

INTERVIEW with

Dr. Kimiyo Kikuchi



♠ Brian K Iwana & Yaodan Zhang

Dr. Kimiyo Kikuchi is a lecturer from the Health Module. Her research interests include HIV, women, and children healthcare issues in African and Asian countries.

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Q. Can you introduce yourself and your research?

A. After graduating from university, I worked in the international organization of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a consultant that provides technical assistance to developing countries. I spent several years in developing countries as a coordinator providing technical assistance such as agriculture, education, health etc. Through the job, I realized that there are many things to do for “health” in developing countries and, so I took a Master’s degree and a Ph.D. at the

Women's health and international studies

University of Tokyo. During my research, I mainly worked in Rwanda, and found that parents’ survival status was related to HIV positive children’s adherence to drugs, so, the children’s health is influenced by whom they are cared. I also studied pregnant women’s access to care in Ghana and was part of a research team that created a Mother-Child health record that tracked the health status of the mother and child, and which has been subsequently piloted in Ghana and the Government of Ghana made a Mother-Child health handbook and will be disseminated in Ghana.

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Q. How does international work develop leadership or other skills for young researchers?

A. If you do international work in the field, you have to learn communication skills, not just language skills, but how to be able to convince people. You need to understand the people and know their social and cultural background and the way they think. In addition, you need flexibility. In many developing countries, you regularly meet unexpected challenges. You should not get angry or nervous easily; you should be patient and tolerant. A good leader is patient and tolerant.

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Q. What is the role of women at the international level and Decision Science?

A. In companies in Japan, there are more men than women. But, strangely, in the international field, Japanese women are more represented. Working in the international level is a good for women who want to work equally as men. Women and men have almost same opportunities and responsibilities. This last year, we had a series of lectures regarding Decision Science for women. The focus of the seminar is the difference in decision-making between men and women, and gender differences in different study areas. I talked about the difference in global health issues between women and men. For example, in most countries, the longevity is higher in women compared to men. It is usually because men take more risks such as drinking, smoking, dangerous jobs, or army. But, in some countries, men live longer. In the countries where women’s longevity is lower, it is often when HIV is present. In these countries, HIV is called the women’s disease. This is because these places are generally poor and women are vulnerable to HIV infection. There are also cases where some countries have a higher female child mortality rate because they are less cared than a male child. There are many issues about women’s health and the differences in countries.



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	Firouzeh Javadi Fumihiko Yokota
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* Editor leader of this issue

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 26-27, Fukuoka, Japan, **The 2nd International Conference on Healthcare, SDGs and Social Business, Health Module.**

May 18, Kumamoto, Japan, **Future Earth project, Rehabilitation of agriculture, Disaster Module.**

Jun. 8, Fukuoka, Japan, **Pitch Training workshop, Integration Team.**

Jun., Omuta, Japan, **Omuta City Zoo field trip, Decision Science Special Exercises, Environment Module.**

Jul., Fukuoka, Japan, **Boot Camp, Human Module.**

CONTACT US Email dsnewsletter@gmail.com Tel +81-92-802-6050 Fax +81-92-802-6057 HP ketsudan.kyushu-u.ac.jp Address 744, Motooka, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka, 8190395, Japan

DECISION SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10

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International | Colorful hats
Traditional crafts | Job-hunting
Facial expressions
Women's health

 KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

 Graduate education and research training program in DECISION SCIENCE for a sustainable society 九州大学国際科学大学院プログラム



九州大学 九大学生と出たい 優良企業が400社以上集結!

学内合同企業説明会

多くの出会いが、あなたを成長させる!

毎日出演企業が異なります。ぜひ、全ての場にお越しください。OB・OGが多数参加予定!

応募(予約)不要 参加自由

2018年 2019年3月卒業(修了)予定者対象

3月1日(木) 2日(金) 3日(土) 4日(日) 5日(月) 6日(火)

会場/伊都キャンパス総合体育館

時間/12:00~17:00(受付開始11:00~)

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Decision Science Newsletter has published nine issues and we are pleased to bring out our Tenth issue. The term of this issue is “INTERNATIONAL”. The Institute of Decision Science for a Sustainable Society (IDS3) provides international research training programs for the students. In this issue, we cover international activities and global issues, job hunting and an interview with Dr. Kikuchi from Health Module.

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FEATURE

Come gather round people

♣ Andrew Rebeiro-Hargrave

A remarkable feature of Japan’s shūshoku katsudō (job-hunting activity) is that the recruiting schedule is set in advance every year based on a consensus among the government, businesses, and academia. Universities provide their students with information about openings at joint company job fairs, hold career seminars, and operate career centers for job finding guidance. According to IDS3’s senior mentor Yoshihiko Kanegae sensei “Most Japanese companies usually recruit a large group of newly graduated students only once a year in April.

Such a recruitment system is different from those in Europe and the United States. This is largely due to unique characteristics of traditional Japanese management system of "lifetime employment", "seniority system", and "internal promotion". However, as Bob Dylan reminds us ‘The Times They are a Changing’. Today, many companies are aiming for globalization and seeking talented individuals who can work globally. Even though there are restrictions on voluntary agreements by economic organizations, Japanese recruitment system may be changing towards global standards.

FIELD TRIP



♥ *Yuki Kubo*
Mr. Doi and Mr. Sugiyama of the Environment Module, and Mr. Sudo of the Health Module, visited Ino, Kochi supervised by Mr. Fuse and Dr. Hosoya, from December 13 to 17. The aim of the practicum was to study

Hard work, traditional crafts and future

the production of traditional paper Washi by harvesting plants called Kouzo and Mitsumata (in Japanese), and boiling the pulp. The practicum was supported by Dr. Tanaka, Kochi University. The IDS3 researchers first engaged in harvesting Kouzo, grown at steep hills and found the work difficult, particularly when using bad scaffolds. The researchers pruned the offshoots of the harvested trunks, and had to be careful not to damage the body because Washi is made from bark of the tree. They boiled the trunks and peeled the barks to prevent it curling up for next

processing step. The researchers found that harvesting Washi was tough work and this is problematic to the declining the traditional crafts industry suffering from lack of succession and aging. As noted by Mr. Doi “The unfamiliar work was very hard but I felt a satisfaction after finishing the harvest. Along with the aging of the area, it is a big problem that the fields are becoming abandoned and the harvest are decreasing, so I thought it is important to tell the current situation of the traditional paper to the young generation.”

PROJECT

♥ *Kazuki Tagawa*
Decision science environmental module organized a field study in Lao PDR from March 12th to 23rd. Two students and two staff participated in the field study. According to notes by a student Mr. Showtaro Kakizoe, the purpose was to establish a database to help local people to identify dung beetles easily. The group visited northern to central part of the country to investigate the fauna of wild dung beetles. They collected the dung beetles by mixing up cow dung and using artificial light at night. In Laos, insects are commonly eaten as food, and the team wanted to learn more on how the they are used. The team visited local markets

Edible dung beetles



to find edible dung beetles. On the last day, the team visited National University of Laos, and made a lecture for undergraduate students. Student Mr. Kazuki Tagawa explained about the ecology of carnivorous plants and the summary of results of the study about eating-insects culture in Laos. According to his notes, the proportion of persons to use insects as food on a daily basis is the highest in the world, and we can get many suggestions to disseminate eating insects. Environmental module will make a field study in another season in Laos.

CONFERENCE



♥ *Hasan Mehdi*
Mehdi Hasan (PhD-2nd year student, Health Module) received the best business plan award for his project “Healthy Data-Healthy

Best Business Plan Award
The 3rd Business Plan Competition

Life” from The Third Business Plan Competition 2018, organized by the Program for Leading Graduate Schools. The program was held on January 30th 2018 in Tokto Institute in Technology (Campus Innovation Center). He presented his project “Healthy Data-Healthy Life”. He identified one of the social problems in Bangladesh is that most people are not really aware about their health status in terms of Non Communicable Disease (NCD). As a result, disease like, high

blood pressure afflicts 12 million peoples in Bangladesh. On the other hand, the ratio between doctor and patient is 5:10000. Mehdi developed “amar doctor” web application, which will be use by local drug store paramedics. There are 200000 (approx.) drug store around the country. And by using this application, paramedics will be able to store patient’s anthropometric data (blood pressure) as well as measure and predict their health status by using machine learning methodology.

FIELD TRIP



◆ *Feifan XU*
Under the theme “Mexican and Japanese culture differences”. Four teachers and three students of IDS3 visited Mexico, from 19th February to 27th February. The training group visited the house of Luis Barragán. Luis Bar-

Two spoons of Barragán and Rebozo

ragán is a Mexican architect and engineer. His work has influenced contemporary architects through visual and conceptual aspects, and Barragán House was registered as World Heritage site in 2004. It was impressive that the simple design created a sense of coziness and moderate luxury, although it has a clean form that uses many lines and planes abundantly. An important part of the learning was a “tour of Rebozo factory”. Rebozo is the word of Mexican, which means the scroll of the neck made by the kasuri manufacturing method. As the ID3 group headed to the destination Tenancingo, they were surprised that the

number of residents who knew the word Rebozo increased. First they visited the studio at Margheritas place. Here the workers were knitting kasuri using traditional techniques that take three months to make a 2m cloth. It is an amazing art work that only 4 can be made in one year. They then went to the workroom operated by family business, and observed pedal weave that produces six Rebozo (12 m) a day. Various contrivances of the local flow were attractive, such as hanging out the thread using telegraph pole outside, doing thread arrangement just before weaving, doing inking with a special device called Dibujo.

PROJECT



◆ *Yirong Zhao*
Human Module IDS3 students participated in a field research trip to Thailand from 6th to 11th December. The trip had two tasks: (1) to study the facial expressions of Thai people; and (2) to study the sentiment of eating insects. Both of the tasks were accomplished using a questionnaire. The leaders of this trip were Dr. Qian (Field of Specialization: Psy-

Facial expressions and eating insects



chology, Perception) and Dr. Suzuki (Field of Specialization: Biology). The students were from different major such as Economic geography, Economics, Pedagogy, and Psychology. Due to the diverse backgrounds, the trip offered the members a rare opportunity to interact with people from different fields. During the trip, the students encountered

new experiences and knowledge. For example, how to ask strangers to help investigate and exposure to the field of biology. To some of the students, it was their first time to eat insects. Basing on the feedback from the students participating, this trip was a good chance to try to be challenged in various fields.

LECTURE



◆ *Yaodan Zhang*
On this memorable day, Dr. Ikeda and Kanegae sensei coordinated seminars on

Leadership and very colorful hats

the Science Examination II for Master level students. In the morning, Dr. Ikeda conducted a lecture on ‘Fundamentals of Transdisciplinary Science II’ (what is information, system 1 and system 2, vision and mission) and algorithmic exercises. A key learning outcome was, the definition that “leadership is a process to convey a vision that can not be seen by a lot of people.” In the afternoon, we exercised using two methods: problem-solving technique called

C-NAP and 6 hats thinking method (Six Thinking Hats). Under the theme "What is troubling with research", we categorized our feeling using colours of white (objective), green (creative), yellow (optimistic), black (critical), red (emotional), and blue (planned). We were content that everyone could easily share their experiences and simplify dialogue by wearing a hat of the same color, discussing, and sometimes changing colors.