

LETTER

GraSPP
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

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GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2018 Report



The GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2018 was held at the International Academic Research Building on Saturday October 20, 2018, as a homecoming event for the Graduate School of Public Policy. Fourteen graduates of GraSPP visiting Japan as part of the ASEAN, Central & South Asia Youth Mission to Japan 2018 (invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) joined this year's event, together with 150 alumni and current students.

The program was coordinated by graduate Yuri Tsuyuzaki (11th term, Campus Asia Course), and started with a speech by Dean Akio Takahara.

The talk session, moderated by professor Jun Arima, focused on the theme of "US-Chinese relations and prospects for the political situation in Northeast Asia - wither trade, the Korean Peninsula, and the One Belt One Road policy?" Naoyuki Yoshino (dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute), Fumiaki Kubo (professor of the University of Tokyo Faculty of Law), and Dean Akio Takahara joined in the panel discussion. These highly relevant topics resulted in active questions from the audience.

The discussion was followed by the Alumni Association Portal information session. Alumni Kunro Hino (8th term, Economic Policy Course) and Arthur El Medioni (12th term, International Program Course, vice-chairperson of the alumni association) explained about the portal, which was launched last year as a place where alumni, current students, and faculty can freely interact beyond borders, and called for people to register for it.

[GraSPP Alumni Association Portal] <https://www.grasppalumni.com/>

The final reception was joined by graduates and faculty as well as Akira Morita (first dean of GraSPP), Takatoshi Ito (the fourth dean), and Hideaki Shiroyama (the fifth dean). The reception was a highly successful end to an excellent homecoming day.

Next year's alumni and student day will be held on Saturday October 19, 2019. We hope to see you there.

[Tokyo GraSPP Homecoming day] <http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/news/2018-10-21-17089/>

Ronald Margallo (Class of 2013)

Alumni homecomings are normally just for a night but ours was made extra special by GraSPP through the generosity of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Our homecoming was part of the ASEAN, Central and South Asia Youth Mission which ran for eight wonderful days. The whole experience was like reliving our student days in GraSPP – the lively policy discussions and alumni-related activities were balanced with experiential site visits to institutions known for environmental protection and technology.

The culmination of our activities was the alumni gathering held at the biggest hall in the new GraSPP building. I stood at the back of the room eagerly catching up with my batchmates whom I had not seen since we graduated in 2013, before my name was called to deliver a message. As I turned and faced the crowd from the front, I was captivated by what I saw. Looking at the faces of everyone – from the students to the alumni to the administrative staffs and to the professors – I was swept over by the feeling that GraSPP had gone a long way and the enthusiasm of the people that form GraSPP will continue the school's legacy as a change agent in the public policy sphere.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Dean Akio Takahara and others who made our homecoming possible. Cheers to a bright future ahead of GraSPP, our beloved alma mater, and its community!



Future Scenarios for Global Energy Market under Growing Uncertainties

Visiting Professor Ken Koyama



This symposium was held in the Fukutake Learning Theater of the Hongo Campus of the University of Tokyo, on Monday December 3, 2018.

The first symposium of this kind began in April 2010 as part of the chair titled Energy Security and the Environment endowed by INPEX Corporation.

As the 20th century, the century of oil, shifts into the 21st century, the world is faced with the need to adopt new types of energy sources and technology. Yet this path is fraught with uncertainties. How to cope with this unpredictability and gain a clearer picture of the future is a grave issue for anyone involved in energy anywhere in the world.

In the light of this situation, the symposium featured keynote lectures from Paul Appleby, Senior Advisor of BP, and Kenneth Medlock, Senior Director of the Baker Institute of Public Policy of Rice University, USA. These lectures looked at the future of the global energy market, offering various scenarios while underlining the great changes we are in the middle of.

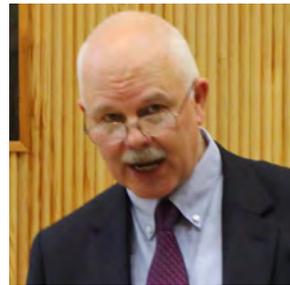
Probing as far ahead as 2040, they pointed out the high probability that fossil fuels and oil in particular will continue to play an important role, noting the need to secure investment and a stable market.

The keynote lectures were followed by a panel discussion with Japanese energy policymakers, energy industry members and experts. The participants actively debated how to cope with the uncertainties of the international energy market from their respective corporate, industrial, or national perspectives. The panel covered significant ground, including issues such as the stability of the international energy market, the situation in the Middle East, expectations for gas and LNG as clean energy, greater efforts to cope with the growing market in Asia, energy cooperation with Russia, and so on.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped make this symposium happen and who participated in it, to make it such a successful and worthwhile event.

More details of it can be seen at Energy Security and the Environment:

<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/INPEX/event/2018-12-03/event.html>.



Mr. Paul Appleby



Dr. Ken Medlock

Urban-regional policy and social infrastructure management Event Report

Public Forum: New Ways to Manage Public Spaces - Park-PFI and Japanese BID

Project Professor Kenichi Tanaka

This forum was held in the Fukutake Learning Theater on Tuesday November 27, 2018.

The forum, held as part of the research and exchange activities for the endowed chair titled Urban Community Policies and Social Capital Management (Mitsui Fudosan), brought together over 130 members of government (national and local), people involved with construction and real estate, consultants, members of the finance industry think tanks, universities, and so on.

The focus was on the major issue of how to maintain and improve urban areas and communities faced with the reality of declining populations. Government-led uniform urban planning is limited as to what it can do amidst competition between cities and regions, so the critical point for survival of cities and communities is to step up collaboration with local citizens while making the most of local characteristics.

This brings the spotlight onto area management, where the private sector actively takes a role in urban and community planning in units of particular areas. The forum topic of new ways to manage public spaces looked at how this area management concept could be reformulated with an approach focusing on spaces, seeking to establish future directions to proceed in.

Invitees included Kazuhiko Kiyose, secretariat councilor (City Bureau) to the Ministry of Land Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, from the government, Yutaka Saito, head of the Urban Development Department of the Retail Properties Division of Mitsui Fudosan for the private sector, and Miki Yasui, a professor of Hosei University for academia.

The lively discussion was coordinated by Visiting Professor Masayuki Nakagawa of the Graduate School of Public Policy, introducing a number of initiatives while seeking out pressing issues and possible solutions.

Some materials from the event and a record of the lectures will duly be available at <https://mfec.jp/>.



Student Interview

No. 29

Jiezel Nara (Year 1, MPP/IP)



At Mount Takao Jiezel is third from left in the front row

— Have you enjoyed your time at GraSPP?

Of course! GraSPP is a great place to study at because you can choose what you want to study and take classes you're interested in. On top of that, some of my classmates are studying while working as lawyers, they have a lot of different experiences, so I get a lot of motivation even from my friends. I'm going to China to study in February 2019. I've always wanted to study about East Asia, so Campus Asia was perfect for me. I could do what I wanted to do and go where I wanted to go, I was really lucky!

— You were the head of the student council, I believe?

I always wanted to be president, ever since I was young. So I put myself up to become the head of the student council as the first step on the way there (laughs). I got to know a lot more people after I became a candidate. I want to create more interaction between the international students and the Japanese students, but everyone is so busy, I had big goals but it was hard to actually achieve them. We had a mini event called a quiz night, plus we had a tour to Akasaka Palace, and went to see the autumn leaves on Mount Takao.

I think a good point about GraSPP is that there aren't so many other students in the same grade, so you stay connected to people above and below your grade the whole way. Also the people here are very open and friendly, it's no problem to casually invite them out for a drink. There are a lot of classes with group work, plus meetings as well, so you end up wondering how many times you've met with so-and-so during the week (laughs). It just shows you how there are so many chances to spend time with your friends.

— What are your future goals?

I'm very concerned about territorial issues, so in the future I'd like to be involved in that field in the United Nations. I got interested in that after joining in an exchange meeting with a Korean school in Japan when I was a high school student. When I was younger I lived in the Philippines, I came to Japan in my second year of junior high school and went on to high school from there. As part of international relations we had joint classes with the Korean school and were

invited to cultural festivals, we learned about each other. One time I talked with them about the territorial issues, and came up against a clash in our values and cultural differences. I was surprised at the gap between my own thinking and that of other people, so that sparked my interest in the territorial issues. In my third undergraduate year I spent a year studying in the USA, which was a chance to learn about how they saw East Asia. I wondered at that time why the three countries of East Asia are so similar and yet have such poor relations with each other. So after returning to Japan, I entered GraSPP so that I could learn about security issues in East Asia.

— You're going to study in China soon, aren't you?

Yes. It's sad to be spending time away from my friends, but I'm also looking forward to it. I like the experience of living in another country with a different culture and customs. Territorial issues have been studied by many researchers yet remain very difficult to solve. So I'm trying to learn widely about politics and economics now so that I can look at the territorial issues from lots of different perspectives, in the hope that I can make some small contribution to them in the future. If I'm going to do it I want to be at the top - you should set your targets high, so I'm aiming to be the secretary general of the UN! (Laughs)
(Interview and text: editorial staff)



With her classmates at Hongo Campus. Jiezel on the left

APEC Voices of the Future 2018

Kayuki Nakahara, Year 2, MPP/IP



Nakahara is on the left

In November 2018 I went to APEC Voices of the Future (VoF) in Papua New Guinea. It was an unforgettable experience for me to join the VoF as the youth delegate for Japan, something I had been deeply looking forward to since learning about it last year. At the end of the week-long program, I feel a certain level of achievement, and also a great sense of responsibility, energy, and hope as someone who will be a leader for an inclusive society.

I have long been interested in the relationships of trust between states that support international relations and are the bedrock of diplomacy.

By joining the VoF, I was able to learn how world leaders work together to build trust. I stayed in a room with three Thai female delegates during the conference. It was a little awkward at first, but once we'd finished introducing ourselves one of the Thai women said that we should all stick only to English in the room. I learned later that she'd done this for me because of her own past experience in living with other roommates with different languages. This reaffirmed to me how important it is to use your imagination in order to understand someone else's position, not just at the level of individual communication but also in thinking about social problems. I also learned something valuable from the Chinese delegates. The Chinese delegates invited us to dinner on the first day. Sitting around a table to enjoy delicious food was an excellent way to open up and get to know each other. Having learned the value of this idea, we Japanese delegates actively invited delegates from other countries out to dinner from the next day.

The VoF taught me the power of persistence and boldness.

"Don't expect people above you to approach you. Young people have to take the courage to go to the top." Inspired by this key phrase from the CEO summit and by seeing delegates from other countries boldly taking chances, or resiliently dealing with difficulties, I began to challenge myself in small ways without fearing the risks during the program.

I was lucky enough to meet Prime Minister Abe and his wife Akie as well as members of the ABAC committee, to directly talk to them about our vision as the Japanese youth delegates. That made a big impression on me. I realized just how much the world leaders expect of the power of youth, which made me want to do my best as a member of society to support it in the future. The issue of mental health among Japanese youth which we emphasized in particular evoked a lot of empathy from the youth delegates of both the host country Papua New Guinea and other countries, so I have decided to devote myself to this problem.

Lastly, I would like to thank the people who helped me to participate in this program and ensured me a safe and highly productive stay in Papua New Guinea.

Visiting a country right in the middle of rapid development to directly see the problems of poverty, refugees, and protection of the native peoples left a powerful impression on me. My meeting and interaction with the local people has made Papua New Guinea a place that is special to me.

We youth delegates hope to make the most of the friendship and knowledge gained at the VoF, and to contribute to the growth of peace in Papua New Guinea and throughout the world.



Editor's Postscript

Since taking over the role of editing the newsletter, I have gained an even greater interest in the events going on in GraSPP and the people who study and work here. GraSPP is home to fascinating people who are smart, active and have sometimes truly amazing ideas and the ability to act on them, people who are shaping the future.

Let's look forward to learning and discovering even more in 2019, to make this a place where hope and joy come alive! **(Editorial staff)**

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7-3-1, Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 113-0033 Japan
E-mail grasppnl@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp
<http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>