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CAMPUS Asia Program Launched

Kotoko Ogawa Program Manager, International Affairs Office



The CAMPUS Asia Pilot Program is a three-way exchange project in which the governments of Japan, China and Korea provide financial assistance to their students as well as students from the other countries so as to increase the mobility of students, and is one of the 2011 projects designed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan to enhance the world presence of Japanese universities. The BESETO (Beijing-Seoul-Tokyo) Double Degree Master's Program (BESETO-DDMP) of the Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP) has been chosen as a pilot program. It has been developed by the GraSPP, School of International Studies of Peking University (SIS) and Graduate School of International Studies of Seoul National University (GSIS), with the focus on student exchange and the double degree system. It will be taught in English.

Students enrolled in the BESETO-DDMP will choose either student exchange or a "double degree" (for a master's degree from his or her university and another degree from one of the program schools). All students will be required to study in all three countries. For example, a student may study at the GraSPP for a year, and then go to SIS and GSIS for a year or a semester each while enrolled at the GraSPP. All classes at these three universities are as a rule taught in English. Student may be able to acquire double degrees from two graduate schools, including the GraSPP in a time as short as two and a half years if the requirements set by a university where the student has gone for a year-long study are met. This is truly a groundbreaking project.

The BESETO-DDMP plans to include programs which offer students studying outside their own countries the chance to get in touch with the local culture and customs of their host country. Although classes are generally taught in English, there are plans to provide opportunities to learn beginner-level Japanese, Chinese or Korean, and develop a pool of local businesses or international organization which might offer internship to students who wish to do so. In addition, there will be an annual summer program for students of all three universities to come together and learn by making full use of the differences of semesters in the academic calendars (GSIS begins its academic year in March, the GraSPP in April and October, and SIS in September). The first summer program was held from August 1 to 13 this year at GSIS in which 14 GraSPP students participated.

The GraSPP students will be exempt from paying tuition to SIS and GSIS; they will pay their tuition only to the GraSPP for the entire program period, including the time they are studying abroad. Students who participate in the program by 2015 will be eligible to receive financial assistance from grant programs to meet airfare and a part of living expenses during their study abroad.

At the GraSPP, the "Master of Public Policy, Campus Asia Program" (MPP/CAP) course will start in April, 2013. It offers a curriculum based on the CAMPUS Asia plan with the requirement that students study at SIS and GSIS during the program. The programs are expected to provide outstanding students from the participating countries a great venue to build a network and develop themselves to be leaders of not only the 21st-century Asia but also the 21st-century world.



School of International Studies
of Peking University (SIS)



Graduate School of International Studies
of Seoul National University (GSIS)

Murmurs and Musings

No. 3

Yayoi Tanaka

Part-time lecturer (Associate Professor, National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation)



Public-mindedness of the University of Tokyo students

"Volunteer jobs? Well, Todaisei (the University of Tokyo students) might not want to apply for such jobs because they always get part-time jobs with good conditions." That was the reaction of the University of Tokyo encountered by the Nissan Motor company when it was asking the cooperation of universities in a scholarship program. This program was founded in 1998 to encourage university students to participate in NPO activities as volunteers. The word "volunteer" evokes an image of unrefined grassroots activism. Perhaps, in the eyes of the Todai (the University of Tokyo) people, the image of a volunteer worker did not seem to match that of a Todaisei who carries out his or her tasks flawlessly. In reality, however, Todaisei accounted for the largest number of applicants who responded to the call for volunteers.

Many students at the University of Tokyo aspire to become bureaucrats. One of the reasons for such aspiration is "public-mindedness" which motivates the students to seek public interest jobs. It seems, therefore, quite natural that such public-minded students would be interested in volunteerism.

Fifteen years later, the number of Todaisei who have experience working as volunteers has increased dramatically. The most interesting development of all, however, is a change seen in the style of volunteerism. While it used to be the norm that volunteers simply carried out tasks that were given to them, students appear to have grown dissatisfied with the style of just waiting for orders. When given a problem, they prefer to design solutions themselves and carry them out on their own initiative. They even seem to enjoy the process of doing so. A good example is the "Youth for 3.11"* which was organized by the Todaisei in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake. When it was considered difficult for untrained people to go into the disaster-stricken areas, the group devised a system which effectively dispatched more than 10,000 untrained students to the disaster areas for relief work, to the surprise of disaster professionals.

Perhaps, Todaisei have been undertaking to push the evolution of the style and venue with which to express their public-mindedness far more sensitively than we have imagined.

*Youth for 3.11: an organization that provides volunteer programs in which students can easily participate. (<http://www.youthfor311.com/>)

My Wonderful Experiences in Japan

Endah Sari Utami 2nd Year, MPP/IP

It is very difficult to describe my two-year experience in Japan in words, but maybe "I am one of the luckiest Indonesian students in the world" is the most suitable words to express how I feel. Yes, I am very lucky not only because I was able to obtain a scholarship to pursue my master's degree in the best university in Japan but also I had a chance to directly feel the great culture of the country. Back then, two years ago, actually I was not sure if I can survive in Japan because of my inability to speak Japanese. Fortunately, the uncertainty soon disappeared when I received the warmest welcome upon arrival in Japan. My tutor taught me about Japanese basic customs and helped with all of my settling process. The administration staff members and faculty members of GraSPP showed full dedication and did hard work to make all international students feel comfortable in their new environment by removing constraints within the campus as much as possible. One of the most touching experiences during that time was that GraSPP office provided a praying space for me. That really surprised me, and I was moved to realize how a monoculture country can appreciate diversity. That experience taught me tolerance which I think will be difficult to find in other countries.

The second miracle happened to me May 2011, just after the great disaster in Tohoku. I found that I was pregnant. I was really happy since I had been waiting for years for this miracle. But then, I became very afraid if I was able to get through my pregnancy process. When I experienced a miscarriage before, I received full support from my family in Indonesia; this time I had to struggle alone in a country whose language I cannot speak, against an uncertainty about radiation condition in my area. Most of the English-language media, my only information source, gave me scary news, but I had a huge responsibility to finish my study. Fortunately my worries did not last long since I got a lot of support from GraSPP administration staff members, classmates and professors who shared their knowledge and experiences about child rearing in Japan. Now I am very grateful not only because I have a cute and healthy son but also I have had very wonderful experiences with the Japanese prime, professional and fast healthcare and public service system. I hope I can share all of my valuable experiences here when I go back to my country to promote a better public service system.



— I heard you have accepted a job at an advertising agency.

I enrolled in the GraSPP because I wanted to study tourism from the perspective of government policies. However, as the GraSPP offered no class specialized in tourism, I took the class called “Culture and Tourism Policies for Cities” in the Master’s Program in Sustainable Urban Regeneration (for working adults) of the School of Engineering (<http://www.due.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/mps/index.html>). I learned so much from talking with working adult students. I started to think of a job opportunity at an advertising agency because one of them suggested to me that I could be involved in tourism at an advertising agency from the perspective of “application”. It made me realize that an agency may be the place I can put a developed policy into an action. As I progressed through my study, I started to see strong affinity with public policy.

I always loved islands. By travelling to islands around Japan, I started to sense that policies developed by consultants and government bureaucrats were rather out of sync with reality. I reached the conclusion that advertisements that appeal by taglines and visuals would be an effective means for diverse stakeholders to share the core concept and develop a tourism-oriented community.



haved and long hair cut short to tackle job hunting



Student Interview

No. 12

Fumiaki Misawa

Public Management Division (2nd year)



Swimming butterfly in the Ganges



— You have a reputation as a remote island expert.

My recent visit was to Ama-cho on Oki Islands in Shimane Prefecture. While remote island communities are likely to have their public policies developed by external consultants, this community does it on their own. However, I heard that the people who were involved in Ama's comprehensive development plan included Ryo Yamazaki, a famous community designer. I also heard that a Mother and Child Health Handbook which the island administration designed in collaboration with Hakuhodo Institute of Life and Living was very popular with mothers as a means to enable them to share information and communicate with one another.

In order to gather information regarding remote islands, I not only visit those islands but also frequent the library of the School of Science to read every available back number issues of the quarterly *Shima* ("Island"), and participate in an island festival called the “Islanders”, which is organized by the National Institute for Japanese Islands and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. When I visited the National Institute for Japanese Islands for an hour-long interview for my research, I ended up engaging in such a lively conversation with the interviewee that three-and-a-half hours had passed before I looked at the clock.

I always urge people around me by saying, “you can’t call yourself Japanese until you see the Japanese islands” or “go to the islands before you go to the US or Europe,” although their reactions are not very positive. I travelled through the Eurasian and African continents over a year while I was an undergraduate (at Keio University). I toured many places, such as Armenia where there was a church presumed to be the oldest in the world, Israel which got me interested in tourism-oriented community development, and Kenya where I jointed a safari. Yet the place I arrived at in the end was islands of Japan rich in their nature and culture. It is amusing to me that the world looks different and fresh whenever I return to the city after spending some time on an island, perhaps, because my senses have been sharpened. Every time I go to an island, there is something new that moves me and for me to discover. It gives me the real sense of the breadth and depth of the country called Japan. I believe these islands are a treasure trove full of allure. (Interview and text by editor)

Seminar Camp: "Case Study (Modern Administration I)"

Jun Muto

Class of 2012, Public Management Division; now works at an incorporated non-profit organization



On March 26 and 27, 2012, Visiting Professor Hiroya Masuda's "Case Study (Modern Administration I)" organized a seminar camp at Tsunan-machi in Naka-Uonuma district of Niigata Prefecture. When one of our seminar students, Ms. Haruka Kuwahara (Class of 2012, Legal Policy Division), was elected to the Tsunan-machi town council by a landslide in October, 2011, the media reports included the coverage of the seminar.

Professor Masuda was kind enough to find time in his busy schedule to come to our camp. The participants toured the town and listened to local farmers. Tsunan-machi is known as one of the areas that receive heavy snowfall in Japan. In spite of it being in late March, the town was still under about 2.5m of snow. On the evening of March 26, Professor Masuda gave a lecture at the Tsunan-machi Culture Center Hall on community development and improvements which was open to all Tsunan-machi residents. It was entitled "Building Tsunan-machi, an Autonomous Community," based on the fact

that Tsunan-machi did not merge with surrounding communities but chose to be "autonomous" during the Great Heisei Mergers, and from the point of view of how a town could stand alone. The evening was a big success with the township's councilors and officials as well as many townspeople coming to hear the lecture. At the reporting session on the township administration by Councilors Kuwahara and Minoru Onda that followed at the public hall, Professor Masuda engaged in conversation with the townspeople. I believe we have gained a better understanding of the town administration by watching the attendees carrying on lively discussions around us.

Next day, Councilor Onda took us on a tour of the town. We visited scenic Akiyama, and thoroughly enjoyed a magnificent view of the nature. At a former elementary school, which was closed down due to the decline in the child population, we put on snowshoes and climbed a snow mountain built on the school ground. The school buildings are carefully preserved, and used as a venue for city children to have agricultural experiences. We realized the importance and need for sharing and discussing ideas about how to use facilities such as this effectively. Our time in Tsunan-machi was limited, but we spent very productive two days.

With the local autonomy as the seminar subject, we had been analyzing and discussing government policies on local autonomy and a variety of challenges for local governments. The seminar camp at Tsunan-machi provided us with an excellent opportunity to wrap up the course of study with a real sense of what local autonomy was. In particular, we have a new understanding of the magnitude of the issue of "autonomy" for small local governments, such as Tsunan-machi, in this age of continuing depopulation, declining birthrate and aging of population.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude again to Professor Masuda and the people of Tsunan-machi.

Topical News

It's Official; GraSPP Joins the GPPN

Under the Global Public Policy Network Promotion Plan, which was adopted by the 2007 MEXT Project for the Promotion of Internationalization of University Education, the GraSPP has been working on the implementation of a double-degree system and the development of an educational infrastructure in response to globalization. As a result, the GraSPP and two other schools (Hertie School of Governance in Germany and Escola de Administração de Empresas de São Paulo da Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV-EAESP) in Brazil) have been accepted into the full membership in the GPPN (Global Public Policy Network).

The GPPN is a network of the world's top-tier graduate schools of public policy formed by London School of Economics and Political Science, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, Institut d' Etudes Politiques de Paris (Science Po) and National University of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

GPPN
global public policy network

Editor's
Postscript

This issue became unexpectedly a special issue featuring students. In addition to the usual student interview, it has articles such as the one submitted by an Indonesian student who gave birth to her child in Japan, the one by a former student who reported on his seminar camp in a town under more than two meters of snow in March, and the one giving us a glimpse of the real Todaisei as seen by a teacher. All of these articles reveal the diversity of students at the University of Tokyo as well as the GraSPP. (Editor)

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[design] Masahiro ABiCo

7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan tel 03-5841-1710 fax 03-5841-7877

E-mail grasppn1@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp <http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp>