

NEWS

vol. 68
December 1, 2022

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

東京大学公共政策大学院

LETTER

GraSPP
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

Contents

- 1: Dean's Message upon the new semester
- 2: Capstone project
- 3: Study Abroad Report
- 4: New Faculty Members/ "CAMPUS Asia Plus" website renewed! / TOPICS

Dean's Message upon the new semester

Many students from a diverse set of countries joined GraSPP this September. Forty-nine students are entering the MPP/IP program this year, and twelve double-degree students from our partner schools joined us. Also, ten students came here for various exchange programs. Furthermore, four students joined the Doctoral program in various capacities. In total, we have seventy-five new students, and they represent twenty-nine countries, including our neighboring countries like China and Korea, and some far-flung places such as Namibia.

Over the past two years, Japan, like many other countries, has been suffering from the COVID pandemic. Many of our courses have been offered online, and a number of our students, even after they were admitted to GraSPP, chose to stay in their own countries and took online courses.

Now the Japanese government has started relaxing its entry restrictions, and we hope that this will be a year of recovery for us in two senses: physically and psychologically. Physically because our students can now freely enter and leave the country, our international program will be back to normal. Psychologically, because you will be able to make new friends more easily, a sense of community will be restored.

I regret to say that sentiment as a community was lost at GraSPP during the past two years. We learned that it is very hard to make new friends if one is taking only online courses. Breakout rooms are sufficient for educational purposes, but they are no substitutes for in-person meetings. Bit by bit, we shall try to organize various in-person events which were normal before the pandemic with due precautions about the spread of COVID.

Our faculty members are more than happy to help you out in the transition into this new environment.



Keisuke Iida

Dean,

Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo

Capstone project

Case Study (Public-Private Partnerships) is a practical training course with an active learning approach, where students prepare consulting reports requested by external “clients” under the guidance of Professor Toshiro Nishizawa.



This approach helps students understand the core principles of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for public services provision in a real-world setting and gain professional writing skills.



Photo credit: Sanjana Manaktala (Class of 2022)

Student and Practitioner Comments

With this course, I learned about the basic structure and core principles of PPPs and had an opportunity to involve in intensive group work with students from different backgrounds and regions. I also gained knowledge about consulting report writing, which would be helpful for my upcoming career. Overall, I hope the knowledge this course offers will be beneficial for my future work, contributing to the development of my country through PPPs.

Krishna Khanal (MPP/IP 2nd year)

This class allowed me to work closely with other students to implement our ideas for a PPP. In addition to providing a basic understanding of PPPs, the course stood out in terms of the ability to receive feedback from real-world professionals. Few other classes offer this opportunity, so I am thankful I took this course.

Jared Lee Pierce Langdon (MPP/IP 2nd year)

I greatly enjoyed this capstone-type course. Not only did its content provide me with the fundamental concepts and principles of PPPs, but the class format also extensively trained my writing and presentation skills. By working with industry professionals, I have developed a better understanding of the practical issues when it comes to planning and implementing PPP projects. I have also realized the importance of institutional settings and regulatory frameworks in achieving the planned outcomes of PPP projects.

Ka Ying Wong (MPP/IP 2nd year)

The PPP class provided me with a hands-on experience in real-life consulting. It helped me learn how to collaborate with my teammates and challenged me to connect theory and practice so that my team’s final deliverable could inform the client to make the best decision. I am thankful

for the professor, participating professionals, teaching assistant, who gave us numerous helpful guidance, and my teammates, who helped me persevere and enjoy the challenge together.

Chiaki Onita (Class of 2022)

We asked students to consider the hypothetical cases of offshore wind power generation projects and integrated resort (IR) development. Both are areas where policy design and business promotion intersect. After investigating the policy intentions and background, they identified stakeholders, analyzed policy issues, and considered policy responses. A dialogue with the private sector beneficiaries can help refine a policy. I hope that this course provided students with the perspective that public policy is not just the public sector’s responsibility but the views and commitments of the private sector matter.

Yutaka Iwahori (Director/Attorney at Law, GR Japan)

JICA asked graduate students to work on such consulting assignments as renewable energy in India, health and hygiene in Bangladesh and Cambodia, participatory city beautification in Zambia, and financial inclusion in Vietnam. The participation of excellent students from all over the world helped broaden the scope of the discussion. I hope they have deepened their understanding of JICA projects and the specific issues of public-private partnerships in international cooperation. The whole process involving discussions with the students was a new experience. We learned a lot differently from ordinary outsourcing to consultancy firms. Thank you very much.

Shohei Hara (Director General Japan, International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Private Sector Partnership and Finance Department at the time)

Study Abroad Report

Kaoru Takayama

From GraSPP to LKYSPP



With my team at the PAE Conference

My experience of the Double Degree program with LKYSPP National University of Singapore (July 2021 - May 2022) during the COVID-19 pandemic began with a three-week self-isolation at a five-star hotel upon my landing at Changi airport. My first impressions of Singapore, naturally, were somewhat off-kilter, having faced stringency and luxury intertwined in a strange, dystopian sort of way. But, my final evaluation of my year in Singapore lies close to that of my first three weeks in the country. My experience, despite the academic rigor and stringent COVID restrictions, was immensely rewarding and gratifying, peppered with special highlights of friendship and travel.

At GraSPP, I centered most of my studies on economics, driven by a continued interest in energy economics from my undergraduate studies in environmental sciences. However, I quickly realized that I was missing a crucial perspective on geopolitics and the broader international context that plays into the policymaking of environmental and energy policy. In equal measure, I felt that I had little to no exposure of the international context in Asia, including the political and historical perspectives that continue to play into the policy dynamics of the ASEAN and East Asian region. LKYSPP offered an exceptional environment to explore my interests further – and a chance to explore Singapore in the fullest measure.

LKYSPP exceeded my expectations in every measure. As expected, the course workload and commitments were tough, but the learnings and growth have been equally immense – not to mention the friendships and special comradery gained with classmates. The capstone project, another aspect of my initial motivations to attend LKYSPP, also proved to be a challenging, but invaluable experience.

Apart from academics, living in Singapore was incredibly fun. Singapore experiences temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius and short bursts of thunderous rain on a daily, but the sun offered nice company for moving around.



I look forward to the day I return as a more experienced professional, but for the time being, I take my next step at Seoul National University as part of my on-going journey through the Campus Asia Plus program.

Wenting Liu

From Sciences Po to GraSPP



Fieldwork trip with my classmates

When I imagined my study abroad in 2019, I had naive rose-colored dreams of traveling the world, wasting time on hobbies, making friends, and getting precious respite before entering society. When I was accepted to the double degree master's program offered by Sciences Po and the University of Tokyo, I wasn't expecting COVID-19 to come into the way. I was disappointed at first, thinking how much I would miss during the pandemic. Then I decided not to dwell on my loss, but to make the most of the experience and learn as much as possible.

Even though I took online classes for a long time, I'm still grateful for the program. I had the privilege of experiencing the teaching styles of two top universities in Europe and Asia and exchanging ideas with students worldwide.

Sciences Po taught me how to think boldly, be creative, and dream big. The University of Tokyo taught me how to pay attention to detail and keep my feet on the ground. All the faculty members were very responsible, and I really enjoyed the courses, especially the intense discussions during the classes. I intentionally took a course related to gender equality at both universities to compare their might-be-different atmospheres and concluded that gender equality and LGBTQ issues still need much more attention in Asia. The education I received in this program has made me a more determined feminist and I feel grateful for that.

I would also want to take to opportunity to express my gratitude to the staff of the GraSPP office. They always responded to any questions I had in a timely manner and gave me a lot of help with my life in Tokyo. I also loved the campus of the University of Tokyo and the offline classes we finally could have.



Greetings from New Faculty Members

Junya OHNISHI / Professor

Hello, everybody! I'm Junya Ohnishi and came to GraSPP in August. Until this July, I was at Columbia University, originally from the Ministry of Finance. Nowadays, the image of government officers that our society requires has been changing. We have a lot of challenges and must show the answers as one of the front-runners in the world. From this point of view, we need government officers with specialized

knowledge and world-wide networks in some areas. of so-called network governance, like collaborations among diversified actors, including public sectors and private sectors, have been required stronger and stronger these days. In GraSPP, we must try to nurture three capabilities of constructing networks as practitioners and as professionals and connecting the networks. Let's enjoy this chance, together!



“CAMPUS Asia Plus” website renewed!

Having been selected for the 2021 CAMPUS Asia Plus program, a project to strengthen the global development capabilities of universities, the University of Tokyo, Peking University, and Seoul National University (BESETO) in Japan, China, and Korea have developed a double degree + exchange program framework, which will be expanded to ASEAN countries, and the new program, “CAMPUS Asia Plus”, will be launched in earnest. BESETOSING with the National University of Singapore will be a full-fledged initiative.

This program aims to nurture Asian leaders who can contribute broadly to the international community by utilizing their expertise and advanced language skills in international relations and public policy in Japan, China, Korea and ASEAN. The University of Tokyo will offer the CAMPUS Asia Joint Course, which will provide a forum for joint education by faculty members from the four schools while incorporating online education.



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

TOPICS

Application open for students for the 2023 MPP/IP course from November 1, 2022 to 5pm December 14, 2022.
Please check the following for details.

MPP/IP
Master of Public Policy, International Program

<https://www.pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/mppip/admissions/general-information/>

Editor's Postscript

As we enter November, we are now less than two months into the year 2022. Economic activity is beginning to pick up steam, with the resumption of overseas traffic and rising demand for tourism in Japan. I sincerely hope that all of you who enroll in GraSPP this fall will have a fulfilling time at GraSPP. (Editorial Team)

vol. 68 NEWS LETTER

(Editor & Publisher) Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo
(Date of Publication) December 1, 2022

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/>