

— You take classes in Japanese too, don’t you?

H: When it comes to the Japanese language, I am okay with listening, but I tend to switch to speaking English unintentionally when I become tense. As handouts and required readings are in English, I have a hard time having to translate them from English to Japanese in my head. I think it might have been easier if the required readings and handouts were in Japanese.

K: I took four courses taught in Japanese this semester. The most impressive one was *Politics and the Mass Media* (Prof. Masaki Taniguchi). There were only about ten of us. My fellow students who loved to debate and the charismatic professor generated positive tension that always kept me on edge. Haemin and I took the *Seminar in American Political Diplomatic History* (Prof. Fumiaki Kubo) together. I think there were more shy classmates than in other courses.

H: When I said “Hi!” to someone, that person apologized to me saying “Sorry.” I was dumbfounded.

(Interview and text by editor)

My Experience with the FED

Kenji Kurotobi Legal Policy Division (2nd year)

The FED (Forum for English Discussions) is a group which provides opportunities for both Japanese and international students (including not only GraSPP students but also international students in other faculties and graduate schools) to exchange ideas and opinions in English. Its purposes are, firstly, to provide an opportunity for international communication, and, secondly, to encourage Japanese students who are interested in foreign countries but have no experience studying abroad to actively participate in the GraSPP courses taught in English by removing their resistance to speaking in English.

With no overseas experience, I was a typical student who took courses taught in Japanese only. I was, however, invited by a Russian student who was leading the FED all by himself, and became deeply involved in the operations of the forum in the last winter semester. As a result, I am satisfied as I have made friends with many international students, and also gained confidence in my English.

Main activity of the FED is weekly one-hour lunchtime discussion session held during the summer and winter semesters. Each time one of the students proposes a topic for each session, and the participants engage in discussion on it. The participants in this semester averaged 12 international and 5 Japanese students.

The international students who participate in the FED come from many countries and regions, including the US, China, Denmark, Ghana, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Russia and Singapore. They have far more detailed knowledge of politics, economy, society, culture, religion, and customs of their native countries and regions than anyone else. Many of the students in the MPP/IP also have experience working for public institutions and they have practical ideas and a sense of values about public policy.

The FED also provides an opportunity for the Japanese students to improve their ability to carry out discussions and presentations that are necessary in classes taught in English. They assert their arguments in heated discussions with international students. They also explain the details and significance of uniquely Japanese policies to foreign students. At the end of a session, they make a summary presentation in front of the international students describing what have been discussed during the hour. The forum provides a good exercise if you take courses taught in English or participate in discussions and make presentations at international conferences.

In addition to discussions, we also have been organizing cultural exchange events and other activities in order to get the students more interested in international students. We organized a *yukata* event in mid-June. Through the courtesy of residents in Hongo, the students learned how to put on a *yukata*, and then strolled around the campus in it. The international students were delighted to have the experience wearing traditional Japanese attire.

GraSPP has been chosen to host a GPPN Student Conference (an annual conference organized by students of seven public policy graduate schools around the world that make up the Global Public Policy Network) in the next semester. It is essential for the Japanese and international students to cooperate more in order to receive students from other universities. As I will be studying at Seoul National University then, I will wish the FED well from Seoul in its effort to be a bridge of assistance to the conference.



A scene from the FED activity



In front of the Akamon during the yukata event in June

Topical News

Two bunches of gorgeous Casablanca lilies were sent from Ms. Haruka Kuwahara, a Legal Policy Division alumna in the Class of 2011 (currently a councilor of the town of Tsunan in Niigata Prefecture). The highly acclaimed "Yuki-bijin (Snow Beauty)" is a famous Casablanca lily variety grown in Tsunan as a result of a combination of many factors, including soil that is suited to growing that Casablanca lily variety as well as the ceaseless efforts of its growers.

At first, I was worried if the lilies might die before blossoming. The worries proved unfounded. Large flowers opened one after another in the office of the Dean to the delight of the faculty and staff. Thank you very much, Ms. Kuwahara. (Editor)



Editor's Postscript

During my interview with three Korean students in the CAMPUS Asia Program, I heard a lot of heart-warming words from them. "Even though there are many issues between Japan and Korea, I have come to wish Japan to overcome the difficult times and be successful again." "Even if something happens between Korea and Japan, having friends in Japan will temper my emotions to some extent, and we can see the issue from a different angle." It might have been the fact their attitudes were very open, yet it is a welcome result that they have become very understanding of Japan. I will be working hard to help to build a foundation on which more people will understand each other better. (Editor)

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