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Inaugural Message

Toshiaki Iizuka Dean, Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo



Now entering its 13th year, the Graduate School of Public Policy was established in April 2004 to educate professionals in diverse areas of public policy. The school provides interdisciplinary training with a balanced mix of law, politics, and economics, including classes given by teaching staff with practical experience and hands-on training that draws on real-world case studies, and has fostered people who have gone on to work in the planning, evaluation, and implementation of policy. We have been fortunate to enjoy steady growth in our number of graduates, with the total having surpassed 1,000 at the end of AY 2015. While many graduates have taken up positions at administrative agencies in Japan and overseas, recent years have also seen an increasing number finding employment at think tanks or in such fields as finance or manufacturing.

One of the key issues we have had to grapple with since our establishment has been internationalization. With links between Japan and the rest of the world becoming both deeper and more complex, internationalization has also become a vital feature of public policy education and we have taken active steps to incorporate this major trend into our programs. In 2009, we launched the University of Tokyo's first ever double degree program (whereby students can gain a degree both from the University of Tokyo and a partner university), and we currently have arrangements with Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore, the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po), Hertie School of Governance in Germany, the Graduate School of International Studies at Seoul National University, and the School of International Studies at Peking University. We have also started to accept a large number of overseas students following the establishment, from AY 2010, of MPP/IP (Master of Public Policy, International Program) that offers a master's degree taken entirely in English. Thanks to these initiatives, approximately 40% of our classes are now in English and the number of overseas students has also climbed to roughly 40%, making us a cosmopolitan campus with a high level of internationalization compared to the rest of the University of Tokyo.

Secondly, we have sought to act as a bridge between the latest research and teaching and its real-world application, including by taking advantage of external funding. This has included the establishment of research programs in such fields as international transportation policy, energy and the global environment, healthcare policy, capital markets, urban and regional policy, maritime policy, space policy, e-government practices, and science and technology innovation policy. By linking up not only with other universities but also with extensive real-world policy networks, we are able to undertake higher level and more practical research and education. As part of this, we are also taking a leadership role in cross-disciplinary programs across the university.

Thirdly, we will be launching a doctoral program from AY 2016. The knowledge and skills needed for the planning, evaluation, and implementation of policy are becoming increasingly sophisticated and complex, and, most notably, we are entering a time when a doctorate will be essential for participation in things like international agencies or international negotiations. The aim of the doctoral program is to foster candidates who possess advanced abilities in interdisciplinary and practical international areas as well as a high level of research capabilities in their specialist field (law/politics, economics), with the goal of producing public policy leaders in Japan and the world in the fields of international finance and development and international security.

In these ways, the Graduate School of Public Policy is making steady progress toward becoming one of the world's leading schools in its field. I hope that our students can make the most of these learning environments and transform themselves into public policy professionals. As we also intend to expand our network of overseas partner universities, I strongly recommend that students spend some of their time studying overseas. To everyone in the field, I appreciate your ongoing help and support for these students.

Yee-Kuang HENG Professor

Embarking on a New Exciting Journey



After 12 years lecturing on International Relations at universities in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, and Singapore, I joined GraSPP as a full-time faculty member in April 2016. I enjoyed thoroughly my previous six-month visiting stint with GraSPP in 2015, and am delighted to be back. This time, my key responsibility will be helping to deliver the newly-established Doctoral program at

GrasPP. The PhD in Public Policy, with two specialization tracks in "International Security" and "International Finance and Development", trains students to develop an integrated holistic analytical mindset to address complex policy challenges in our globalized world. Together with a professor from an Economics background, I will be teaching a Research Design Seminar for first-year PhD candidates on how to identify research questions, formulate hypotheses and deploy appropriate research methods. I will also be teaching other modules such as Field Seminar in International Relations; Security Studies, and Soft Power in the Asia-Pacific. Besides my teaching responsibilities, there are research opportunities that also attracted me to GraSPP. The strong links with the Policy Alternatives Research Institute (PARI)'s Security Studies Unit and the Complex Risk Governance Unit in particular provide platforms for cutting-edge research that complement my own long-standing interests in the field of risk and security studies. As a leading research university, UTokyo is well-placed to be the frontrunner in Asia exploring the complex intersection between risk and security. For instance, a research project evaluating risk assessment and horizon scanning structures

in security policy-making through a comparative analysis of British, Singaporean and Japanese experiences, would be most exciting. Having previously presented papers at international conferences in a joint panel together with other colleagues at GraSPP, my hope is that we can collate our papers to publish an edited volume in a peer-reviewed academic journal that showcases the impressive multi-disciplinary research on risk undertaken here. GraSPP is also engaged in many significant international initiatives such as double-degree programs and strategic partnerships such as the Global Public Policy Network. I am looking forward to serving on the International Affairs Committee. As several of our partner public policy schools around the world have launched Executive Education programs, this is one avenue that I hope to explore together with colleagues at GraSPP. In addition, building stronger faculty and student exchanges between GraSPP and our partner, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, has been one of my interests, not least because I spent five years on the LKYSPP faculty! Several developments in professional organisations, such as the first Regional Conference on Public Policy to be held at the University of Hong Kong in June 2016 also offer opportunities for GraSPP faculty and students conducting research and building networks with partner institutions. I have been invited to attend the interim steering committee meeting at the inaugural launch of the Asia-Pacific International Public Policy Association in Hong Kong and it promises to be an eye-opening experience, with implications for policy schools in Asia such as GraSPP. With the blossoming and fading of the sakura, the spring semester is now underway and there is much to do in the new academic year.

GraSPP Course Report

No. 14

Ming WAN

MPP/IP Year 1

Case Study

(Finance and Development in Emerging Asia I)

[Instructor]

Prof. Toshiro Nishizawa



Author, third from the left, front row

Find your own interest

Last semester, although I had very limited experience either in case studies or financial issues as a freshman at GraSPP, I took the course "Case Study (Finance and Development in Emerging Asia I)" because I was interested in policy banking operations. I was a little worried at the very beginning, but when I discussed my idea with Prof. Nishizawa I was encouraged to look into ADB's case from the angle which I'm familiar with—energy sector operations.

Open your mind

The class was held in small group discussions around the table, so everybody had a chance to express thoroughly their opinions and freely questions. In the course, we were exposed to many professional concepts by looking into various cases related to development and finance, all of which are relevant to our interests. After having broadened our analytical perspectives, we were able to examine a variety of topics, such as the pros and cons of globalization, financial integration, microfinance development, TPP, China's AIB initiative, and RMB internationalization. Our discussion often ran past the allotted class time and the best part of the class was that although the topics were quite diverse, one could still focus on his or her own subject.

Gain practical experience

With the guidance of the professor, we learned to listen to different opinions, to critically analyze from different perspectives and to derive our own conclusions/implications. After reading and processing reading materials on selected episodes, we wrote a brief memo about our understanding of the issue to help the professor know if we were on the track and to give us further advice. Hands-on training helped us learn how to write research papers, make presentations professionally, and communicate more effectively. Also, guest speakers with working experiences in international financial institutions were invited to share their views with us directly.

You should join

Combine with practical application, this course was a special and enjoyable learning opportunity for me and has made my study in the following semester easier and more fruitful. Most importantly, as this is a free and open learning environment, you are not penalized for your views if they are different from others—all you need is to think actively and independently. Therefore, no matter whether you have a background in finance or not, if you have some ideas in financial issues and would like to gain practical skills, you should join this fantastic course, find your own interest, and learn from it.

— I understand you were sent here by the National Personnel Authority.

I came here under a national scholarship program run by the National Personnel Authority. This program is offered to interested staff from government ministries and enables them to engage research activities at graduate schools in Japan. I worked at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications in the area of telecommunications. I was engaged in formulating competition policies in a mobile phone market. This fostered my desire to study at graduate school so that I could learn more about the laws related to the field of policy formulation, and gain knowledge of economics that can be used to analyze the effectiveness of existing policies. The National Personnel Authority program lets you take the entrance exam for any graduate school you want, so long as it is a public university. A dozen or so people are chosen each year from across the different ministries and agencies.

When I talked to an older colleague who had been sent to GraSPP in its early years, I was advised that GraSPP was ideal for what I wanted to study, with a flexible curriculum that doesn't just focus narrowly on law, economics, or politics.



Student Interview

▶ No. 22

Seisa Nakamura

Legal Policy Program Year 2



— Having completed your first year, how are things going?

There are a lot of classes I would like to take, but with GraSPP having a limit of 38 on the number of credits you can obtain, I have attended some courses both inside and outside the faculty as a non-regular student. The courses "Regulation Policy" and "Law and Economics" given by Professor Toshihiro Matsumura are directly relevant to my work and have alerted me to aspects I hadn't considered in the past. I was also interested by the three case studies on "Public Administration and Society in the Digital Age" by Professor Hirokazu Okumura. While the case studies raise a wide variety of issues, including the transition to a participatory society enabled by ICT, greater transparency in government through the publishing of data, and improving administrative efficiency through measures such as e-government and the social security and tax number system called "My Number System" in Japan, they are all predicated on the expectation that the nature of government and the relationship between administrative government and its people will change in the future. Almost all approvals at my own office are now done electronically, with nobody using a seal any more. The "Basic Knowledge and its Application in the Field of Legislation – Policy-Making by Constitutional Government" of Professor Hideyuki Toyama has also proved beneficial, providing an opportunity to learn systematically on essential knowledge for legislation.

Living the life of a student once more, although I feel a little self-conscious about the difference in age between myself and the other students, because many of them are interested in getting a job in government, I believe it might be helpful that I tell them my own job experience in that environment.

Currently, I have moved on somewhat from my initial interests to pick up on the "nudge" idea and attend the Nudge Unit of the Graduate Program for Social ICT Global Creative Leaders (GCL). "Nudge" is the idea of taking advantage of human nature to encourage people to adopt better behaviors while still preserving freedom of choice. In place of the past top-down approach of telling people how to behave, it stands for gently guiding ("nudging") them in the right direction. I believe this will be useful in the formulation of future policy that does not involve legal coercion. I suspect I would have remained ignorant of this interesting idea had I not come to GraSPP.

(Interview and text by editor)

Farewell Message

Hideaki Shiroyama



I have served as Dean of Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP) for two years, beginning in April 2014.

A major challenge during this time has been the establishment of a doctoral program. This culminated in the establishment of a doctoral program in international public policy at GraSPP in April 2016, in association with the Global Leader Program for Social Design and Management, an all-round "leading" doctoral program that has been lead-managed by GraSPP.

A focus during this period has been on how the program should differ from the existing doctoral program. This has led to its targeting the areas of "international finance and development" and "international security", and an emphasis on seeking to educate not only researchers but also people who can play an active role outside academia, use of English as the primary teaching language, and the incorporation of interdisciplinary studies that include the sciences. The possession of a doctorate is becoming a prerequisite for certain public roles, not only at international agencies but also in various Asian nations, while in academia where a strong emphasis is placed on the quality of research, I believe that at GraSPP, too, having a small-scale doctoral program is important to ensuring the development of our existing specialist vocational programs.

Meanwhile, GraSPP continues to become more international, including through our English-based international program and our exchange and double degree programs, with the number of our overseas students now reaching roughly 40% of the whole student population. Furthermore, we also intend to expand the scope of the international program by adding two policy streams in MPP/IP, "Economic Policy, Finance and Development (EPFD)" and "Public Management and International Relations (PMIR)", in AY2017. We are also proceeding with the construction of the long-awaited building that is intended to house the bulk of the GraSPP faculty, with completion scheduled for the summer of 2017.

While GraSPP is a relatively young organization, having been established in 2004, we have taken advantage of the flexibility offered by being a joint venture between the Graduate School of Law and Politics and the Graduate School of Economics to engage in a variety of experiments, including collaboration with people outside academia, with overseas organizations, and with the sciences. With this new vessel, and through our various collaborations, I believe that we can take on the fundamental challenge of steadily strengthening our base of research and teaching. While much unfinished business remains, with the help of everyone involved, I believe we have accomplished what we set out to achieve. I urge you all to continue in your ongoing support for GraSPP.



New GraSPP Web Site

We have made the new site easier to view and navigate. This newsletter, which did not previously have a home of its own, has now been consolidated in one place, including easier access to back numbers. We will post announcements about events and other news as it arises. Check it out!

<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>



This is the first newsletter since my moving to new office. While the old office provided all the Yoshino cherry blossoms you could hope for, my new home comes with a delightful mix of three varieties of cherry tree, with the deep pink of Taiwan cherry, Yoshino cherry, and Yaezakura. The neighborhood, too, is a pleasant place to stroll around with a distinctive shitamachi feel.

(Editor)