

LETTER

GraSPP
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

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GraSPP Alumni & Student Day 2019 Report



On 19 October 2019, “GraSPP Alumni & Student day 2019” was held at the International Academic Research Building with participation of approximately 90 alumni, current students and faculty members.

The event started at 16:30 with opening remarks by Dean Akio Takahara. Mr. Rajgopal Sandeep (MPP/IP, 2015 class, United Nations University) acted as MC. As Part 1, “Career Session”, a panel session was conducted by three graduates, Mr. Hiroki Yoshida (Economic Policy Program, 2008 class, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), Ms. Yue Feng (MPP/IP, 2017 class, Citigroup Global Markets Japan Inc.) and Mr. Arthur EL Medioni Jacob (Vice President of GraSPP Alumni Association, MPP/IP, 2017 class, PwC Advisory LLC).

Then, the Session moved to Part 2, “Speed Dating” where current students visited tables of alumni working in 11 areas (government, finance, think-tank, IT, trading, manufacturing, media, academia, international organization and politics) and moved to another table every 5-10 minutes. This provided students with excellent opportunities to listen to stories by graduates actively working in the fields which they are interested in.

After the Career Session, Mr. Kunro Hino (President of GraSPP Alumni Association, Economic Policy Program, 2013 class, Japan International Cooperation Agency) and Mr. Arthur EL Medioni Jacob demonstrated the “Alumni Portal” which started 2 years ago as a space where alumni, current students, faculty members could freely communicate and encouraged participants to register. Those interested can register here.

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

Finally, the reception was a great success with participation of many alumni, current students and faculty members including the former Dean Prof. Akira Morita.

Next GASD (GraSPP Alumni & Student Day) will be held on Saturday, 17 October, 2020. We are looking forward to your participation!



New Initiatives in discontinuous Innovation and Corporate Governance Reform

Kumiko Tonoki (Project Academic Support Specialist)



A symposium on “New Initiatives in Discontinuous Innovation and Corporate Governance Reform” was held at the Fukutake Learning Theater on November 1st, 2019. The symposium was organized by the corporate governance study group within the externally funded research project on “Economic Growth and Risk Management”. It was attended by an audience of more than 200 people, made up of company executives and managers, investors, auditors, and corporate law academics.

The event commenced with a welcoming address from Ryoza Hayashi, Director of the Musashino Institute for Global Affairs (MIGA) at Musashino University and a Visiting Professor at GraSPP. This was followed by a keynote presentation entitled “A New Form of Company to Suit the Era of Society 5.0” given by Kazuhiko Toyama, Managing Partner at Industrial Growth Platform, Inc. (IGPI). Looking back at the 30 years of the Heisei Era, major companies, not only in Japan but internationally, were not always able to respond effectively to a growing wave of disruptive innovation in the form of ongoing globalization and the digital revolution. Mr. Toyama warned companies that, while the traditional bottom-up approach to corporate decision-making may have been adequate for this past period of enhanced innovation, unless they adopt a top-down decision-making approach, they may risk losing everything by failing to react in an appropriate and timely manner in an environment of disruptive change that demands rapid decisions about important matters such as exiting particular businesses or the reassignment of functions. To this end, he highlighted two important considerations: how companies go about decision-making and how they choose which people will make these decisions. He also noted that the difference between companies that survive and those that

do not lies in the nature of their leadership, with a crucial factor being how to go about identifying capable leaders. Following this line of thinking, he emphasized that changing practices at traditional Japanese companies will also reshape the form that those companies take.

His advice was that companies should aim to keep their supervisory architecture under control and that the importance of fulltime auditors needs to be recognized in order to achieve a strong corporate organization.

In response to a question from the audience about how to find leaders who can overcome discontinuous innovation and how best to deploy such leaders, Mr. Toyama drew on his experience to lay out plans for the future, noting that the true reckoning was still to come.

The second half of the symposium involved a panel discussion on “Corporate Governance Reforms: Future Challenges and Directions” with Sumitaka Fujita, Chairman of the Japan Association for CFOs, as moderator and panelists from a wide range of fields. Initial discussions encompassed an overall assessment of the corporate governance reforms that commenced in 2014 and the broad issues raised. This was followed by a lively debate on four separate topics: 1) Reform progress and challenges for corporate management, 2) How to foster strong managers and the role of the board and nominations committee, 3) Issues associated with engagement by institutional investors and the new trend of activism, and 4) Strengthening group governance. The symposium ended with a shared appreciation of, among other things, the importance for the boards of directors on engaging in the ongoing development, assessment, and appointment of a strong and talented management team, including senior management; on the effective use of supervision and checks, including response to compliance challenges and risk management; and on encouraging mobility among managers. The symposium also provided a wealth of guidance for those involved in company management and corporate law that will be of benefit as they seek to further deepen corporate governance reforms in the future.

For more information, please visit the project web site.

http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/EGRM/events/index_check.html#report





She participated in GraSPP's SDG Fieldwork in Europe, held last 12-24 January 2020.

— **Tell us about how you came to study at GraSPP.**

After graduating from a university in the Philippines, I spent one year working at a private power generation company and two years at the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) before coming to Japan in August 2018. What first sparked my interest in pursuing higher studies was one of my professors during my undergraduate degree who had studied in Japan. He shared how his experience studying in Japan has changed his perspective and contributed to his personal growth and development. Actually, I had wanted to come to Japan straight after graduating, but unfortunately, that didn't work out. So, I decided to build upon my experience first and worked in the government. I have attended the 2017 information session conducted by Nishizawa-Sensei in Manila, and I instantly became interested in the program as it offers an opportunity to learn law, politics, and economics at the same time. This multidisciplinary approach in formulating public policies and addressing different challenges is much needed in today's world. Fortunately, one of the people I worked with was a GraSPP alumnus and has provided me good feedback and guidance.

— **How are you finding GraSPP and living in Japan?**

My main interests are energy policies as well as policy processes and developments in Japan, and I am happy that GraSPP offers various English courses in those areas. With classmates coming from different countries and multiple backgrounds, GraSPP has provided an exceptional learning environment that helped me expand my current knowledge and widened my perspective on several issues. In terms of living in Japan, I love Japanese food and really enjoy my current life here. The people are very kind, courteous, friendly, and very helpful. Even those who cannot speak in English go the extra mile to help me by using translation software to communicate. This makes it a very good country for overseas students coming to study. I also like how Japan has four seasons, as opposed to the Philippines, where it is always hot. Fall is my favorite, as everything seems so vibrant and lively. So far, I have taken a trip to Hokkaido, Tochigi, Karuizawa, among others, and had wonderful experiences in each area. I also hope to visit the Kansai and Chugoku Regions before I graduate.

— **So you have been keeping busy, both at GraSPP and farther afield?**

Having students from so many different countries and regions at

Student Interview

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Vanessa CANDIDO (MPP/IP 2Year)

GraSPP gives you a deep appreciation for diversity and makes it a great environment for expanding your horizons. I have joined the student union at GraSPP and have been an active participant in the hope of engaging with the other Japanese and overseas students. Outside GraSPP, I am the Vice-President for Student Welfare of the Association of Filipino Students in Japan (AFSJ), which is made up mostly of Filipino students studying at various universities around Tokyo. As part of AFSJ, I am active in supporting students who are struggling with an unfamiliar overseas lifestyle by organizing events and activities that gather Filipino students such as Welcome and Christmas Parties, Mental Health Seminar, Sports Festival among others. I am also an active member of the ASEAN Youth Network in Japan.

— **What path do you intend to follow after you graduate from GraSPP?**

I intend to return to the Philippines after graduation to work for four years at NEDA. However, I also have a desire to teach and to support students and learn along with them. So, I would like to return to the academic world at some point. Beyond that, although it will take a long time, I would like to get a doctorate as well. I am currently acting as a TA for three classes at GraSPP, and I see this as a good practice for teaching in the future. Coming to Japan has changed my life enormously. It would have been hard to gain experience like this had I stayed in the Philippines, and that is why I want to expand my network while I am here in Japan. And, since I get so much enjoyment and happiness from working with and for other people, I want to pay it forward by supporting other overseas students and inspire individuals to go beyond their comfort zones and continuously challenge their selves. (Interview and text by the editor)



She is the Vice-President for Student Welfare of AFSJ. This photo was taken during the AFSJ's 2019 Christmas Party.

Report on 2nd TCS×BESETO CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop

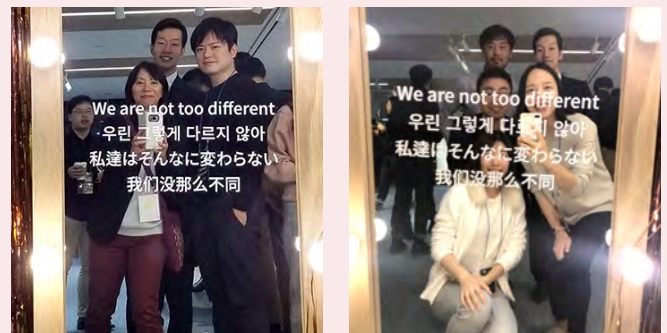
Koshiro Nagai (Graduate of 2015 CAMPUS Asia Course)



The 2nd TCS×BESETO CAMPUS Asia Alumni Workshop took place on December 14, 2019 at the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) in Seoul. The workshop was attended by about 50 people, including both graduates and current students of the University of Tokyo, Peking University, and Seoul National University. The day started with opening remarks from Kenji Nagafuchi, TCS Director of Socio-Cultural Affairs, and this was followed by sessions on a wide range of topics that included debate about the alumni association's charter, an exchange of ideas on how to improve its programs, and a discussion on careers involving both graduates and current

students. Participants then enjoyed a networking session where they were able to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. The venue included an instant photography booth and a commemorative photograph of attendees was taken against the backdrop of the booth on which the workshop's concept of "We are not too different" was written in four different languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean). The photograph was posted on social media. As there was a Singaporean graduate who participated from Singapore, the workshop carried with it an expectation of extending the network globally, beyond just Japan, China, and South Korea.

Having only recently started its formal activities, the alumni association of the BESETO CAMPUS Asia Consortium has yet to properly fulfill its function. Nevertheless, as many people are looking to the association to provide leadership to other parts of the CAMPUS Asia Consortium, the hope is for it to actively move forward. Following on from this workshop, the intention is to initiate further exchanges between graduates and current students and also with other CAMPUS Asia Consortium graduates during 2020. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Hyemin Kim of TCS and Ms. Nobue Nachi of GraSPP who put a lot of effort into making this workshop possible.



TOPICS

The GraSPP spring diploma presentation ceremony will take place on Monday, from 11:30 on March 23 at SMBC Academia Hall in the International Academic Research Building.

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

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Editor's Postscript

Having recently passed the second anniversary of my becoming editor of the GraSPP newsletter, looking back over past editions made me realize what an unexpectedly good time it has been. It was an opportunity to remind myself of the newsletter's role in recording how faculty and students have diligently addressed challenges for society in Japan and overseas. It is very much a case of, "Don't forget that you too were a beginner once." I wish you all the best at GraSPP in this the second year of the Reiwa Era. (Editor)

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NEWS
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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/>