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SciREX Summer Camp @Aichi

Atsuko Sakamoto Public Management Program, 1st Year

From August 21 to 23, I attended a summer camp for the Science for RE-designing Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (SciREX) program. The camp, hosted by the University of Tokyo and entitled "Bringing Science, Technology, Innovation to the Market: From the perspective of policy, regulation and national security" was held in Aichi Prefecture and focused on policies for establishing science, technology, and innovation as an industry in particular regions. Counting teaching staff, the camp was attended by about 90 people in total, including about 40 students from six different universities, and it provided an intensive program of activities over its three days and two nights.

After gathering at Nagoya Station on the first day, we split up into two groups to go on factory visits. We were given the choice in advance of either Mitsubishi Heavy Industries or Toyota. I was in the Toyota group. At the factory, we were able to observe techniques such as the "kanban" (literally "signboard") method of inventory management and the "andon" (literally "lamp") method of dealing with abnormal events on a working production line. Our next stop was Toyota Ecoful Town, where we visited demonstration facilities aimed at establishing a low-carbon transportation system and had the chance to ride on the ultra-small Coms electric vehicles. The sharing scheme for using the Coms vehicles and electrically assisted bicycles within the town is not only compact and energy efficient, it also incorporates initiatives that make it easy to access, including providing a number of stations where vehicles can be picked up or dropped off and a smartphone app for making reservations.

Three keynote addresses and four lectures were held on the morning of the second day. While these short sessions were only 20 to 30 minutes long, I was able to gain a deeper understanding of science, technology and innovation from their diverse range of perspectives (those of nations, cities, and researchers) on such matters as policy details, the progress of actual work on transforming science and technology into industry, and the relationships between science and technology and corporate management.

The afternoon was spent in student group work. We were given



problems relating to the areas of interest we had indicated prior to the camp and told to prepare policy proposals for presentation on the morning of day 3. My group was given the problem of how to utilize ICT to promote healthcare and medical industries. Although a couple of absences meant there were only four of us, fewer than the other groups, between us we covered a wide range of ages and levels of experience, with specialties that extended from management studies to chemistry. Our progress was somewhat faltering, with none of us being experts in the healthcare field, but with the inclusion of a dedicated facilitator (one was assigned to each group) each of us was able to firm up our own views. However, because the facilitator was only able to participate up until the interim presentation given in the evening, we realized once we were back to just the group members that we would need to manage our discussions ourselves, and so reassigned our respective roles.

Although we had reached a decision about which areas of science and technology were important to the policy by the time of the interim presentation, we still needed to deal with such things as actual program design and identifying its basis. This meant working long into the night to ensure we would be ready in time for the following day's presentation. The venue included work rooms and most of the groups worked through the night or into the early morning, discussing what to do or preparing PowerPoint slides for their upcoming presentation. Although somehow or other we were ready in time for the presentation, we had been unable to cover many of the policy problems we had identified, leaving us to make a presentation that left issues unresolved. Nevertheless, we had participants from a wide variety of backgrounds and were able to share the breadth of knowledge of team members, and I believe we succeeded in putting together policy proposals that would not have been possible in any other context.

Not only debating through the night was worthwhile and challenging, but also I was made aware of how important management is, including allocating responsibilities and assigning work within a limited timeframe, and techniques for maintaining a lively debate. I gained a great deal from this summer camp.



CAMPUS Asia Summer Trip to Hokuriku

Young Ambassadors —Soft Diplomacy between Japan, China, and Korea—

Gong Chen MPP/CAP, 1st Year

This year's summer school trip was shorter than usual, being only three days long. The trip began at the Eihei-ji temple in Fukui Prefecture. I set off with a sense of excitement, this being my first visit to the Hokuriku region despite having lived in Japan for many years. We then proceeded first to Tōjinbō and then to Myōryū-ji, which is also known as the Ninja Temple. Despite the brevity of our schedule, it was an enthralling experience that brought me into contact with traditional Japanese culture.

Naturally, our trip was about more than just sightseeing. It was also an opportunity to learn about the current state of each nation's society, involving a debate for which we had prepared over the course of the semester and in which we engaged in vigorous discussion about the different concepts of history held by Japan, China, and Korea that become apparent when looking at our respective history text books, and a dating show (matchmaking using typical images of men and women in various patterns that reflect the respective national cultures) that provided a unique way of reflecting trends in Japan, China, and Korea. All of these were completed with a comforting sense of fulfillment.

We also had a splendid dinner at a ryokan followed up by a very lively karaoke party. During an evening meal at a restaurant famous for the local delicacy, nodoguro (a



variety of sea perch), we built up a genuine camaraderie between Japan, China, and Korea that transcended nationality.

While the Campus Asia program has just got started, it has major implications. Along with my hope that activities like this will contribute to the future progress of East Asia, the trip also reminded me of my own personal responsibilities. Surely there are many other like-minded people who share this sentiment. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Hiroaki Miyamoto and the other teachers at GraSPP who made this valuable opportunity possible, Nobue Nachi who acted as leader, and Manami Sato who arranged the trip.

Overseas Student Trip in Kamakura and Hakone

Hana Okamoto International Public Policy Program, 2nd Year

On the 12th and 13th of September, I accompanied new overseas students on a trip to Kamakura and Hakone.

The first day was spent mainly in Kamakura, with sightseeing to Tsurugaoka Hachimangu and the surrounding neighborhood, a visit to a hot spring at the Kinjo-kan in Atami, and a chance to enjoy Japanese food. The overseas students showed every sign of enjoying the distinctive Kamakura street scenes and cuisine. At karaoke, we were treated to beautiful voices from around the world and the enthusiasm this engendered kept the party going well into the night.

On the second day we traveled on to Hakone where we enjoyed a cruise on Lake Ashinoko and visited a woodcraft studio and the Hakone sekisho (traditional checkpoint gate). Despite the rain, the students, particularly those from Southeast Asia, were undeterred by the wet and stayed on deck for the cruise. At the sekisho, we watched a dramatization of the governance of Edo and Hakone back in the time when the checkpoint was still in use. While the objective of the trip was to help the new overseas students get to know each other better and become more familiar with Japanese culture, there was much that was new to me even though I am Japanese, and I was able to build friendships with many overseas students.

In the current environment, a deep appreciation and perspective regarding each nation's circumstances are clearly essential to the formulation of public policy amid global trends that also take in Japan, I believe that the firsthand information that this requires is often



Author is on the right



provided by the relationships of trust and other bonds between students built up in good faith without involving individual interests. Moreover, I want to emphasize the point that the environment for establishing these relationships, including events such as this trip, is something that genuinely exists at GraSPP. I learnt surprising things about the securities markets of Southeast Asia by listening to what the overseas students sitting next to me at the dinner at the Kinjo-kan had to say, and we discussed the problems facing urban policy in different countries at the late-night party. Likewise, last year I heard from an overseas student sitting next to me in the study room about a new energy system in France, and through that connection I was able to make friends with many of the students at a student conference about environmental problems held in Paris.

I would like to thank the academic and administrative staff and past students who have strived to create such a wonderful environment at GraSPP. I would also urge those younger Japanese students who will likely find themselves in future roles that call on them to consider the national interest to take active steps to get to know overseas students.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Takako Uozumi, Aoi Ono, and the others of International Affairs Office, and Toriji-san and Motohashi-san who provided such sterling support as our tour guides. Thank you very much.

— I hear you have spent the last few years caring for family?

That's right. At times I was looking after three people at once: my father, my mother, and my aunt. First it was my aunt, who had lived on her own, being afflicted by dementia. I thought it odd when she would call on the phone saying that she must have had a burglar because things were missing, which led to her being diagnosed with dementia. Next, my mother became depressed. The problem was that, with my being busy with my work on the council (Yokohama city council) and my father being a "Showa male", neither of us were listening to what my mother had to say. To make things worse, my mother became bedridden when, despite already suffering from osteoporosis, she hurt herself further doing housework at my aunt's. She found it difficult to go out and wasn't able to attend rehabilitation. Although I would do what housework I could on Saturdays and Sundays, my position required me to visit the constituency and appear at festivals on weekends, making it difficult to combine my work with caring for my family. At that time there was as yet no provision for someone to put their career on hold while they provided care. Although more people are becoming understanding of childrearing, there has been very little progress on raising awareness of caring for adults. After serving for two terms totaling eight years, and leaving it to just before the public announcement, at the very last minute when the candidate lists had almost been published in the newspapers, I decided not to stand for a third term.

I am grateful that I decided not to run for election and was able to look after my family to my own satisfaction. My aunt died not long after I withdrew my candidacy. Shortly after that I was found to have an ovarian tumor. I also subsequently had gallbladder surgery, and in both cases I had a full recovery and am now in good health. At the time of my gallbladder surgery, my father got bile duct cancer, eventually passing away after fighting the disease for a year and a half. Although I was attending GraSPP, I was comparatively well placed for time and was able to look after my father, so I have no regrets.

I started at GraSPP in April 2011. As I took a year and a half off from study, my life as a student has lasted longer than normal. When I felt mentally exhausted from being so wrapped up in caring, GraSPP remained invaluable to me as a place I could rely on being there. Although I initially enrolled in the International Public Policy Program, I found much that was unfamiliar due to having had no direct experience, even though there were things I may have heard about as a councilor, so having decided I wanted to switch my studies to regional government, I changed to the Public Management Program.



Winning a makeup contest as Sunakake-babaa

Student Interview

▶ No. 21

Noriko Katagiri
Public Management Program, 2nd Year



Trying to look younger than real self
(2007 election poster)

— What was it that led to your becoming a councilor on the Yokohama City Council?

I gained a master's degree at Harvard University where I studied second language acquisition and international education. While there I learnt about cases such as how raising the standard of education in developing nations promotes development. Even if we were engaged in civic activities, the reality was that the things we had to say were not getting through to the center of politics. The effectiveness of people who express their views differs widely depending on whether or not they are a politician. Talk about politics and religion is often taboo in Japan, whereas there is open debate about these subjects in America. Being in such an environment led me to develop an interest in politics. What I have kept with me from when I got a job after graduation through working as a Japanese teacher and up to the present day is a desire to see people looking happy and to give something back. This has instilled in me a wish to give back to the community in which I was raised and to make myself useful, ultimately leading to my choice to become a city councilor.

Because the disruption in my family meant I only had, in effect, about one week to prepare after I decided to run for re-election, I had all sorts of things going wrong, such as my leaflets not being delivered even though I had requested they be sent out, and my posters dissolving in the first shower of rain. Although I didn't get elected, I was able to experience things I had never encountered before, such as how to behave in failure and how you feel when you lose an election. I am now feeling clear-headed and am getting myself ready for the next step with a view to repaying those who have helped me in the past.

(Interview and text by editor)

Global Energy Outlook and Energy Policy Challenges of Japan and ASEAN

Hisashi Yoshikawa Project Professor

An international symposium entitled "Global Energy Outlook and Energy Policy Challenges of Japan and ASEAN" was held on September 16.

The symposium was well timed in a variety of senses. Firstly, it was the first time Dr. Fatih Birol had visited Japan since his appointment as Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), making it a valuable opportunity to hear about his take on the problems and his aspirations regarding the action plans of the IEA. Secondly, structural changes are taking place in the international supply and demand for energy, particularly in Asia. Thirdly, the symposium was held amid rising concerns about global environmental problems in the lead up to the COP21 to be held toward the end of this year. Furthermore, Japan has formulated its Basic Energy Plan and its long-term outlook for energy supply and demand, laying out the foundations and future directions for energy policy.

In addition to Dr. Birol, other invitees to the symposium included Takayuki Ueda, Vice-Minister for International Affairs of Economy, Trade and Industry (previously Commissioner of the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy); Hidetoshi Nishimura, Executive Director of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA); and Nobuo Tanaka, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (formerly Executive Director of the IEA). The discussion points for each major topic are summarized below.

1 Structure of global supply and demand for energy

When supply and demand are forecast out to 2040, regions like India and ASEAN will have a central role in drawing the world forward. This is because of an anticipated slowing of the rise in energy demand in China due to factors such as a lower rate of economic growth. On the supply side, meanwhile, there has been a rapid expansion in crude oil and natural gas production in North America. However, there will be a major fall in the level of investment in upstream processes next year due to the current low prices, leading to concerns as to whether there will be sufficient supply to satisfy future demand. Meanwhile, production of natural gas, particularly LNG, will continue to expand and it is expected to become the leading fuel. Another factor to be kept in mind is the ongoing change in the relationships between traditional consumers and producers, with oil production by the USA and other IEA members expanding at the same time as oil consumption is increasing in the long-time oil exporting nations of OPEC.

2 Maintaining energy security

Concerns about maintaining energy security tend to diminish at times when the price of oil is falling. On the other hand, issues such as geopolitical factors in the Middle East are structural and not of a sort that are amenable to quick solutions. Accordingly, it needs to be kept in mind that the maintenance of energy security remains an important issue.

3 Global environmental problems

COP21 is now being held in Paris at the end of this year. Politically, the leaders of USA and China reached a historic agreement on emissions of gases responsible for global warming in November last year, and a large number of countries, including developing nations, have already submitted "Intended Nationally Determined Contributions" (INDCs) (voluntary promises to reduce emissions of gases responsible for global warming) to the United Nations. Furthermore, welcome signs are evident in this area. For example, the tendency for CO2 emissions to continue rising has been diminishing, and there is growing progress around the world on things like energy efficiency and use of renewable energy. This concern about and action on global environmental problems sends a signal for the future of the energy sector and will influence investment trends.

4 Human resource development

While the member nations of ASEAN are diverse in the sense that they are at a variety of different stages in their economic growth and their level of energy access, there is a recognition that human resource development continues to be an issue, particularly for those nations with a low level of energy access.



Photograph courtesy of Kayo Yamashita

Topical News

The 82nd Public Policy Seminar was held on the 8th October at Fukutake Hall of the Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies. Takehiko Nakao, President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was invited and presented a lecture entitled "Asian Economic Outlook and the Role of ADB". Addressing an audience of more than 100, he covered a range of topics that included the future prospects for Asian economies and key activities and reform initiatives of the ADB. His humorous delivery brought forth numerous bursts of laughter from the audience. The lecture was infused with his good-natured demeanor, including his staying around afterwards for commemorative photographs with GraSPP's overseas students.



Editor's Postscript

Two of the contributors to this newsletter have coincidentally emphasized the importance of soft power in international relations. In both cases, karaoke diplomacy appeared to be notably effective at events they attended. It is pleasing that karaoke can prove so influential among the proud traditions of Japan. Although I should be too old for that sort of thing, I also find myself wishing I had been at the dating show.

(Editor)

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