



The 9th International Seminar Held

On Monday, October 20, 2014, an international seminar, "International Trend of Student Mobility in Taiwan," was held in the Large Meeting Room, 11F, New Humanities Building, Tohoku University, to which Professor Tang Chih-Min (Dean of the College of Education, National Chengchi University, Taiwan) and Associate Professor Chen Jung-Cheng (College of Education, National Chengchi University) were invited as lecturers.

At the seminar, Professor Tang Chih-Min outlined the status of internationalization at National Chengchi University. He pointed out that they are committed to internationalization on a university-wide basis, and that the number of domestic students dispatched overseas and the number of international students studying at National Chengchi University have both been on the rise. The College of Education, National Chengchi University has promoted exchanges with the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University. The College has been actively reforming itself, as reflected in the fact that it has been recognized for its Good Practice in promoting internationalization in Taiwan. Specifically, the College has strived to create contact points with overseas partners in various aspects, by such means as offering English-taught courses, arranging international conferences, promoting international exchanges between students and holding short-term overseas study programs. Professor Tang Chih-Min also introduced the overseas observation programs held as part of the training for faculty members. His report gave some valuable suggestions as to the type of programs we should develop, in order to nurture leaders in international education.



Tang Chih-Min



Chen Jung-Cheng

Associate Professor Chen Jung-Cheng reported on the current positioning of Taiwan in terms of the international migration of students, and the direction Taiwan will take in the future, citing specific numerical data. Students in East Asia are known for often choosing the US, the UK, Australia and other English-speaking countries as their destination for studying abroad, and this trend also holds true for Taiwan. However, Japan is among the popular destinations for Taiwanese students, along with the above English-speaking nations. He showed statistics on the number of international students studying in Taiwan by country, in which Japan, the US and South Korea were ranked high. The numerical data indicated the frequency of exchange programs between Taiwan and Japan. He pointed out that this is the outcome of the increase in the number of academic exchange agreements concluded between Taiwan's universities and research institutions with their overseas counterparts. In recent years, we



have seen Taiwanese universities/institutions sign a greater number of such agreements with their Asian counterparts than with those in Western countries. At the discussions held during the seminars, it was noted that graduate schools in Taiwan are accepting increasing numbers of postgraduate students from Japan (including those attending programs other than degree programs). The participants also reaffirmed the significance of the Asia Education Leader Course, which we are currently promoting, and the opinion was that inter-departmental exchanges are therefore henceforth all the more important.

In the future, we will continue to periodically hold this kind of seminar to provide an opportunity for exchanges of views among researchers and students, transcending national boundaries and specialties, thus realizing an atmosphere of continuous interaction.



International Symposium on "Quality Assurance for Joint Degree Program: Curriculum and Assessment" held

The Asia Joint-Degree Project of the Graduate School of Education at Tohoku University held an international symposium, "Quality Assurance for Joint Degree Program: Curriculum and Assessment," in the Large Meeting Room, 11F, New Humanities Building, Tohoku University (Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture) on Sunday, December 21, 2014.

The theme of this international symposium has been set based on the issues and challenges identified through the implementation of the Asia Education Leader Course (AEL Course), which was launched in FY2014. Specifically, the symposium was intended to hold discussions from a practical perspective on the issues of international credit transfer and academic assessment relating to studying abroad, the trend toward international sharing of a quality assurance approach for degree program upon which such transfers and assessment are based, and how to provide quality assurance for the development of a joint-degree program. As symposiasts, we invited Professor Yoshiro Hirayama (Tohoku University), Professor Beverley Anne Yamamoto (Osaka University) and Dr. Aishah Binti Abu Bakar (University of Malaya, former Director of the Academic Development Management Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia). They have been envisioning and implementing international joint education. The symposiasts reported on the issues regarding curriculum and assessment, and the ideal of international joint education, from their individual viewpoints. We also invited Professor Shinnosuke Obi (Keio University) as a designated debater. He held discussions with the symposiasts as to trends in joint degree systems, for which the development of legal framework has been underway in recent years.

At the outset of the symposium, Professor Kazuo Hongo, Dean of the Graduate School of Education at Tohoku University talked about the purposes of the Asia Joint Degree Project, and about the significance of this symposium, which was designed to discuss the issues and challenges highlighted by the implementation of the AEL Course and the ideal form of quality assurance that should be adopted in the future.

Next, Professor Yoshiro Hirayama (Tohoku University) reported on the Graduate Program in Spintronics (GP-Spin) at Tohoku

University. This graduate program commenced in FY2014, funded by the special expenses budget of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. GP-Spin has also been designated as part of the Leading Graduate School Program and the Super Global University Project. The purpose of the program is to set up a doctoral course for an international graduate school specializing in spintronics, in order to produce PhD holders in this field who can play an active role in the international arena. To be awarded such a doctoral degree, student is required to have comprehensive expertise in the field of spintronics, have the capability to independently pursue research, have experience in long-term overseas internships (six months or longer), author doctoral dissertation in English, and pass public oral examination in English. In addition, it is preferable that applicants have two or more first-authored papers published in or accepted by international scholarly journals by the time they submit their doctoral dissertations. In this way, output criteria have been clearly defined. The curriculum of the doctoral course takes into account the connection with the curriculum of the master's course, as a precondition. Professor Hirayama also stated that the Graduate Program in spintronics has been designed in conjunction with graduate school reforms. Among the issues and challenges pointed out by the professor were: an ideal curricu-



Kazuo Hongo



Yoshiro Hirayama

lum that does not impose a heavy burden on both students and faculty members; how to reconcile differences between the curriculum of each major; how to secure scholarships for long-term overseas internship programs; how to proceed with the globalization of clerical work; and how to avoid the adverse effect of restricting liberal research exchanges that may result from the establishment of a program and the conclusion of an MOU.

Professor Beverley Anne Yamamoto (Osaka University) has overseen the Global 30 Program at Osaka University, and worked on quality assurance of the curriculum in a practical manner, by such means as preparing a handbook on curriculum quality assurance and using the book for faculty development (FD) in the university. The title of her lecture was "Education Method and Assessment in International Joint Education: Based on Cases at Osaka University," under which she discussed quality assurance in international joint education, citing actual cases at Osaka University. At the beginning of her lecture, Professor Yamamoto confirmed the definitions of educational quality and standards in the UK. She then stated that, after specifying the learning outcomes to be achieved in each academic year and examining the ability that students should have acquired by their graduation, it is necessary to establish a benchmark for, and determine the positioning of international standards, in order to enhance the quality of the entire course. Professor Yamamoto also suggested that student evaluation moderation meetings should be introduced in order to maintain consistency among multiple evaluators. This has an FD function, and plays a role in linking syllabi, rubrics, and documents submitted by students. She noted that although Osaka University's cases were of undergraduates, these may be applied to establishing courses for graduate schools.



Beverley Anne Yamamoto



Aishah Binti Abu Bakar

Dr. Aishah Binti Abu Bakar (University of Malaya) presented examples of the curriculums implemented by interregional coordination and evaluation indicators, while introducing the trend in the ASEAN International Mobility for Students program (AIMS). In her lecture entitled "AIMS - ASEAN International Mobility for Students - Curriculum Management," she reported that the forerunner of AIMS was originally launched in 2010 as a collaboration between the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand to promote student mobility in the Southeast Asian region. The program aims to develop a student exchange mechanism that contributes to the process of ASEAN community building by 2015, and to develop universities and human resources with both domestic and international perspectives. Its expansion phase began in 2012 with the participation of Vietnam as the fourth member under a new program name: AIMS. In 2013, the Philippines, Burney, and Japan participated in the AIMS program. The initial objectives of the AIMS program for 2015 were to mobilize at least 500 students across the region, and to increase the number of research fields to ten and the membership to ten countries. As of 2013, the program had achieved the participation of 500 students from seven countries, encompassing seven research fields. AIMS now covers the research fields

of Hospitality and Tourism, Agriculture, Language and Culture, International Business, Food Science and Technology, Engineering, and Economics. AIMS member countries have agreed to continue to further expand the number of fields. Student exchanges take place through a credit transfer and recognition system. The credits earned through the program are transferred and recognized under the framework of ACTFA (Academic Credit Transfer Framework for Asia). This is a system financially supported by the Asian Development Bank, and promotes credit transfers based on the three elements: mutual recognition, credits and academic performance. She also cited a number of problems with the AIMS program, such as an imbalance in the number of students accepted and dispatched, and how to secure scholarships in response to the variable value of scholarships from region to region. Since the Asia Joint-Degree Program we are promoting intends to cover not only East Asia but also ASEAN countries in the future, the report by Dr. Aishah Binti Abu Bakar was highly suggestive for us.

Professor Shinnosuke Obi (Keio University), who served as the designated debater upon our request, first verified the reports

from the respective symposiasts. He then discussed the contents with the symposiasts. The focal points of the discussions included the following: "resilience" as the keyword for carrying out international joint education; in regard to postgraduate programs, we need to consider quality assurance for master's or doctoral theses rather than coursework and to work out how to numerically measure the quality; what a sustainable scholarship system should be like; and how we can secure a linkage between research and employment.

The symposiasts enjoyed the subsequent discussions with participants at the venue. For example, they exchanged views as to whether or not there is a difference between quality assurance for international joint education and the quality assurance for higher education that has been considered thus far. They also discussed how to incorporate the advantages for students into the curriculums and programs. These discussions gave us great insight into the requirements for curriculum design for this project. Based on what was learned through this symposium, we will continue working to establish a system to steadily nurture leaders in international education who have a global perspective.



Program of International Symposium

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| 13:30- | Opening Remarks | Kazuo Hongo | Dean of the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University |
| 13:40- | Lecture 1 | Yoshiro Hirayama | Professor, Tohoku University |
| 14:10- | Lecture 2 | Beverley Anne Yamamoto | Professor, Osaka University |
| 14:40- | Lecture 3 | Aishah Binti Abu Bakar | Senior Lecturer, University of Malaya |
| 15:30- | Break | | |
| 15:45- | Discussion with designated debater | Shinnosuke Obi | Professor, Keio University |
| 16:15- | Q&A and discussion | | |
| 16:55- | Closing Remarks | Takashi Ueno | Vice Dean of the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University |



Project Progress for the Second Half of Academic Year 2014 (as of the end of March 2015)

Asia Education Leader Course

- AEL Course Summer Course 2014 July 19 (Sat.) – 29 (Tue.), 2014, at Tohoku University
- AEL Course Winter Course 2015 January 19 (Mon.) – February 6 (Fri.) 2015 at National Chengchi University

Academic exchange agreements and MOUs concerning student interaction with partner universities concluded

- November 11 (Tue.), 2014 Signing ceremony of an MOU concerning student interaction with the Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University (Beijing, China)
- November 14 (Fri.), 2014 Signing ceremony of an academic exchange agreement and an MOU concerning student interaction with the Faculty of Education, Northeast Normal University (Changchun, China)



Beijing Normal University



Northeast Normal University

International Symposium

- December 21 (Sun.), 2014 International Symposium on "Quality Assurance for Joint Degree Program: Curriculum and Assessment" (Large Meeting Room, 11F, New Humanities Building, Tohoku University, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan)

Applications invited for Asia Education Leader Course Winter Course 2015

Since academic year 2014, the Asia Joint-Degree Project of the Graduate School of Education at Tohoku University (AJP) has operated the Asia Educational Leader Course (AEL Course) with the aim of nurturing leaders in international education who have a global perspective. The AEL Course is jointly run by six departments from five universities including the College of Education, National Chengchi University, Taiwan; the College of Education, National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan; the School of Psychology and the School of Education Science, Nanjing Normal University, China; Korea University, South Korea; and the Graduate School of Education, Tohoku University. These universities take turns to run subject courses during the long summer and winter breaks. Participating students travel to attend these courses held by overseas universities. In July 2014, Tohoku University held the AEL Course Summer Course 2014.

Partner universities invited applications to participate in the AEL Course Winter Course 2015 slated to start on Monday, January 19, 2015 at National Chengchi University, Taiwan. Students from each university applied for participation, and 16 students are scheduled to attend the course. For details, please visit the AEL Course at the following URL.

<http://www.sed.tohoku.ac.jp/~ajp/aec/top.html>



AJP ASIA
JOINT-DEGREE
PROJECT

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