

Seminar on “University Globalization: Actions From Universities”

於東北大学片平キャンパス サクラホール, 2012年11月26日

Sakura Hall, Katahira Campus, Tohoku University, November 26, 2012

Sponsored by 2012 RIEC Collaboration Project Research (Unlicensed Band Wireless Communications)
and Center for the Advancement of Higher Education, Tohoku University

The first Seminar on the same topic tried to identify the root causes of the current weak Japan by focusing on the differences between “Japanese university education and employment systems” and those in other countries. The purpose of this second Seminar is to identify and propose “Actions From Universities” to solve the problems identified. For example, one of the potential root causes that we identified is that most Japanese graduates do not have a significant skill-set to present at a job interview. In countries other than Japan, the skills that university graduates can claim include those attained from graduation projects or internships they have done. In contrast, the job interview process in Japan normally begins a year or more prior to graduation, so students cannot claim a skill attained from a graduation project. Further, since internships are often only a week or two long, it is difficult to attain any significant skill. As a result, most companies tend to train new employees for 6 months to one year in-house. This “no significant skill when hired” negatively affects companies’ global competitiveness and is a contributing factor to some newly hired people quitting after a short time. Through this Seminar, we want to consider and discuss such problems and what we can do to solve them so that Japan can continue to be a world leader.

2012 4th RIEC Seminar on “University Globalization: Actions From Universities”

- Date: November 26, 2012
- Time: 13:00 – 17:50
- Place: Sakura Hall, Katahira Campus, Tohoku University
- Working language: English (Questions in Japanese are also possible)
- Participation fee: free

Agenda

13:00 – 13:05 Opening remarks

13:05 – 15:05

- (1) Prof. Daniel Eichhorst (Center for the Advancement of Higher Education, Tohoku University)
“Actions From Universities: Examining the Situation of University of Students to Identify Areas that can be improved to Meet the Challenges of Globalization”
- (2) Ms. Junko Sekino (Miyagi University)
“Actions From Universities: MYU’s Perspective toward Decentralization”
- (3) Prof. Ben Shearon (Center for the Advancement of Higher Education, Tohoku University)
“Actions From Universities: Building Effective Foreign Language Instruction”
- (4) Prof. Yuka Tachibana (Center for the Advancement of Higher Education, Tohoku University)
“The Current State of University Education in America: Where Should Education in Japanese Universities Go from Here?”

15:05 – 15:25 Coffee break

15:25 – 16:25

- (5) Prof. Abbas Yongacoglu (University of Ottawa, Canada)
“Actions From Universities: Canadian Perspectives on Engineering Education”
- (6) Prof. Shu Kato (RIEC, Tohoku University)
“Actions From Universities: How to Foster Skilled Engineers”

16:30 – 17:45

- (7) Panel discussion “Actions From Universities: Short Term and Long Term Solutions”
Moderator: Prof. Shu Kato (Tohoku University)
Panelist: Prof. Daniel Eichhorst, Ms. Junko Sekino, Prof. Ben Shearon, Prof. Yuka Tachibana, Prof. Abbas Yongacoglu

17:45 – 17:50 Closing remarks

Reception 18:00-19:30 Fee: ¥1,000 (free for students)

Registration/参加申込: Ms. Naomi Aizawa / 東北大学電気通信研究所 加藤研究室(相澤なおみ)

Tel: 022-217-5477 E-mail: katolab@riec.tohoku.ac.jp

Speakers

Daniel Eichhorst earned his Bachelor of Arts in English from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN; Degree of Occupational Proficiency in Electronic Data Processing from St. Cloud Technical College, St. Cloud, MN; Professional Education Certification in Language Arts/ESL from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA; and Master of International Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management, Glendale, AZ. He first came to Japan in 1982 and taught at a private English school for 2 years in Fukushima. Next, he worked 18 years as a full-time English teacher at Shokei Gakuin Junior & Senior High School in Sendai. During this time he received Japanese high school teacher certification and experienced being a homeroom teacher. In 2007 he started university teaching and has taught at private and public universities in Sendai. He is currently a senior assistant professor in the Center for the Advancement of Higher Education at Tohoku University teaching communication and reading courses where he focuses on discussion and extensive reading, respectively.)



Ms. Junko Sekino received B.S. degree in psychology from Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX in 2005, and M.Ed. in Community Counseling from Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL in 2008. Currently, she is an administrative staff at School & Education Affairs Division and the CIEOS (The Center for International Exchange and Overseas Students) in Miyagi University. This is her 4th year at MYU.



Prof. Ben Shearon graduated with a BA and MA in Chinese Studies and Social and Political Science from Cambridge University, and is currently an MA student in TEFL at the University of Birmingham. He is a lecturer in the Centre for the Advancement of Higher Education at Tohoku University. Having taught English for twelve years at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels in Japan, Ben currently serves as educational advisor to Nika Secondary School and Cambridge English School. Research interests include independent learning, student autonomy, extensive reading, vocabulary acquisition, testing, and the Japanese educational system



Prof. Yuka Tachibana received a B.A. from the University of Great Falls, Montana in Communications in 1990 and an M.A. from California State University, in Humanities with an emphasis in US-Japan History and Foreign relations, and a PhD from Tohoku University, Human Information Science with an emphasis in Applied Linguistics. She worked at the University of Montana from 1993~2008 as an Associate Professor and then moved to Tohoku University's Center for the Advancement of Higher Education. She is lead curriculum coordinator for Linc English which is a multi-media, web-based English language training curriculum developed to help schools, companies and individuals effectively achieve their English learning goals. She is currently a committee member for the following organizations: 1) Preparing Future Faculty Program (PFFP), 2) the Center for Professional Development, and 3) the Educational Develop Core in International Cooperation. In addition she serves as an international negotiator in the effort to develop educational relationships with Tohoku University and these foreign institutions: 1) University of California, Berkeley, 2) The University of Melbourne, Australia, and 3) Queens University, Canada. At Tohoku University she conducts English acquisition workshops and FD for the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and the Institute of Fluid Science which focus on technology enhanced learning as it relates to language acquisition.



Prof. Abbas Yongacoglu received the B.Sc. degree from Boğaziçi University, Turkey, in 1973, the M. Eng. degree from the University of Toronto, Canada, in 1975, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Ottawa, Canada, in 1987, all in Electrical Engineering. He worked as a researcher and a system engineer at TUBITAK Marmara Research Institute in Turkey, Philips Research Labs in Holland and Miller Communications Systems in Ottawa. In 1987 he joined the University of Ottawa as an assistant professor. He became an associate professor in 1992, and a full professor in 1996. His area of research is digital communications with emphasis on physical layer of wireless communication systems.



Prof. Shu Kato graduated with a Ph.D from Tohoku University and joined NTT Laboratory in 1977. Worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Ottawa, in Canada from 1981 to 1982. In 1995, he established Pacific Communications Research Inc. and became President of Uniden in 1996. He became senior VP of Mitsubishi Wireless, Inc., (USA) in 1998, and established Omni Wireless, Inc., (USA) in 2001, however, it was given up due to 911 that ceased all venture capital activities in the USA for a couple of years. He worked as VP, Teradyne Japan from 2002 to 2005 to learn why American companies are successful. In 2006, he joined National Institute of Information and Communications Technology to help Japanese wireless industry in global competition, and became Professor at RIEC, Tohoku University in 2008 to help fostering globally competitive Ph. Ds. He interviewed over 1,000 candidates in USA and over 1,000 in Japan for hiring so far. He has developed 39 kinds of ASICs without re-spins including world-fast TDMA chip set in 1986, world-fastest Viterbi decoder chip in 1987, world-first 2-volt SOC for PHS and many others. He has published over 200 technical papers, held over 100 patents (including a patent which became DOD (USA) standard in 1998), He is a Fellow of the IEEE.



Next Seminar “University Globalization (tentative)”

• Date: May or June, 2013 , Time :13:00 -17:30, Place : Katahira, Tohoku University