



AJP PRESS

ASIA JOINT-DEGREE PROJECT

2013.AUTUMN

Vol.05

Liaison Meeting with Korea University

The Asia Joint-Degree Project of the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University, held a liaison meeting with Korea University via a teleconference system on Monday, May 20, 2013. The aim of such liaison meetings is to address the issues that need to be resolved in order to establish joint-degrees between the two universities. These issues include establishing a credit transfer system and unifying academic record management practices, as well as securing academic standards. Much time and effort is incurred by higher educational institutions in different countries to resolve issues such as these. We will continue to hold regular meetings with Korea University, taking advantage of teleconferencing, and aim to respond promptly to various agenda items towards developing a joint-degree program.

At the meeting, both institutions confirmed that they would promote preparations for opening "common subjects," which are essential in developing joint-degrees. Since these subjects are to be designed jointly,



those in charge of the subjects at both universities will continue to have mutual discussions to establish a high quality curriculum.

In addition to these discussions, both parties exchanged views on holding workshops for graduate students. Specific proposals included holding a joint year-end session for postgraduates from both universities to present their research outcomes, thus offering them an occasion for academic and social exchange. Arranging these opportunities and encouraging students to travel abroad will lead to the development of human resources with an international perspective. This is one of the ultimate goals of the Asia Joint-Degree Project.

Through continuing meetings with Korea University via teleconferencing, we aim to develop a unique joint-degree program that enables students to experience studying at each other's universities.

Intensive Seminar in Sendai



The Asia Joint-Degree Project of the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University, held an "Intensive Seminar in Sendai" from July 22 to 24, 2013, to which overseas graduate students who have studied the Japanese language were invited. The purpose of the seminar was to explore the possibilities of teaching classes in Japanese as well as to promote interaction between students from different countries. The participants this year were two postgraduates from Korea University (South Korea), four from Northeast Normal University (China), three from Nanjing Normal University (China), and one from National Chengchi University (Taiwan), in addition to eight students from Tohoku University.

The seminar consisted of five lectures (see below), a field trip to a high school in Sendai City, an exchange meeting, and a presentation meeting. The lectures aimed to help participants understand the issues arising among young people in present-day Japan, compare these issues with those in their own countries, and develop the ability to explore how culture influences psychological problems.



	Lecture Title	Lecturer
Lecture 1	What is the Period of Adolescence?	Tetsuji Kamiya, Associate Professor
Lecture 2	Transition from School to Work in Today's Japan	Satoshi Miwa, Associate Professor
Lecture 3	Features of Young People's Modes of Learning in Today's Japan	Yuko Fukaya, Associate Professor
Lecture 4	Psychological Features of Young People in Today's Japan	Tetsuji Kamiya, Associate Professor
Lecture 5	Issues Arising among Young People and Psychological Support for Them in Today's Japan	Koubun Wakashima, Associate Professor

Lecture 1 defined adolescence and described its characteristics in psychological terms. It also explained how "the child" and "the youth" emerged in a historical context. Participants deepened their understanding of the structure of young adulthood.

The topic of Lecture 2 was young people's job hunting experiences, which is an important turning point in their lives. In educational sociology, the process in which young people attempt to find employment is a research subject known as "Transition from School to Work." Participants learned about the changing Japanese society and its unique structures.

Lecture 3 discussed academic abilities, motivation to learn, and learning strategies of young people in current Japan. The results of national surveys on academic abilities and learning conditions were introduced, as well as specific

examples of Japanese students' strategies for learning by heart and taking notes. Participants thus acquired a view on the features of student studies in present-day Japan.

Lecture 4 focused on the characteristics of young people in today's Japan. The postwar socioeconomic context, from the period of high economic growth to the bursting of the bubble economy, is believed to have changed the characters of young people, along with the transformation of their families.

Lecture 5 took up issues arising among young people in current Japan, such as bullying, truancy, social withdrawal, and domestic violence. The lecturer approached these problems by referring to specific cases. Participants gained an understanding of the actual methods of psychological support and the philosophy behind such support.

Intensive Seminar in Sendai – Schedule					
	I 8:50~10:20	II 10:30~12:00	III 13:00~14:30	IV 14:40~16:10	V 16:20~17:50
Monday July 22	Opening Ceremony Orientation	Lecture 1	Lecture 2		Lecture 3
Tuesday July 23	Field Trip (High School in Sendai City)			Lecture 4	
Wednesday July 24	Lecture 5	Exchange Meeting	Preparation for Presentation	Presentation	Closing Ceremony

At the high school visited on the field trip, participants observed the school facilities, as well as actual classes. This trip seemed to be a valuable experience for all participants as they enthusiastically asked many questions regarding Japanese high school life. In addition, there were lively discussions on the lectures at the exchange meeting. Each participant then gave a PowerPoint presentation about what they had learned through the seminar.

During this short three-day period, the seminar successfully provided valuable opportunities for students from different countries to exchange views and opinions. We will work further on creating occasions where students and faculty members can actively interact across national borders.

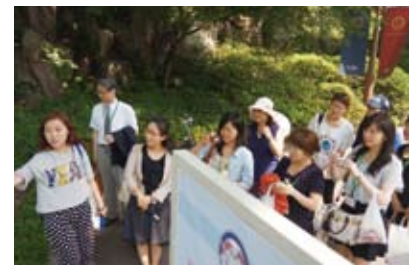


Overseas Academic Seminar Launched

The Faculty of Education, Tohoku University, has held its "Overseas Academic Seminar" for third and fourth-year undergraduates since the academic year of 2013. The seminar focuses on fieldwork research and methods of fieldwork related to education, and aims to explore the true nature of educational phenomena through real-world activities. It is also expected that students attending this seminar will be motivated to participate in the Asia Joint-Degree Project. The fieldwork for this year was conducted at educational institutions in South Korea.

The seminar this academic year had a total of four students: one undergraduate in their third year, two in their fourth year (non-credit students), and one in the first year of a master's program. During the first 12 of the 15 sessions, literature-based lectures on fieldwork methods and related issues were chiefly delivered. Korean language classes, the native language of the fieldwork sites, were also provided.

In the period of four days from Jun 23 to 26, the members of the seminar took a fieldtrip to visit Gyo-Dong Elementary School and Kyung-Bok High School in Seoul, with four supervising faculty members. The participants



observed classes at these schools, which included those utilizing ICT or English classes grouped according to ability, and compared them to classroom teaching in Japan.

Seminars incorporating fieldwork are considered to be very productive since direct observation of overseas educational sites itself is educationally mean-

ingful. However, some issues have emerged: participants did not have sufficient time for their research and the fieldwork ended up as a somewhat superficial one-shot survey; language barriers also impeded the fieldwork; and a cost burden was imposed on participants. We will tackle these issues and further promote and carry out such overseas seminars.

Project Progress for the First Half of Academic Year 2013 (as of the end of July 2013)



Collaborative Project

- May 20 (Monday) Liaison meeting with Korea University (Teleconference)

Participants: Yoshikazu Ogawa, Professor; Hideo Ambo, Associate Professor; Kazuya Taniguchi, Associate Professor; Tetsuji Kamiya, Associate Professor; Hyunsuk Park, Assistant Professor; Mitsuharu Tanaka, Assistant Professor

Intensive Seminar

- July 22 (Monday) to Intensive Seminar
24 (Wednesday)

Overseas Surveys

- May 28 (Tuesday) Mongolian State University of Education (Meeting in Tokyo)
- June 23 (Sunday) to [Overseas Academic Seminar] Kyunghee University, Gyo-Dong Elementary School, KyungBok High School (Seoul, South Korea)
26 (Wednesday)

Domestic Surveys

- June 28 (Friday) Higher Education Symposium, "Reconsidering University Education: What Is Required for Universities to Promote Individual Learning?" (Yurakucho Asahi Hall, Tokyo)



AJP ASIA
JOINT-DEGREE
PROJECT

Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University Asia Joint-degree Project Office
TEL: +81-22-795-3756 E-mail: ajp@sed.tohoku.ac.jp
www.sed.tohoku.ac.jp/~ajp/en/