

INDEX	1	The 1st Hepburn-Shibusawa Memorial Symposium <i>The Presidential Election and the Future of US Foreign Policy.</i>
	2	Public Policy Studies and the Ocean Alliance
	3	First "Nuclear Power and Society" Public Workshop <i>The Science, Technology and Public Policy Unit</i>
	4	Graduate School Course Report No.7 / Topical News

## The 1st Hepburn-Shibusawa Memorial Symposium

# The Presidential Election and the Future of US Foreign Policy

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On July 30th, 2008, the Graduate School for Law and Politics, in cooperation with the Graduate School of Public Policy, hosted the first Hepburn Shibusawa Memorial Symposium titled, "The Presidential Election and the Future of US Foreign Policy." **Professors Clyde Wilcox** of Georgetown University, **Michael Mastanduno** of Dartmouth College, and **Shin-ichi Kitaoka** of the University of Tokyo gave keynote lectures. **Professor Fumiaki Kubo** of the University of Tokyo coordinated the panels. The symposium was made possible in large part due to the generous support of Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Foundation.

Professor Wilcox began the lecture with an analysis of the 2008 Presidential Election. He explained why both Senators John McCain and Barack Obama won their party nominations in spite of the fact that neither were projected front-runners, and why Sen. McCain's potential gains among independent voters made the election outcome impossible to predict. Professor Mastanduno discussed the potential U.S. foreign policy changes under the next administration. On substantial policy issues, we should expect Sen. Obama to continue mainstream post-Cold War American foreign policy. He went on to explain how a McCain administration would likely face inner-party conflict, with substantial pressures from both the neo-conservative and realists circles. Professor Mastanduno maintained that whichever candidate emerges victorious, we should expect continuity rather than stark change in U.S. foreign policy.

Professor Kitaoka pointed out that America's foreign policy priorities will likely be directed toward the Middle East region. Accordingly, its foreign policies towards East Asia would remain of secondary importance. In conclusion, Professor Kitaoka highlighted various challenges awaiting Japan, including: an appropriate foreign policy aimed at both engaging The People's Republic of China, and hedging against possible security risks associated with its rise; reaching a successful resolution regarding the North Korean nuclear issue; and the need to address Japan's limited capacity to respond to small threats on its own. He also suggested an enhanced Japanese presence in the United Nation's Security Council would contribute not only to Japan's interests, but also to the stabilization of the broader East Asia region.



# Public Policy Studies and the Ocean Alliance

Naoya Okuwaki

Director of the Ocean Policy Unit, the University of Tokyo Ocean Alliance  
Professor, the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics

## For Environment, For Humanity —

On July 3, 2007, **the University of Tokyo Ocean Alliance** was established. This organisation will carry out research related to the marine environment by actively facilitating cooperation between researchers from diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, it will endeavour to develop a holistic approach to maritime education in order to support the educational needs of aspiring graduate students.

Maritime research in natural science disciplines is extensive; however, the knowledge is highly fragmented and dispersed. As a whole, we do not yet have a clear picture regarding the condition of our planet; however, by cobbling together dispersed existing knowledge, it is clear that the environmental burden of our actions is not small.

Currently, mankind and the sea have become estranged. The image of the sea as a broad open expanse has become usurped by an image of depth and darkness. Shorelines which used to be covered with coconut husks are now homes to mountains of garbage. Coral bleaching and the degradation of mangrove swamps continue unabated. Yet, it is the sea which gave birth to life on our planet. In fact, all land life is utterly dependent on the sea. In order to avoid humanity's demise, the current generation must find ways to embrace their responsibility and rectify these problems. Accordingly, focusing on what can be done represents a small but certain first step in guiding the research agenda of the Ocean Alliance's multi-disciplinary research efforts and gaining the support of the Japan Foundation.

## The Aim of the Ocean Alliance —

The Ocean Alliance has created a prototype multi-disciplinary program to begin to address this challenge. The program provides an arena in which to openly discuss issues from both an academic and an applied policy perspective. From the start, aspiring researchers from disparate disciplines will be thrust into a stimulating environment where discussion can thrive. Substantively speaking, three new faculty members have been welcomed to the program: **Mr. Tohomaru Hase, Dr. Masahiro Matsuura** and **Dr. Sookyoon Huh**. Students who complete the required amount of credits will receive an Ocean Alliance educational program graduation certificate.

Given the uncertainties about our planet's future, it is likely that the process itself will be worth more than the paper result. It is essential for scholars who are conducting research in specialised fields to cultivate the will to embrace new conceptualisations based on a holistic perspective.

In closing, for those researchers who are having trouble identifying themes for your own research, I contend that the process of examining the relationship between the sea and the world, Japan or society will reveal some intriguing prospects. I hope that students and graduate students studying at Tokyo University - particularly the graduate students studying at the Graduate School of Public Policy - will actively join in our endeavours.

# First “Nuclear Power and Society” Public Workshop

## The Science, Technology and Public Policy Unit



Project Researchers : Ryoko Hatanaka, Go Yoshizawa

September 17, 2008 – The first workshop on governance was held at the University of Tokyo’s Takeda Conference Hall. It was sponsored by the Engineering Department’s Global Center of Excellence (COE), the Nuclear Education and Research Initiative and supported by the Graduate School of Public Policy’s Scientific, Technology and Public Policy Unit. The workshop examined the impact of risks associated with emergent technology on society pertaining to three areas: nuclear energy, health care and foodstuffs.

### Presentations —

On the topic of health care, **Dr. Ryozo Nagai**, professor on cardiovascular at the Graduate School of Medicine, the University of Tokyo, delivered a presentation on the theme of crisis in the health care system. He explained how funding within Japan’s health care field has been watered down and dispersed to the point that it is undermining the efforts of medical practitioners. He went on to assert that in order to facilitate further medical advancements, efforts should be expended to ensure that there is a circular link between fundamental and applied research.

On the topic of nuclear energy, **Professor Haruki Madarame** from the School of Engineering at the University of Tokyo spoke about nuclear technology governance with an emphasis on required reform within the nuclear facilities inspection system. He also elaborated on the need for the Japanese nuclear regulatory authority to take a multi-stakeholder approach in the standard setting process by enlisting input from representatives of industry, government and academia.

On the topic of foodstuffs, **Mr. Hiroshi Yoshikura**, former chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, delivered a presentation on risk governance in foodstuffs. Given high uncertainty in scientific research on

food risks, researchers tend to pursue and prove certain risks of their research subjects in order to exhibit the research is useful and persuade the sponsors to keep funding.

### Comments from Discussants —

**Hatanaka** spoke about prospects and concerns regarding an impending self-governance framework within the medical profession.

**Yoshizawa** expressed concern that the process of including multiple stakeholder input into the inquiry commission proceedings would be regarded as more form than substance. He iterated the need for the government inquiry commission’s activities to be more transparent and for the public to be better informed.

On the response to the foodstuffs theme, **Associate Professor Tatsuhiro Kamisato** from the School of Engineering emphasized the challenges inherent in identifying coping mechanisms for perils associated with unseen risks related to foodstuffs.

In the concluding panel discussion, the case of Fukushima Prefectural Oono Hospital catalyzed a discussion on the relationship between health care and legal jurisdiction with panellists crossing swords over whether or not an emergence of self-governing standards can be expected.

Due to the difficulties of defining a framework to explicate suitable rights and responsibility of each of the actors who play a role in bearing the burden of governance, it was apparent that the workshop was not going to be successful in trying together all the problems discussed with a neat solution. In all likelihood, for each of the presenters and audience members that returned home with fresh perspectives on these issues, the workshop achieved its purpose.

## Graduate School Course Report

No.7

### Case Study

(Microeconomic Policy / Introduction to Policy Analysis 1)

Course Facilitators: Yoshitsugu Kanemoto, Katsuhiko Yamaguchi,  
Kisaburo Ishii, Katsuya Hihara

By Takanori Kojima (Economic Policy Course: 1st Year)

Case Study (Microeconomic Policy / Introduction to Policy Analysis 1) focuses on city planning policy. Each week, one's understanding of applied policy is broadened. Moreover, there are many opportunities to engage in actual site inspections and attend private industry hearings. This course is intended to achieve more than just knowledge dissemination. It aims to equip students with the skills to analyse planning issues from a holistic perspective and prepare policy responses that will be suitable to society's needs in any given situation. This cannot be considered as a typical academic graduate research course, it is undoubtedly an applied graduate level public policy course.

In the class, everyone is divided into groups. I participated in the Environmental group. We drew on information provided from hearings at newspaper companies and governmental

offices to learn about climate change, Japan's policy position and current mitigation efforts. We were also given an opportunity to consider the future repercussions of climate change. Within this context, I became enmeshed in the problem of society's dependence on the personal automobile. My research theme was "To what extent would overall greenhouse gas emissions be influenced by taxation measures designed to rapidly suppress personal automobile usage". I collected data on this topic and analysed the effectiveness of existing policies from an often neglected economic perspective. I then experimented with the development of new policy proposals to address the issue.

Professor Kanemoto, who was the first course facilitator, and other professors gave us very useful advice by patiently listening to our opinions and extracting problematic issues embedded in our comments for further analysis. Beyond this, their passions for the issues was evident through their willingness to extend class hours for up to an hour in order to accommodate our study needs.

Although I participated only for the summer session, I developed a keener interest in research and high-level scholastic inquiry thanks to the impassioned endeavours of the facilitators and seniors who took the course. It was a truly inspirational course.



## The 8th International Transport Policy Research Unit (ITPU) Workshop

The 8th ITPU workshop (a jointly sponsored workshop with the Urban Economics Workshop) was held on August 20, 2008 on the 12th floor of the Economics Research Building. Professor Marvin Kraus from Boston College's Department of Economics was invited to lead the workshop. Professor Kraus' lecture was on his recent paper "Economies of Scale in Networks". A lively discussion took place on issues including conditions to minimize the cost of transport infrastructure networks, costs associated with Tokyo's road and subway network structure, and the influence on cost structure that externalities such as global warming impose.

(Professor Katsuya Hihara)



### Editor's Note

A number of pressing issues were represented in the articles found in this edition of our newsletter. Emergent themes included nuclear power, food security, and the environment. The current relevance and diverse treatment of research related to these issues highlights two strengths of the Graduate School of Public Policy.

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