

DECISION SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

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Fire ants | Social business |
Fukue Island | Evacuation
drills | Entrepreneurship |
Academia



EDITOR'S NOTE

The Decision Science Newsletter serves to report the recent activities conducted by IDS3 as well as important topics in Decision Science. The theme of this issue is "ACADEMIC-INDUSTRY." In this issue, we discuss topics in which academia can benefit industry and vice versa. We cover recent activities related to academia and industry collaboration as well as an interview with the director of the Robert T. Huang Entrepreneurship Center of Kyushu University (QREC).

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FEATURE **Ant-Man is busy putting out the fire**

♣ *Andrew Rebeiro-Hargrave*

Warning, warning, fire ants are invading Japan! Fire ants landed in Amagasaki City, Hyogo Pref. on May 29th, 2017 and since then 24 new cases in 18 areas and 12 prefectures. Thankfully for the prefecture, IDS3 ant linguistic Dr. Takahiro Murakami is on his bike and readily suited with his hose. Just back from another television appearance he comments "the fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren) is one of the most harmful invasive alien species on the Earth" and warns that "fire ants have toxic substances, named Solenopsin and protein poison that can lead to

lethal reactions", furthermore "in the USA, 50 to 100 peoples have been killed by the ants". What are the implications for Japan? Straightening his famous ant tie and pondering, about the numbers he continues "a fire ant colony has over 200,000 workers and 100 reproductive queens – a queen ant can produce around 1500 eggs per day". And the impact analysis? "the economic losses by the ant could reach 500 billion yens annually". Alarmingly, it looks like the ecosystem and economy of Japan faces a critical point because of invading fire ants. Keep up the firefighting Dr. Murakami.

FIELD TRIP



♥ *Jecinta Kamau*

Students Mr. Oki Eisuke and Ms. Lei Yang, and professors Ashir, Yokota, and Kikuchi of the health module with QREC members went to Bangkok, Thailand, to develop social business ideas in areas of maternal and child health, infectious diseases / non-infectious diseases, environmental health from August 26th to September 3th. The Asian Institute

IDS₃ and QREC Social Business venture to Bangkok

of Technology (AIT) Yunus Social Business Centre hosted the group. On the first day, social business, health and environmental issues in Thailand seminars were provided. On the second day, the group visited a microfinance institution providing financial solutions to villagers at low-interest rates; a village facing the Chao Phraya river that does their own sewage treatment to provide access to clean water; and a company hiring ex-convicted women who have trouble assimilating back into society. On the third day, the group visited a community health center and asked the nurses and volunteers questions on community health care. Ms. Lei Yang men-

tioned that she found the volunteers care for people's health eagerly with almost no compensation, but the shortage of volunteers is a major problem. On the last day, the group visited a village that was formerly a slum in the middle of the river, riddled with bad security. After a big fire destroyed most of the slum in 2009, NPOs came in with various efforts to improve the living standards in the village. A visit to JICA office concluded the field study. Oki Eisuke summarized the study "stating the necessity for private enterprises and local governments to jointly support effective means of solving problems in society to create change for a better future".

SYMPOSIUM

♥ *Yirong Zhao*

Kyushu University Educational Innovation Symposium 2017 was held at Shiki Hall, Kyushu University on July 10th. The purpose of the symposium was to introduce a front line postgraduate education system designed to train globally competent individuals. To provide a space to communicate and interact with people from outside Kyushu University, and inform the students' research abilities and potential through a powerful poster session. Professor Yahara presented the activities of

Posters from the front line

IDS₃. He introduced the program and its activities to train graduate students to become global leaders. Mr. Honda, participated in the Panel Discussion as a IDS₃ representative. He presented problem solving skills and human resources that society requires. Five IDS₃ other members Mr. Kanno Kazuki, Mr. Nakanishi Ryunosuke, Ms. Ono Asuka, Mr. Khayitov Sunnatulla, and Mr. Iwana Brian Kenji, participated in the poster session. Each of them introduced two posters - one about the activities of each module and the other on their own

research. There were about 150 posters at the symposium. IDS₃ member Mr. Iwana's poster was awarded the bronze award, voted by the participant. Thumbs up for Mr Iwana.



WORKSHOP



♥ *Hasan Mehdi*

We participated in Organizational activities in Yame, organized by the IDS₃ integration team from 26th- 28th August. The first day, we visited a traditional craft center to learn how to make post cards by using traditional soft paper. After that, we had an active dis-

Organizing Organizational activities in Yame

cussion with Yame High School students on their interest in staying in Yame city after their graduation? And if not, what does Yame city have to do to keep the young generation? We received different opinions from the students. The next day, we went to the pottery exhibition pavilion. It was nice, quiet and calm. Architecturally, the pavilion was beautiful and we had a chance to taste the green tea provided from the pavilion staff. After that, we had an opportunity to visit the beautiful Yame tea garden. I learned there are many varieties of Japanese tea and the quality of Yame Green Tea is known to be exceptional. Notably, that the refined green tea Gyokuro

("extraordinary dew drop") is grown from the finest variety of tea with sophisticated growing techniques. Gyokuro has been selected as the best tea in Japan for 9 consecutive years at the Japan Tea Festival. True to its name, it has been crowned the most exceptional tea in Japan. This is a testament to the fact that the climate in Yame is perfect for cultivating tea and that Yame is home to the most skilled tea growers in Japan (<http://myfukuoka.com/tips/fukuoka-yame-green-tea/>).

Finally, we went to the planetarium where we saw the largest telescope in Kyushu. It is a 100 cm (previously 65 cm) caliber reflecting telescope used by 15000 visitors every year.

SYMPOSIUM | Evacuation drills in Saga



◆ Brian Omondi

The Saga Education committee hosted approximately 320 school teachers in a disaster drill gathering on August 29th 2017. This was in line with continuing the country's efforts to improve disaster management skills in all the prefectures following the great East Japan

earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power accident of 2011. Saga prefecture is home to the Genkai nuclear power plant of Kyushu electric power company, and frequent evacuation drills are warranted and practiced. In the gathering, Dr. Megumi Sugimoto of IDS₃ program gave a lecture on some of the most efficient ways

to teach children in educational institutions regarding evacuation behaviors in case of disasters. Since only through efficient teachings can the lessons be truly learned. The disaster drill gathering was covered by the Mainichi Shimbun for the wider audience.

PROJECT

◆ Yuki Kubo

Mr. Tsuchimochi, Mr. Tokunaga, Mr. Hanaka, and Mr. Tai organized a field study tour to Munakata city and Fukutsu city on September 14th to 15th, to visit the Sacred Okinoshima island and Associated Sites, recently registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July. UNESCO World Heritage registration is primarily aimed at preserving

Walking the Okinoshima UNESCO World Heritage Site

historical sites, cultural properties, and nature, and deeply involves town planning and tourism policies in the surrounding areas. The group visited these areas to clarify and better understand the circumstances and efforts involving World Heritage registration, and its effects on the residents and the stakeholders in the two months after the registration. They walked to Munakata Taisha Het-

sumiya Shrine and Shinbaru Nuyama Kofun Tomb points of heritage interest. They heard a story on the history from Mr. Funamura, the director of the museum. Mr. Tai shared his impressions; "Activities of this workshop were very fulfilling. It was a valuable experience for all members that deepens the discussion on the land of Munakata where 'faith' and 'sightseeing' are intertwined."

PROJECT



◆ Yirong Zhao

Mr. Morita, went to Fukue Island for a field study from 26th to 27th of July. Fukue Island is the largest and southernmost of Goto Islands in Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan. Mr. Morita is interested in the biological environment of Goto Islands.

Mr. Morita self-study on Fukue Island

Mr. Morita interviewed experts specialized in environment protection from the local government, an NGO, and visitor center for an insight on environment protection activities. His interests include cleaning garbage along the beach, exhibition of indigenous animals, and implementing environmental learning projects. Mr. Morita learned that although there has been frequent learning projects on environment protection, most local residents are not fully aware of or interested in environment protection. This is problematic as Goto Islands is characterized by low birthrate and aging society, and it will be difficult to

pass the knowledge to the younger generation. Mr. Morita considers it worthwhile to attend lectures and learning projects, since positive participation to environment protection activities will surely raise other people's consciousness regarding the environment protection. Well done Mr. Morita.



INTERVIEW with Prof. Hirofumi Taniguchi



♣ *Brian K Iwana & Yuki Kubo*

Professor Hirofumi Taniguchi is the director of the Robert T. Huang Entrepreneurship Center of Kyushu University (QREC). Prof. Taniguchi specializes in public policy, industry-university cooperation, and regional policy.

Q. *Can you introduce QREC?*

A. The Venture Business Laboratory was established in 1996 and reorganized as the Entrepreneurship Center with a donation from Dr. Robert T. Huang in 2010. QREC was established to foster entrepreneurship education and encourage students to explore methods of using their research and technology in society. QREC offers interdisciplinary education to both undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, QREC conducts research and collaborative entrepreneurship activities with the community. They seek to

The Future of Entrepreneurship in Japan with QREC

develop talented individuals with ambition and the willingness to develop new ventures.

Q. *What do students gain from QREC?*

A. Our mission is to develop rich talented global leaders who have the skills, abilities and passion to create new values for society and a better future.

For example, Japanese students want to enter large companies or organizations through the simultaneous recruiting system of new graduates and spend their lifetime employment within a seniority-wage system. This does not match the life style of a creative entrepreneur in the world. Every student has their own ability and they may have a chance to advance their skills by changing companies. We hope that students will be the courageous pioneers who challenge to change the world, and overcome the fear of failure.

Q. *What is the best way to change society toward this direction?*

A. It is very difficult to change Japan's employment practices. For example, it is often prohibited to get side jobs in big companies in Japan and it causes a barrier for researchers to be active in various fields or to introduce the sharing economy. But right now, our working style reformation is going on. Policy makers have acknowledged that fact. The Japanese economy will decline without the entrepreneurial and innovative activities of young people.

Q. *From the point of QREC, what is your opinion about IDS3?*

A. The QREC programs are practical and in-

terdisciplinary and characterized by the learning method, namely active learning and design thinking. We offer a course for graduate students as integration subjects called "Practical Training Program for Regional Management", which deals with several political issues using Project-Based Learning. We consider that on-site visiting or fieldwork is important to study the process of policy-making and I think our basic way of thinking is very similar to the principle of Decision Science.

Q. *What about collaboration between QREC and IDS3?*

A. Decision making is a really crucial part of the political and administrative process to solve social issues. I was involved in political issues when I worked in the central government. We recognize the difficulties of generalization of the decision-making theory but on the other hand evidence-based policy-making is regarded as important in practice. Entrepreneurs are forced to decide many business matters everyday to survive. We can provide such practical cases to the researchers for studying Decision Science and I think there are various ways and possibilities to collaborate with each other.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 6-18, UK & Finland, **Europe Training Program 2017 Autumn, Human Module.**

Oct. 9-18, India, **International research collaboration trip, Health Module.**

Nov. 17, Fukuoka, Japan, **Japan-Finland Joint Seminar on Biogeochemical Cycles of Forest Ecosystems: Toward Sustainable Forest Management, Disaster module.**

Dec. 1-2, Fukuoka, Japan, **The 2nd International Symposium on Decision Science for Future Earth, Japan's seeds for a "Good Anthropocene", IDS3, Kyushu Univ.**

Dec. 6-11, Thailand, **Asia Training Program 2017, Human Module.**

Dec. 7-19, Yaku Island, Japan, **Decision Science special exercise field trip, Environment Module.**

Dec. 9-10, Tsushima, Japan, **Survey of building a sustainable local community, Governance Module.**

Dec. 18-20, South Korea, **Survey on building a sustainable local community, Governance Module.**

Jan. 25-27, Kagoshima, Japan, **Gibier summit field trip, Environment Module.**