

DECISION SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE

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2017

7

Decision making
Graduation ceremony
Social Business | Future Earth
Eco-town | Architecture



EDITOR'S NOTE

The theme of the seventh issue of Decision Science Newsletter is "DECISION MAKING". Decision making occurs in many places and important in promoting the projects whether it is big or small. We IDS3 have many projects with different contributors in various situations and the decision making processes would not be simple. However, we should aim to build good consensuses. In this issue, we cover various activities and results obtained from the decision making in each project.

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FEATURE

The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud.

♣ *Andrew Rebeiro-Hargrave*

Hand sewing high fashion to Japanese graduation season leads to an unexpected garment. Following Coco Chanel's glittering quote "in order to be irreplaceable, one must always be different", IDS3 haute couture enthusiast, Dr. Azusa Kikuchi enlightens us how students work hard to be different for the graduation ceremony. "What to wear? In most cases, men come in suits and women dress up in hakama. The majority rent hakama and face the dilemma that top quality ones are available on the first in, first served basis. Where to get hairstyle set? At popular hair salons, whoever makes a late reservation suffer very early morning slots". Thank you Azusa, we know the best things in life are free and the second-best are very expensive, how

does cost affect the graduating student? "Budget, location and perhaps organizing a thank-you party with the professors are expensive. The location of the after party is often considered to be the main event for the most students" Getting back to the event, Azusa, what happens at the ceremony? "The graduates listen to the speech of the Vice Chancellor and often look around to check and rate their own and others' fashion, outfits. Those who had to wake up early for dress-ups fall asleep during the ceremony to save for the after party drinks" Japanese graduation ceremony are vivid, colorful and stimulates cosplay, this reminds us that "fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening".

BOOK | Scoop!! The new book on Decision Science



♥ Yihong Zhao

Hot off the press is Professor Yahara's book **"An Introduction to Decision Science: How can we transform our society towards a sustainable future?"** Professor Yahara succinctly points out that the biological background of opposition and cooperation exist in human society due to the evolutionary processes of five basic elements: human nature, conscience, coordination, openness, and neuroticism. He suggests that if you follow the history of human society, the trend of the modern world is moving towards expanding peace and cooperation. The main factor contributing to this expansion of peace is the accumulation of knowledge that supports rational decision-making. The book is targeted to cover a wide variety of readers

including high school students. It introduces the general science of decision-making and approaches to solve difficult problems in society. There are six chapters in the book: Evolutionary thinking; Leadership; Science of decision; Where do we come from?; Where are we going?; Towards a sustainable society; How can we transform our society? Each chapter is easy to understand with guidance on where to look for more information.



CONFERENCE | Nobel laureate Professor Yunus keynote on healthcare, SDGs, and Social Business

♥ Feifan Xu

The 1st International Conference on healthcare, SDGs, and Social Business, organized by Kyushu University and Asahi Newspaper, was held at Asahi Hamarikyu Hall, Tokyo, on February 21st, 2017. The conference shared the goals and status of the SDGs in healthcare; state-of-the-art technologies to solve primary healthcare issues; and social business case studies to address affordable healthcare issues in a sustainable way for any regions/communities in the world. Noble laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh so-



cial entrepreneur, founder of the Grameen Bank, and pioneering the concepts of micro-credit and microfinance, delivered the keynote speech on how social business can offer innovative solutions to healthcare issues related to Japan's aging population. More than 15 students from IDS3 program participated as staff or speakers. Mr. Hasan Mehdi, a Ph.D. student of IDS3 got the best paper award. It was a great learning and team-work experience for IDS3 students to organize such a big event.

FIELD TRIP | Emotional architecture and Decision Science Journal dream themes

♥ Yuki Kubo

The 3rd field training program to Mexico was conducted from Dec. 1 to 11, 2016. The field program participants developed their study themes well in advance. The themes were various and complement interdisciplinary research and education. Some of the themes were curious and colorful. Dr. Kumi Eguchi, an assistant professor, study theme zoomed in Mexican architect Luis Barragán Morfin. This famous architect reflected local culture to his designs and was unique by using natural light to build tranquil spaces.

The IDS3 members visited Casa Estudio Luis Barragán (Luis Barragán's house and the office) on the 3rd day of the trip to see his work and the townscape. Dr. Eguchi discussed the similarity of Luis's building and Japanese traditional architecture in the view of collecting the light at the session in the National Autonomous University of Mexico. IDS3 published the 2nd Decision Science Journal issue overarching theme is the bridge between Mexico and Japan on Dec. 31, 2016. The articles were written by the participants

from previous trips to Mexico. The issue has been registered in Kyushu University collections (written only in Japanese.)



SYMPOSIUM

◆ *Brian Kenji Iwana*

IDS3 hosted an international symposium “Decision Science for Future Earth” on February 18th to 19th. The Future Earth organization was established in 2013 as an international program to promote research on global environmental issues, and apply transdisciplinary science to solve societal problems. The purpose of the symposium was to discuss recent achievements and further strengthen the relationship between the IDS3 and Future Earth. In particular, to synergize with Future Earth’s focus on “co-design” and “co-production” of inter-disciplinary research which involves vari-

Decision Science and Future Earth address intractability

ous stakeholders. The first day kicked off with a welcome from Dr. Chiharu Kubo, the president of Kyushu University. We then had an up-to-date review of IDS3 from Prof. Tetsukazu Yahara. We move into the agenda with Future Earth presentations from Dr. Mark Stafford-Smith and Dr. Fumiko Kasuga from the Japan Hub. The rest of the symposium included presentations from a number of other distinguished guests and IDS3 members. The presentations covered topics related to Decision Science issues, such as forestry, healthcare, community building, earthquakes, and

governance. It was a valuable opportunity to mutually learn and develop ideas on solving the interconnected intractable problems of our society.



PROJECT

Teamsters cut wood in Saiki

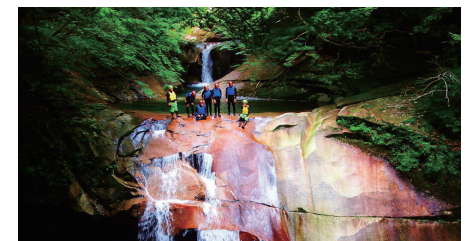


◆ *Haotian Sun*

Ant specialist Dr. Murakami and his trusted colleague Mr. Fuse and IDS3 student, Ms. Kawakubo drove to Saiki city on March 5th. The Ume district of Saiki city, high in the Oita mountainous area, is suffering from

population decline due to aging population and low birth rate. The intrepid teamsters posed the following questions: Where is the unique point academically? On what points can we cooperate with the local authorities? The union consisted of four high school students, two members of the collaboration team of community building, and IDS3 members. They experienced wood chopping at the rest station of Eco Park in Ume town, they tasted the local cuisine, and went for a field trip to the Fujikawachi-keikoku. According to Ms. Kawakubo, a student member “It was a meaningful field trip, and definitely worth a revisit in the future since we

have successfully taken the first step towards community revitalization”. The high school students were very pleased with the promotion of the nature of Saiki city, which was the original purpose of the visit. The role of the collaboration team of community building is essential for the future revitalization of the community.



SEMINAR

TED presentation symphony with industry

◆ *Yuki Kubo*

The 3rd IDS3 TED Presentation Contest was held at Kyushu University, on Jan 27, 2017. Once again, IDS3 students pitted their presentation skills against each other to find out who is the convincing maestro. The themes of this year’s presentations were “The future of my research field” and “Proposal of a new system for effective use of Ph.D. degree graduates”. Ten confident speakers gave presentations in front of a distinguished audience. Mr. Kai Morita won the best presentation award. He talked about the ideal type of human resources being sought for river engineer-

ing. Mr. Giwon Hong, a guest student speaker from the Global Leader Program for Social Design and Management at the University of Tokyo came a close artistic second place. He presented and discussed the appropriate use of human resources with reference to leading programs in the academic, industrial and governmental sectors. For appraisal, we invited five guest speakers; Dr. Hiroki Miyata, a manager of Takenaka Corporation; Dr. Aya Uraguchi, a coordinator of Conservation International Japan; Dr. Hiroshi Kakuta, a manager of Docon Co., Ltd; Mr. Ryosuke Shibato, a founder an Academic Cloud

Finding site; and Dr. Daiki Horikawa, a water bears biologist. The guest speakers gave cheerful encouragement for the program students. The battle was organized by Mr. Takeru Kusudo, Ms. Yirong Zhao, and Ms. Asuka Ono, and orchestrated by Dr. Takahiro Murakami.



INTERVIEW

Prof. Yukihiro Shimatani

Good decision-making can fail, if we do not include opposite opinion



♠ *Kazuki Tagawa & Hasan Mehdi*

Dr. Yukihiro Shimatani is a Professor at the Department of Engineering of Kyushu University. He is the leader of the Disaster module at IDS3. His interests include environment-friendly engineering in rivers.

Q. *Good Afternoon, Mr Shimatani, can you tell us your recent activity?*

A. We have a new project in Mashiki town, Kumamoto prefecture. As you are aware, there was a big earthquake in Mashiki-town last April, 2016. The earthquake destroyed many paddy fields and they lost the ability to keep water. Our team and the company SUNTORY helped construct new paddy fields there. Now, we are planning to make the bio-friendly (eco-friendly) paddy fields together with people in Mashiki-town. Unfortunately, today, in many paddy fields there are no fish, insects and plants because of the pesticide. With our bio-friendly paddy fields, many animals and plants can live.

Q. *Can you say more about the bio-friendly paddy fields?*

A. The situation of today in Mashiki-town is not good; the people met a severe disaster and the population is decreasing. We focus on the past and future, and mitigate the present. In the past, paddy fields were full of bounce with many wild lives. In the future, if they sell pesticide-free rice, they get much more money because consumers pay more for safe foods.

Q. *How do you collaborate with local people in Mashiki-town?*

A. We organized 5 workshops with local people in Mashiki-town. During a workshop, we discuss what is the best for the community. At the first workshop, people communicated the kind of animals and plants that were in paddy fields in old days, the people especially elderly really enjoyed the workshop. However, there were only elderly men, so we decided to have a 2nd workshop with women. Gender balance is important because of the different perspective: for example, men were interested in animals while women were interested in plants. With this in mind, I try to make workshops flexible and not fixed. Flexibility is very important for making decisions. I've organized many workshops and learnt that very fixed workshops are not so good.

Q. *We know that you are working in different countries. How do you think we can collaborate more effectively between developing countries and developed countries? How do you select and decide specific countries for the project?*

A. I explore the history, how we connect with each other, and consider the situation. We are working in a Bengal Bay project in India and Bangladesh and I am the president of the Japan wetland society. I went to India last November and discovered the Bay of Bengal (one

of the Ramsar Sites) is one eco-region. It has same culture and same nature. In north Asia and east Asia, there are many paddy fields for sustainability, we have to control water, collaborate with the farmers, and understand the water cycle and land cycles. Bengal bay has a large amount of fish, but fishermen are using a very small net that is not so good to maintain the fishery sources. It is close to Japanese culture and monsoon, but is different because of the civilization; we believe old knowledge is very important. I have a plan to go to Bangladesh and Myanmar. In this year, we have Asian Wetland Symposium in Saga prefecture, Japan. Last time it was held 25 years ago in Japan.

Good decision-making can fail, if we do not include opposite opinion. Today's world is separated and separation is not good. We have to combine, we need to know different opinion and have a discussion. Human being can make an agreement because we have an ability to change our minds.

Q. *Is there any relationship between decision-making and leadership?*

A. I think both are almost same. A leader and manager are same. The leader is almost a coordinator. The leader is a supporter who can make happy to everyone. Each person has different power. The power of a team is equal to the power of the members. Team becomes strong if the leader supports each member.



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* Editor leader of this issue

UPCOMING EVENTS

May. 17-24, Mexico, **Overseas field trip, Integration team.**

June. 2-5, East part of Japan, **Field Trip, Disaster Module.**

June, Ito Campus of Kyushu University, **Boot Camp Training Program, Human Module.**

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