

LETTER

GraSPP
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

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Day of Departure ~

Degrees Presented to 63 Graduates at GraSPP Graduation Ceremony for 2018 Academic Year

On March 25, with the cherry trees beginning to blossom, 63 graduates were presented with their degrees at the GraSPP Graduation Ceremony for the 2018 academic year, which was held at SMBC Academia Hall in the International Academic Research Building.

In front of an audience made up of graduates' families and faculty, Dean Akio Takahara presented the degrees individually to each of the graduates. Resplendent in formal attire such as academic gowns or suits, the graduates, their expressions a little apprehensive at first, would break into a smile on receiving their certificate. The ceremony also included the awarding of one special achievement award and three high achievement awards.



Graduate's Message

Aoi Horie
Class of 2018, Public Management Program



When I look back at my two years at GraSPP, I feel that it has been both the culmination of my life as a student and also a valuable time that has provided me with a platform to build on for the rest of my life. The diverse course work, seminars, job hunting, and the half-year I spent as an exchange student in Germany have provided me opportunities to learn from the examples of numerous other people and to reassess my own self. Getting together with friends before examinations or presentations to support each other, finding a feeling of shared fellowship with people in another country during my time as an exchange student, and together gaining deeper insights during visits to government offices ... the routine of studying at GraSPP left me with so many irreplaceable memories. I am sincerely grateful for the advice of my teachers, the support of the administrative staff, and the time I spent with my fellow students who come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

My intention is to work as a government administrator in Kasumigaseki. I intend to take to heart all of the learning and enjoyment I have gained from these last two years and will strive to do my best.

GraSPP - SAIS Joint Seminar

MPP/IP Year1
Lia Cristine Rego Santee



On January 16th, 2019, a Joint Seminar with GraSPP and SAIS (John Hopkins University - School of Advanced International Studies) was held at the International Research Building, SMBC Hall. The event was organized by the GraSPP Student Council at the request of SAIS and had the participation of 47 students, with 24 visitors from John Hopkins University. Relevant topics on Japanese Security were presented by three GraSPP Professors.

First, Prof. Takeuchi made a presentation titled “Defense Policy of Japan Focusing on the New National Defense Program Guideline” where he shared the events for Japan in 2019, the geopolitical security issues of Japan and the government’s approaches to deal with those. Second, Prof. Takahara presented on “Security Issues in Japan-China Relations”, focusing on the diplomatic rapprochement of China and

Japan and the challenges it might face, also sharing the impression Chinese and Japanese citizens have towards the other. The third presenter, Prof. Heng, talked about “Japan in the World Risk Society”, explaining the ambiguity of “Risk” in the age of globalization, and the type of “Risk” that are considered to have more impact in the Japanese society, as the 2018 Summer heatwaves among others.

After the presentations, the students had the opportunity to discuss the topics presented and formulate questions addressed to the Professors. Students seemed particularly intrigued by Japan’s possible constitutional changes, security strategies and the future of its diplomatic relations. GraSPP’s students would be happy to welcome them again in the future.



GPPN 2019 Singapore Completion Report



MPP/IP Year1 You Won Seong

For the first time in my life, I had a great opportunity to go to Singapore for the purpose of academic competition. In the last semester, my group worked hard on our proposal: “A Domestic

and International Analysis of Vaccine Implementation and Development.” We hoped to raise awareness of the need for vaccination in any countries around the globe and we were honored to be selected as one of the four groups to participate in the GPPN Conference in Singapore.

Singapore is a diverse country known to be efficient in governance and social welfare system. As such, it was an appropriate stage for us to introduce our new proposal to the world of our efforts in vaccination. My group was fantastic, not only they were professional and knowledgeable in their own field equally contributing to our topic, but also they encouraged one another so we could bring out our strength. I was glad to be the representor at the conference for the 3-minute presentation. I personally enjoyed the process of challenging myself to stand on the international stage academically competing against other schools and learning their expertise as well. This great opportunity further broadened my vision in my efforts to pursue healthcare research and medicine in the

future. Although we did not make it to the second round for the 8-minute presentation, we still learned a lot more than we could have ever hoped for. We learned the importance of regional focus in developing countries that truly need our attention in this ever-globalizing society. In addition, we were rewarded with cultural excitement in Singapore by traveling and enjoying food and view together. Overall, everything we experienced in Singapore was memorable to become a cornerstone in my academic journey, something that has more values than just a title on my resume.

We truly appreciate GraSPP for their endless support and guidance to our goals in life. Had this not supported by them, none of us would have realized the importance of globalization and collaboration that the 21st century aims for us to interact in a healthy environment. I also would want to give my utmost thanks to my group members; Haruka, Elise, Tsubasa, and Sato-san for their professionalism and support.



Participating groups for GPPN 2019 were selected through GraSPP Policy Challenge 2018.



Student Interview

No. 30

Zakirov Bekzod (Year 1, Doctoral Program)

— Why did you choose to study at GraSPP?

I came to Japan from Uzbekistan in 2012. I studied law at Nagoya University as an undergraduate for four years and then went on to graduate school. I chose the politics of Uzbekistan as the topic of my undergraduate dissertation and spent two years researching the politics of Kazakhstan and the oil problem for my master's degree. I am currently studying about Kazakhstan and Russia, but I hope to go back to research the politics of Uzbekistan in the future.

Having spent six years in Nagoya, when I consulted my professor his advice to me was, "You won't come up with any fresh ideas if you stay in the same place. You should try somewhere else." As a result, I decided on the University of Tokyo and GraSPP, seeing it as a challenge.

One of the good things about GraSPP is its interdisciplinary approach that enables students to study both theory and practice. Because I wanted to learn how I could put the things I had studied at a theoretical level into practice, I wanted to go somewhere where many of the teachers had experience from outside academia. Coming to GraSPP, I also decided to take on the Global Leader Program for Social Design and Management (GSDM). I am fascinated by the variety of ideas that come from interdisciplinary research in which students from faculties such as engineering and medicine come together with others such as myself who study economics and politics to address a particular problem from a diverse range of perspectives.

— Your Japanese is very good.

Thank you. I decided when I came to Tokyo that I had to get more serious about studying Japanese properly. I joined the GSDM Book Club where we chose a different book each month to read and discuss. For example, I have read "Kokoro" and "And Then" by Natsume Soseki and "No Longer Human" by Dazai Osamu, all in English. Although I read them with the idea of learning about Japanese society and culture, works of literature are difficult to absorb. While I read lots of academic texts for my studies, I'm afraid I don't read much fiction, so the Book Club remedied that. Also, realizing that I hadn't watched very many Japanese movies in the past, I decided to change that as well and recently watched Shoplifters. I enjoyed it a lot. While I have spent time with Japanese people in the past to a certain extent, they were people from particular walks of life such as my fellow students or workers at a

part time job, and this has left me with my own personal impression of what Japanese people are like. So, when I watched Shoplifters, it left me feeling that the Japan and Japanese that I know are not the full story. In this sense, too, I feel I have gradually been developing a better understanding lately. I found Shoplifters to be fascinating in this regard as well. As I hope to continue living in Japan in the future, I want to learn more about the Japanese people, including the society, language, and way of thinking.

— What is your dream for the future?

I want to continue my research and become a scholar who understands everything right down to the roots of post Soviet societies. The number of people from Uzbekistan studying in Japan has increased recently, with about 80% staying on to work at Japanese companies after graduation for reasons such as wanting to provide economic support for their families. What I personally believe Uzbekistan society really needs, however, are researchers and scholars. As I am unsure of whether I will be able to make a living as a researcher once the three years of study it takes to get my doctorate are over, being realistic about it I must accept that following the path of research will be difficult. But when I think about what will benefit Uzbekistan as a nation and as a society, someone has to take up the role of scholar. As my dream is to become a researcher and a scholar who can be of use to my country and society, I will do my utmost to achieve that. **(Interview and text by editor)**



Zakirov Bekzod is on the far right

Rebuilding of “Tourism” ~ Aiming for “Shin”-Tourism ~

Project Professor Tomoharu Hase



The seminar was held on Wednesday February 13, 2019 at the Ito Hall of the Ito International Research Center on the Hongo campus of the University of Tokyo. It was held under the auspices of the International Transport Policy Research Unit that was established in October 2005. The event was attended by nearly 400 people from a wide range of backgrounds, including government (both national and regional), the news media, the tourism and transportation industries, think tanks, the general public, academics, and students.

Last year, the number of overseas visitors to Japan exceeded 30 million while domestic spending on travel reached around 27 trillion yen. Meanwhile, it is not long now until the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, part of what has been called Japan’s “Golden Sports Years”. The term “tourism” has gone beyond its role as a way of categorizing an industry or forms of consumption and can now also be described as an “indicator” that underlies economic activity in all its various forms, governmental and diplomatic work, and all areas of people’s lives. Accordingly, this seminar was held to take a fresh look at “tourism” in Japan and to consider it from a diverse range of perspectives in order to ensure its sustainable development and ongoing success.

The seminar started with a keynote address from Ryohei Miyata, Director General of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, entitled, “New Cultural Discoveries Facilitate Tourism.” The presentation emphasized the need to link culture and tourism together in a story and made use of a variety of practical examples.

Next, were presentations from Hiroshi Tabata, Commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency; Satoshi Seino, President of the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO); Shiori Ryu Harada, President of LandReam Inc.; and Barry-Joshua Grisdale, Head of Accessible Japan, followed by a panel discussion in which these four participated with Vice Dean Hiroshi Ohashi serving as the moderator. With the presenters having described their activities during their talks, the panel discussion went on to debate topics that included the ways in which tourism is experiencing significant change, what academia should be doing in light of the future of tourism, and what is expected of academia. This led to a vigorous discussion including exchanges of views between the panelists under the direction of the moderator.

Finally, to bring the seminar to a close, Visiting Professor Masafumi Shukuri spoke about how GraSPP intends to do more in this field, including the introduction of a new course on tourism policy from April, noting that this seminar was intended in part as an opportunity to make this announcement. He also introduced the teaching staff who will be involved in the new tourism policy course.

For ourselves, we will take on board the points made during the seminar as we go about our activities. Furthermore, as previously announced, the unit changed its name starting April 1st to the Transport and Tourism Policy Research Unit (TTPU) in recognition of our greater engagement with tourism. We look forward to the ongoing support of readers for the future activities of the unit. Further material that was distributed at the seminar is available from the unit’s web page.



Editor’s Postscript

The Heisei Era ended on April 30, 2019 and the Reiwa Era began on May 1. While the establishment of GraSPP was only one of many things that happened during the Heisei Era, many students have studied here and gone out into the world since our founding in April 2004 (Heisei year 16). On behalf of all of the staff I would like to wish success and good fortune to all of you who will now have the distinction of being graduates in the first year of the Reiwa Era. (Editor)

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