



Establishment of Joint Curriculum Committee with Korea University, Korea

The Asia Joint-Degree Project held a Joint Curriculum Committee meeting between the Graduate School of Education of Tohoku University and Korea University on Friday, March 8, 2013. Participants from Korea University were Vice President PARK Hyunsuk, Department Head PARK Innwoo, and Prof. HAHN YongJin.

At the beginning of the meeting, Assist. Prof. Shimizu provided the outline of the project and an explanation of the scheduled mission of the Committee. Participants then discussed pre-determined agenda items.

As a result, the "Tohoku University and Korea University Joint Curriculum Committee" (hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Curriculum Committee") was officially launched and it was decided to hold a monthly working-level liaison meeting.

The mission of the Joint Curriculum Committee is to organize and pro-

mote the process involving credit transfers, evaluation, academic records management, degree conferment and quality assurance, in order to develop a joint degree program. The Committee also identifies issues arising from the operation of the program and discusses measures to address them. In implementing an international project between universities in different countries, those involved often face issues attributed to the different laws and regulations, systems and customs, which are difficult to solve at the university level. The Committee is ready to take on these challenging issues and will open up a new frontier.

Dean Hongo of the Graduate School of Education said in his address: "This is an important face-to-face meeting to exchange our opinions. I hope we will cooperate to further improve the project." Through the Asia Joint-Degree Project, we will enhance collaboration with Korea University and other Asian universities to contribute to the development of higher education.



International Symposium on “Higher Education in East Asia Tomorrow: In Search of the Joint Degree Program”



On February 21, 2013, an international symposium with four visiting professors as speakers was held in the Large Meeting Room, 11F, New Humanities Building, Tohoku University. The speakers were: Assoc. Prof. SHIN Jungcheol (Seoul University, Korea), Prof. LIANG Chung Ming (National Taitung University, Taiwan), Prof. HU Jianhua (Nanjing Normal University, China) and Assoc. Prof. CHENG Tung Liao (National Chengchi University, Taiwan).

The objectives of the symposium were 1) to understand the latest trends in higher education reform in East Asian countries, where the envi-

ronment around higher education is changing particularly rapidly, and where efforts unique to each country to achieve reform are being made, and 2) in light of such trends, to seek to clarify the positioning of the Joint Degree Program of the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University, and its future direction.

Following the opening address by HONGO Kazuo, Dean of the Graduate School of Education, the project sub-leader SHIMIZU Yoshifumi presented the keynote lecture, “Higher Education in East Asia Tomorrow: In Search of the Joint Degree Program.” In his lecture,

he explained that the project focuses not only on researchers and specialists who have relatively high mobility, but also on middle-tier faculty members, such as policy makers and leading teachers, who have been less mobile, and that, for this reason, the joint curriculum will be designed in such a way as to include a wide range of disciplines, including education and educational psychology, on the basis of “the culture common throughout Asia.” He also added that it is planned to provide fieldwork opportunities and summer seminars. In regard to fieldwork programs in particular,

he proposed to incorporate issues related to mental health care for children, a topic that has been raised particularly since the Great East Japan Earthquake, so that Tohoku University will be able to contribute to creation of the Joint Degree Program in its own way.

After the keynote lecture, the four visiting professors gave lectures. Assoc. Prof. SHIN Jungcheol gave a lecture entitled “The Future of University in Post-Massification: Redesigning Teaching and Research Systems.” He noted and explained some of the changes that universities are currently undergoing, for example, 1) how university education has changed from education for elites to education in the post-massification era; and 2) while emphasis is placed on producing knowledge due to the increasing influence of world-class universities (WCUs) as a result of the globalized economy, it has become difficult to “teach research outcomes” because research and education are not directly connected.

In the lecture by Prof. LIANG Chung-Ming entitled “Roles of Universities in Society and Regions in Internationalization -- With Focus on the Experience of National Taitung University,” he reported the experience of National Taitung University in relation to promoting the internationalization of local cities. For example, the university established the International Exchange Administration Center to facilitate international exchange in local cities through centralized management of relevant projects. It also cooperates in planning distance education and inspection of overseas education as well as in organizing international conferences to help promote internationalization.

Prof. HU Jianhua gave a lecture on “New Reform of Higher Education in China” to report internationalization projects promoted in China. The number of students entering higher education had rapidly increased in China since the latter half of the 1990s. In response, in 2012, the Ministry of Education (MOE) stated in its “30 Articles on Higher Education” (the MOE’s views on improving the overall quality of higher education) that, in developing higher education, emphasis should be placed on quality rather than quantity. The professor reported in his lecture the efforts that have been made by higher education institutions in China to achieve internationalization while aiming to improve their quality.

In his lecture entitled “Building the Polis - Residential college experience from National Chengchi University in Taiwan,” Assoc. Prof. CHENG Tung Liao introduced the residential college established by National Chengchi University. This residential college is designed in such a way that the students living together at the university can enjoy many integrated functions like in a polis, the ancient Greek city-state, so that they are able to acquire an “overall ability” to address diverse issues. According to Prof. Cheng, this approach also has the effect of developing the intellectual capability of those who are to play international leadership roles in the future.

Following the lectures, the participants discussed specific issues related to the creation of the joint degree program. During the discussion, it was indicated that the basic attitude required in creating the joint degree program is the attitude of “pragmatism.” Our efforts will be focused on creating and spreading a new type of education from Sendai while maintaining a pragmatic attitude.



International Seminars

The Joint-Degree Project of the Graduate School of Education of Tohoku University organizes international seminars to promote exchange among researchers in Japan and abroad. Dr. John O’Regan of the University of London was invited as the speaker for the Sixth International Seminar and Prof. YAMADA Reiko of Doshisha University spoke at the Seventh International Seminar.



The Sixth International Seminar

October 18, 2012

‘English as a World Language: Some Perspectives on Teaching and Learning in a Globalized Age’

John O’Regan
Senior Lecturer (University of London)

The Seventh International Seminar

December 6, 2012

“Current Status and Issues of International Joint Education -- From Cases at Doshisha University --”

Prof. YAMADA Reiko
(Doshisha University)



Project Progress for the Second Half of Academic Year 2012

(as of the end of March 2013)

Symposiums and Seminars

- October 18 (Thursday) 2012 Seminar "Internationalization of Higher Education ⑥" (Lecturer: John O'Regan/Institute of Education, University of London, Mike Winter/Institute of Education, University of London)
- December 6 (Thursday) 2012 Seminar "Internationalization of Higher Education ⑦" (Lecturer: Prof. YAMADA Reiko /Doshisha University)
- February 21 (Thursday) 2013 International Symposium "Higher Education in East Asia Tomorrow: In search of the Joint Degree Program" (Keynote Speech: SHIMIZU Yoshifumi, Project sub-leader/Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University; Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. SHIN Jungcheol /Seoul National University, Korea; Prof. LIANG Chung Ming /National Taitung University, Taiwan; Prof. HU Jianhua /Nanjing Normal University School of Education Science, China; Assoc. Prof. CHENG Tung Liao /National Chengchi University College of Education, Taiwan)

Short-term overseas training program

- March 20 (Wednesday) – 23 (Saturday) 2013 Korea University (Seoul, Korea)

Collaborative Project

- March 29 (Friday) 2013 Academic Exchange Agreement Signing Ceremony with Hangzhou Normal University, China

Overseas surveys

- October 15 (Monday) – 21 (Sunday) 2012 Seoul National University
- November 4 (Sunday) 2012 Beijing Normal University (meeting in Tokyo)
- November 6 (Tuesday) – 7 (Wednesday) 2012 Seoul National University, Korea University (Seoul, Korea)
- November 24 (Saturday) – 30 (Friday) 2012 Nanjing Normal University (Nanjing, China), Zhejiang University (Hangzhou, China), Hangzhou Normal University (Hangzhou, China), East China Normal University (Shanghai, China)
- December 2 (Sunday) – 5 (Wednesday) 2012 National Chengchi University, National Taiwan Normal University (Taipei, Taiwan)
- February 26 (Tuesday) – March 3 (Sunday) 2013 Northeast Normal University (Changchun, China)
- March 11 (Monday) – 16 (Saturday) 2013 University of London (London, UK), European University Association (Brussels, Belgium)

Domestic surveys

- October 18 (Thursday) 2012 NAIST Tokyo Forum (Tokyo)
- November 22 (Thursday) 2012 NIAD-UE International Seminar (Tokyo)

Project Visiting Professors

- Assoc. Prof. SHIN Jungcheol (Seoul National University, Korea) October 17, 2012 – February 28, 2013
- Prof. LIANG Chung Ming (National Taitung University, Taiwan) January 7, 2013 – March 15, 2013
- Prof. HU Jian Hua (Nanjing Normal University, China) January 22, 2013 – March 28, 2013
- Assoc. Prof. CHENG Tung Liao (National Chengchi University, Taiwan) January 25, 2013 – February 24, 2013

