

## Promotion of the Asia Joint-degree Project (AJP)

The Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University (TU GSE) is leading a project for 'Research and Development of An East Asian Joint Degree Program for International Educational Leaders'. This project has been awarded special funding for Education and Research by the Ministry for Education, Culture and Sport for the five years 2011–15. The short title of the project is the 'Asia Joint Degree Project (AJP)', and overall responsibility for managing it lies with Professor HONGO Kazuo of the TU GSE.

This project aims to raise talented leaders with a global view who can cope with educational subjects in East Asia by forming the research base to create the joint-degree system for cultivating international education leaders and developing a high quality joint-degree program. To be more concrete, it centers on East Asia, and is going to train talented people such as (1) educational researchers who can exactly analyze the present condition of education, (2) leader-teachers who can recognize the educational subject and can plan develop educational practice at schools, (3) educational administrator's people who can be engaged in designing a policy having their sight on educational reform in the world. Such international educational leaders are required to have (1) special advanced knowledge, (2) understanding of and a sympathetic attitude toward countries in East Asia, (3) acquisition of educational research techniques



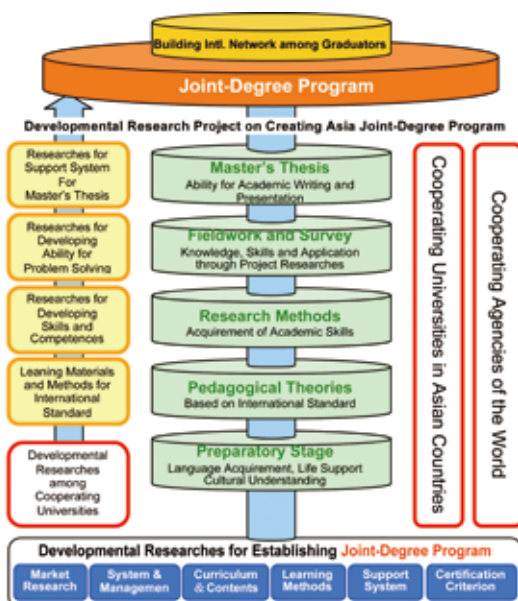
and languages of East Asia, and (4) credentials and capability such as formation of a human network open to the world and dissemination of information.

In order to achieve these purpose, this project will proceed during the first three years (1) to hold seminars by teachers in and outside the country who aim to improve in expertise, (2) to dispatch and accept teachers and students based on the international exchange program with leading universities of East Asia, and (3) to research and develop the joint-degree program. Further, in FY 2014–2015, the 4th and 5th year of the project, we plan to carry out the joint-degree program experimentally.

The project that started with the above purpose cannot necessarily be implemented only by the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University. It is realizable in exchanges and information exchanges with domestic universities as well as in cooperation with overseas universities, and in collaboration within Tohoku University. While aiming at achieving the project target through various collaborations, cooperation, and support systems, we intend to build an infrastructure base to develop continuously after finishing the project.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

(Prof. HONGO Kazuo)





# Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University Asia Joint-degree Project Inauguration Commemoration Symposium

## Part I Keynote lecture

### “The Possibility of an Asian Version of the Erasmus Mundus Program”

Vice-president, The Open University of Japan/  
Emeritus Professor, Hiroshima University

**NINOMIYA Akira**

This symposium opened with a keynote lecture from NINOMIYA Akira, the Vice-president of the Open University of Japan and Emeritus Professor of Hiroshima University. Professor Ninomiya presented a broad overview of recent developments elsewhere as regards the offering of international joint degree programs, with particular reference to the example of the European Union’s Erasmus Mundus scheme. He discussed the challenges confronting any attempt to develop a similar scheme for East Asia, and the implications for Japan’s current higher education strategy.



## Part II Symposium

### ■ “Double Degree Program in the Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University”

Professor, Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University **OBI Shinnosuke**

### ■ “Actions in the Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University”

Professor, Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University **YAMAGUCHI Masahiro**

### ■ “Actions at Waseda University”

Associate Professor, International Affairs Division/  
Center for International Education, Waseda University **CHIANG Chengyin**

### ■ “Thoughts on the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University”

Professor, Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University **HONGO Kazuo**

First, Professor OBI Shinnosuke, Keio University talked about focusing on the concrete design of curriculums, such as compatibility of credits, and a route of study, about a joint degree with France. Professor of the Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, Professor YAMAGUCHI Masahiro, who started the same program earlier in Tohoku University with the Grandes Écoles of France and joint education with Tsinghua University in China. He provided concrete information, such as the status of accepting foreign students in the case of Tohoku University and the setup of credits. Further, there was a proposal about various problems on a joint-degree

program from Dr. CHIANG Chan-in, Associate Professor, International Affairs Division/Center for International Education, Waseda University from the viewpoint that actually engaged in negotiation and conclusion of the agreement for a joint-degree program, and subsequent management. Since the joint-degree system runs in Waseda University on a larger scale than Tohoku University, he offered broad subjects on various practical problems or care for the students. Prof. HONGO Kazuo who is the project leader of the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University announced the outline and plan of the “Asia Joint-degree Project (AJP)” to be started.



## Part III Panel discussion

### Challenges in establishing a joint degree program

[Prof. SHIMIZU] Four Speakers reported on this matter. There are some difficult problems as was expected, In order to acquire a master’s degree in Japan, first, there are Japanese legal regulations to approve the credits decided at a domestic university, second, financial support, and third, culture that the each university has. Finally, how can we build new value? I feel that if there is no new value in Japanese universities, the universities will turn into relatively unattractive universities, and will be left in the world.

[Prof. FUKUMURA] Our biggest obstacle is language matters.

[Prof. OGAWA] The Graduate students who awarded the degree in Japan and returned home, answered about the charm of Japan as the latest research and environment where they can research with the cutting-edge equipment with an abundant fund. In talks today, do I hear that the idea of a double degree and one of the important points is to learn in different cultures? It, however, is a problem how the double degree is useful after returning home. Does it not continue, unless the program, or the like can be clarified?

### Why is a joint-degree system needed?

[Prof. MORIMOTO] It sounds good to widen knowledge or to exchange internationally. But resources such as time and labor that students have are restricted. Although it may be different if there is a clear purpose like conventional studying abroad, otherwise, I think, it is not necessary to go abroad to receive a degree, it is sufficient to study abroad at a summer school or study in a non-degree course.

[Prof. OBI] Originally in Europe, there are many people who speak different languages and live in different countries bordering each other. When students experience and know it in schooldays, they have a considerably different attitude. A summer school student is a guest. The realistic sensation is totally different by actually studying abroad. It will become really strong if a student has such experience.

[Prof. YAMAGUCHI] I myself think that when I went abroad and did my best alone for several years, it was a very precious experience. About China, whenever I visit there, it has rapidly changed. I feel that people who touch such atmosphere thick and fast are required.

[Prof. CHIANG] If I say from a somewhat different viewpoint, it is a

qualitative guarantee. If a student participates in an overseas double degree program and receives of lectures, the student realizes having learned in the lectures Japan is not accepted and returns home. They will have a question that I paid a tuition, why is the lectures not effective. Furthermore, when foreign students enter every year they bring a feeling of tension. If a Faculty Member is trained under such circumstance, the member will become strong and, naturally a ripple effect will come also to Japanese students. If it does so, an administration system will also entirely change. Such pressure in a good form becomes a qualitative guarantee.

[Prof. HONGO] First of all, it leads to a learning domain spreading or evolving by enriching the master’s course. In international exchange, I also regard that the network formation will become substantially important.

### Care for students

[Prof. OBI] In accepting a foreign student, the case when the student has some issue is a problem which can never be avoided. Foreign students in a double degree program may enter a dormitory first. A Japanese graduate student’s residence assistant is in the dormitory, and he or she is trying to make the

students interact with each other. Regarding a linguistic field, when a student is recognized for his or her academic ability, the student who has not studied by then may also be dispatched. Although students actually study abroad in summer, we select the students around February or March of the year, and ask them to prepare sufficiently by the time of dispatch.

### The objectives of the AJP

[Prof. NAKASHIMA] I think that an attractive program becomes important first, in student exchanges. In that case, is it research instruction specialists or education practice specialists when training the educational specialists in this program? Since it is a joint-degree project, it practices one program at some universities. Do you have some universities as candidates?

[Prof. HONGO] Yes. I would like to consider how we will be able to get interest from the students, depending on just what kind of program can be built. I meant that the above-mentioned educational profession, first of all, aims at both the teaching profession and researching profession. For the second question, although it has not been realized concretely yet, I hope to and will build one more network with South Korea and China.



## [Progress Report] First Half, 2011FY (Apr.–Oct.)

### Symposium



■ **Inauguration Symposium** (July 16th, 2011)  
at Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University,  
Sendai, Japan

**Guest Speaker:**

Mr. TERAKADO Narimasa (Higher Education Bureau, MEXT)  
Prof. NINOMIYA Akira (The Open University of Japan)  
Prof. ONO Shin'nosuke (Keio University)  
Prof. CHIANG Chengyin (Waseda University)  
Prof. YAMAGUCHI Masahiro (Tohoku University)

### Survey and Visit

■ **Domestic Survey**

● Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto (Nov. 22nd–23rd, 2011)

■ **Overseas Survey**

● ACA Annual Conference 2011, Austria (May 22nd–26th, 2011)

● ACA Symposium, Belgium (Oct. 12th–16th, 2011)

● Chonbuk National University, Korea (Nov. 17th–22nd, 2011) Survey of Summer Program

■ **Visit to Universities**

● Korea University (Apr. 29th–May 3rd, 2011)

● Korea University & Seoul National University (June 8th–12th, 2011)

● National Taiwan Normal University & National Chengchi University (Aug. 10th–14th, 2011)

● East China Normal University, Zhejiang University, Nanjing Normal University & Beijing Normal University (Aug. 23rd–30th, 2011)

● National Taiwan Normal University, National Chi Nan University & National Chengchi University (Sep. 15th–20th, 2011)

● East China Normal University, Nanjing Normal University & Beijing Normal University (Oct. 22nd–30th, 2011)

● Korea University & Seoul National University (Oct. 26th–29th, 2011)

## Announcement

### Symposium

**International Symposium** (Dec. 9th–10th, 2011)

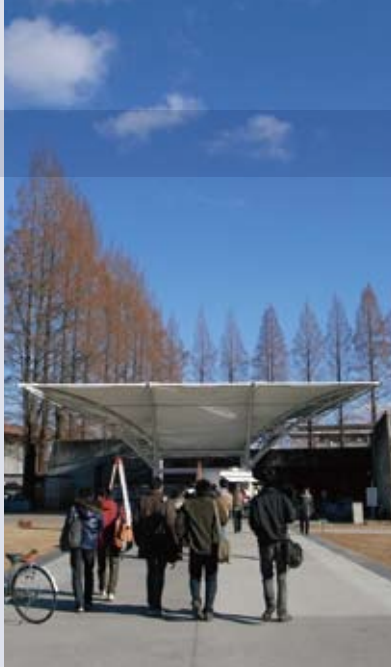
“How to Create The Professional in Education in The Age of Globalization”  
at Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

**Guest Speaker:**

LI Jiayong (Beijing Normal University)  
XU Guangxing (East China Normal University)  
FU Hong (Nanjing Normal University)  
HAHN Yongjin (Korea University)  
SONG Jinwoong (Seoul National University)  
LIN Chia Hsin (National Taiwan Normal University)  
CHAN Jason Chihyu (National Chengchi University)

### Collaboration Arrangement

● The Ceremony of Conclusion Agreement with Korea University (Dec. 12th, 2011)



**AJP** ASIA  
JOINT-DEGREE  
PROJECT

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