

April 2, 2021

Graduate School of Public Policy
The University of Tokyo

Case Study (Learning with Public Policy Cases for SDGs)

Course No. 5140738/5179005[†]
2021S1S2

Course Syllabus

Time:	Period 6 (18:45-20:30) on Wednesday, unless otherwise announced The first class is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7.
Location:	Online unless otherwise announced.
Instructors:	Toshiro Nishizawa, Professor http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/faculty/nishizawa-toshiro/ KE Seetha Ram, Visiting Lecturer https://www.adb.org/adbi/about/staff-profiles/ke-seetha-ram Ryu Fukui, Visiting Lecturer http://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/faculty/ryu-fukui/
TAs:	Mr. Juan Miguel Peraza Hernandez (lead) Ms. Pema Selden (associate)
Credits:	2 credits
Language:	English
Category:	Practical training
Office:	Room 1120, 11 th floor, International Academic Research Building
Office hours:	By appointment A one-on-one consultation by appointment can be arranged online or in person. tnishizawa@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp +81-(0)3-5841-1343 (Office) kseetharam@csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp fukui@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp

*Please feel free to send me e-mails with any question about the course or if you want to make an appointment. To help me not to miss your incoming e-mails, **please start the subject line with the course number 5140738** when you send e-mails.*

1. Course objectives

This course assists students to develop skills of problem solving and decision making to address public policy challenges by using the case method. Cases are concerning the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The case method is a teaching approach to put students in the role of people responsible for problem solving and decision making (often called the “protagonist”). Based on a narrative which provides information on a real-world situation, students are asked to interpret the incidents;

[†] The second course number indicates that this case study is offered also as an International Practical Research for doctoral students.

analyze interactions between stakeholders; identify feasible options; evaluate possible outcomes; compare alternatives; and propose *virtual* solutions and decisions. A well-known “case method” approach is one developed by Harvard Business School mostly for corporate decision making as compared to ours for public policy problem solving and decision making.

The case materials will cover a variety of topics related to the UN SDGs such as water, sanitation, transportation, spillover effects of infrastructure, health, education, micro-financing, philanthropy, and others.

Students are required to work in a small group with a few assigned case materials. This exercise puts students in the shoes of the decision maker in order to gain a fuller understanding of real-world challenges. It also helps students understand the relevance and usefulness of abstract concepts and theory as an analytical framework.

Towards the end of the course, students are required to serve as case teachers by preparing a case material—a narrative with the teaching note—and thereafter given an opportunity to make a group presentation on the case material as the basis for class discussion. This exercise aims to familiarize students with guiding others for problem solving and decision making practice.

2. Schedule

RF: Ryu Fukui, SR: Seetha Ram, TN: Toshiro Nishizawa
 Bold indicates the lead instructor.

Day 1	Wed, April 7	Introduction—the “case method” as opposed to the “case study”	RF/SR/ TN
...	Tue, April 13– Mon, April 19	Course registration period	...
Day 2	Wed, April 14	Learn with a case	RF/SR/ TN
...	Tue, April 20– Thu, April 22	Course registration withdrawal period	...
Day 3	Wed, April 21	Learn with a case	RF/SR/ TN
Day 4	Wed, April 28	Learn with a case	RF/ SR /TN
...	Wed, May 5	(Children ' s Day)	...
Day 5	Wed, May 12	Learn with a case	RF /SR/TN
Day 6	Wed, May 19	Learn how to prepare a case material	RF/SR/ TN
Day 7	Wed, May 26	Dialogue with a guest and discussion	RF/SR/TN Guest ^{#1}
Day 8	Wed, June 2	Dialogue with a guest and discussion	RF/SR/TN Guest ^{#2}
Day 9	Wed, June 9	Dialogue with a guest and discussion	RF/SR/TN Guest ^{#3}
Day 10	Wed, June 16	Group work	RF/SR/TN

Day 11	Wed, June 23	Student presentation and discussion	RF/SR/TN
Day 12	Wed, June 30	Student presentation and discussion (continued)	RF/SR/TN
Day 13	Wed, July 7	Student presentation and discussion (continued)	RF/SR/TN
...	Mon, July 26	Submission of the case material	...

#1: Ms. Megumi Muto, Vice President (development finance, mobilization, partnership), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

#2: Mr. Takehiko Nakao, Chairman of the Institute at Mizuho Research & Technologies Ltd.; former President of Asian Development Bank (ADB)

#3: Ms. Yoko Honda, Regional Operational Information Management Officer, World Food Programme

3. Teaching methods

The course consists of interactive sessions with student-centered approaches. In each session except for Day 1, students are asked to work in a small group randomly formed. By Day 6, students are asked to form a team (up to 3 persons) of their own to prepare a case material—a narrative with the teaching note—and thereafter given an opportunity to make a team presentation on the case material and guide others for problem solving and decision making practice.

4. Course requirements and grading

The course grade will be based on:

Class attendance 20%

Participation in class discussion 30%

Final team presentation and report (about 10 pages or 6,000 words) 50%

5. Required readings

All the course materials are made available on ITC-LMS.

6. Reference materials

[What is the Case Study Method? - Executive Education - Harvard Business School \(hbs.edu\)](https://www.hbs.edu/academic/academic-affairs/teaching/teaching-resources/teaching-methods/case-study-method)

<https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/research/case-study-unit/case-writing-resources>

[The Case Centre homepage | The Case Centre](#)

Please be aware that the term “case” or “case method” is used differently in various contexts and is sometimes confusingly mixed up with the “case study.”

7. Prerequisite

None

Teaching staff and guests

Instructors



Toshiro Nishizawa



KE Seetha Ram



Ryu Fukui

TAs



Juan Miguel Peraza Hernandez



Pema Selden

Guests



Megumi Muto



Takehiko Nakao



Yoko Honda
