

INTERVIEW with

Dr. Tadashi Takao



◆ Ning Gao & Nuren Abedin

Q. Can you introduce yourself and your research?

A. My name is Dr. Tadashi Takao, my major is landscape design and I give advice on improving city landscapes. One of my jobs has been redesigning Tohoku which was destroyed by an earthquake and huge tsunami. I am helping to rebuild Tohoku making the city recover its charm and livability to attract its people to come back to Tohoku. To make the city attractive, my job is to consult on how to arrange streets, houses, parks to make a good landscape whilst talking with many kinds of local people.

Redesigning Society and Academia

Q. What are the current challenges of your research?

A. When doing my job, I am designing the process of how to build the landscape. Process is very important, as we have to manage many kinds of people. However, people tend to have fixed views. The most difficult subject we are face when designing and building cities. For example, people in Nagasaki have an opinion on the image of Nagasaki. When we suggest something different from that image, they became resistant because they think this is not Nagasaki. But if we don't try new things, current problems will not be solved. This is a dilemma, we should try new things that have not been existed and solve everyday challenges, but residents often insist for old things.

Q. How can young researchers relate their work to SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)?

A. First of all, let people know about your vision for the society. There would be someone who would agree to the vision and come forward to strive together. Secondly, it is important to know your target audience well and present your vision in an understandable way for the audience. Thirdly, understanding the working framework of industry and government is important as it massively differs from academia especially regarding the span

of time allowance for certain work progress and results. In research, it is possible to take long time to bring out certain innovation or results. However, industry and government have much shorter time span implementation of those innovations. Also, the planning needs to be made way in advance before the target period of collaboration.

Q. What do you want the students of disaster module to take with them upon their completion of the Decision science program?

A. First and foremost, I want them to enjoy their work and life. There is a big gap between society and academia. I want them to be the bridge filling that gap. The Decision Science Program strives to educate them with the skills needed for becoming the bridging person. I want them to be challenging in their work and be something that is non-existent at present.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun. 30-Jul. 1, Ito campus, Kyushu University, Japan, **Biodiversity research project, Environment Module.**
- Jul. 5-6, Kobe, Japan. Future Earth Kumamoto project, **survey about disaster and revitalization, Governance Module.**
- Jul.14-15, Ito Campus, Kyushu University, **Boot Camp Training Program, Human Module.**
- Jul. 20-25, Yaku-Island, Japan, **Decision Science Special Exercises, Environment Module.**
- Aug. 2, Aso, Japan, **Aso field trip, Revitalization in disaster area, Governance Module, Disaster Module, and Human Module.**
- Aug. 1-3, Tohoku, Japan, **Field trip in Disaster area, Disaster Module.**
- Aug. 4-11, Thailand, **Overseas Training program, Health Module.**

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SDGs | Gender equality  
Asakura | Pitch | Robocon  
Wild meat | Group learning

 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



EDITOR'S NOTE

The Decision Science Newsletter aims to promote IDS3 and its recent activities. The theme of the 11th issue is "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs). IDS3 works towards attaining a better and sustainable earth. We tried to reflect some of our activities which work directly and indirectly for achieving the global vision.

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FEATURE Gender equality

♣ Fumibiko Yokota, Andrew Rebeiro-Hargrave

Gender equality ensures women, men, girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. It does not mean we are all same, or to be treated exactly alike. But how about Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender (LGBT) who are biologically, psychologically, or behaviorally neither men nor women? Before Dr. Yokota joined in the IDS3 program in 2015, he spent 12 years engaged in HIV/AIDS prevention research projects in the US, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia. In his research area, homosexual and bi-sexual individuals are widely reported as one of the highest risk group for HIV infection. Homosexuality is legal in the US and Japan but is illegal

in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. He found that In Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, homosexual men have no legal rights for employment, provision of good & services, marriage, and even dating each other. And many of HIV positive patients who are LGBT in low or middle-income countries face difficulties not only in accessing to adequate healthcare and HIV medicines, but also in social discrimination including hateful attitudes and violence against LGBT. Dr. Yokota asks how can we solve these socially sensitive issues? He calls for more open and active discussions about gender equality including LGBT among IDS3 students and faculties for sustainable society.



PROJECT



♥ *Ai Nagabama*  
Asakura City in Southern Fukuoka was a deadly disaster struck area by heavy rain and landslides in July 2017. Assistant Prof. Sugimoto (Health Module, IDS3), Dr. Ta-

Asakura disaster and Ritz biscuits

karada (Faculty of Dental Science, Kyushu University), Yang (IDS3 student), and Freshmen students of Kyushu university visited the town to survey the current situation on June 2. The students interviewed residents affected by the disaster to find out what kinds of food were preferred during their stay in evacuation establishment, in comparison to the standard emergency food. Surprisingly, residents voted the salted biscuit "Ritz" because it was filling for longer and was delicious. Asakura city is still affected by the catastrophe: the elementary school has been

closed; many of residents have evacuated and been living in temporary houses. They worry about their future. There is support from the State, but it is unclear what will actually happen. Also, there are many things that cannot be solved by policy alone. Following the visit, we concluded that it would take long time for residents to return to their normal life, but the residents' lives have improved compared to the situation of last year. From now to the future, we have to do what we can so that the residents can return to their normal life as soon as possible.

PROJECT

♥ *Yang Lei*  
We visited the "Ukidake Kujira processing meat Center". Mr. Nishimura, a representative of Itoshima Gibier Laboratory and director of Wild meat Zoo gave a lecture on capturing and processing of wild boar meat. He informed that populations of wild boar have increased and cause damage to local agriculture and biodiversity. The Gibier center processes and sells the meat for human consumption. However, many of the caught wildlife individuals are too small, and center often refuses to buy and process them because of time consuming and eco-

Wild meat meets zoo meat

nomics issues. To overcome, this problem, the center gives the boar's carcasses which divided to head and internal organs to Omuta City Zoo to feed the lions. This is a good solution, as the lions are exhibiting abnormal behaviors such as going back and forth in the same place and repeating their movements. This is called "stereotyped behavior" and is not seen in wild animals. By allowing to lions to feed the boar's carcasses may decrease their stress levels. This activity complements the collaboration between Omuta City Zoo and IDS3's Yakushika ZOO Project" to use captured Yaku

deer to feed predators, launched last year. Mr. Nishimura added that the collaboration has been further expanded, and is a component of organization called "Wild meat zoo", that aims to extend the use of captured animals in Japan and to cooperate with other Zoos.



WORKSHOP



Pitch training workshop and career opportunities

♥ *Yirong Zhao*  
The Integration team of IDS3 organized an International Symposium "PITCH Training Workshop" on June 8, 2018. The workshop was led by guest lecturer, Dr. Eric Bishop von Wettberg, Assistant Professor, University of Vermont, USA, and researcher in plant biology and genetics. Two researchers and sixteen students attended this symposium. The workshop consisted of three sessions. The first session covered "elevator pitches," the second session was a lunch box talk, and the final session was about research statement writing for job hunting. An elevator pitch is a brief oral statement that tells what you do in a way that leaves a strong impression on au-

diences. The activity consisted of developing and practicing our elevator pitches to groups of people within and outside your discipline. The intention of the lunch box session was to spread knowledge of different food cultures. Each student and professor brought food relating to their culture to share. During the third session Dr. Wettberg taught the students on how to improve their research statement. The students peer reviewed each other's research statement and provided suggestions for improvement. Dr. Wettberg gave insights into job hunting and the benefits of having a research profile. This workshop was valuable in preparing students for their future career.

CONFERENCE



Learning by first-hand experience in organizing an academic conference

♦ *Nuren Abedin*  
The 2nd International Conference on Healthcare, SDGs and Social Business took place at the Shiiki Convention hall, Ito-campus, Kyushu University from April 26th to 27th. Decision science students participated as student staffs in the preparation and execution of this wonderful event. This activity gave the students a valuable opportunity to have first-hand experience on organizing academic conferences. Along with that, students had a chance to brush their skills in team-work,

event preparation planning and management, and space on the floor to build network with Scholars and Pioneers in Healthcare and Social development. After the event, students reflected their opinions on how their work can be improved in a more professional manner and wish to challenge next years as well. This event brought an experiential learning opportunity for Plan, Do, Act, Check (PDCA) for them and they consider this experience to be useful in the future as well.

PROJECT

♦ *Hiroshi Nitta*  
Minori Furusawa, a student of the Human Module, IDS3; is excited about the promising future. She has participated in "Robokon (the robot competition hosted by Japan Broadcasting Corporation), has contributed to "Shuppan Koushien (a national competition in which students from all over Japan present their plans for books they wish to public), and is now preparing to attend to the next World Robotic Combat Competition. Aware of Minori's electronic achievements,

Ganbare!! Robocon: Robotic technology × Decision Science

Assistant Professor Azusa Kikuchi promoted her to the Public relation department of Kyushu University to let them cover her career. Minori was interviewed by the Officer and Director of Public relations for over one hour. Together, they agreed that Kyushu University supports and enables students try many challenges, and that Minori Furusawa is an example of how students can enjoy their campus life. Minori's innovative activities will be covered in various media and reported in the newsletter "Kyudai Kohou" newsletter.

The Office of Promotions and Relation was pleased too with this remarkable achievement and published this achievement on the university new cover.



PROJECT



♦ *Feifan Xu*  
The "Island Treasure Project", operates in cooperation with the faculty of Nagasaki Prefectural Kamitsushima High School, staff of the Support Promotion Department, and local residents. In the IDS3 supporting exercise, we asked High school

Group learning and wanderings by Kamitsushima high schoolers

students to think about regional issues and work on problem solving on June 20. In our method, we gave a problem to groups, and conducted field survey, interview survey and questionnaire survey. One group problem was to implement an "Beach's House". To achieve this, the group wrote a proposal, visited and asked advice from management and city officials, and practically explored the problems of sightseeing information display while walking down the street. A second group, interviewed people who started their career in Tsushima and collected data on their work style and past life history. In particular,

the group paid attention to the voice of dissatisfactions and parental tasks about the problem of raising children in Tsushima. Another group asked the elderly for their opinions traffic problems and asked international staff of international NGOs if they had any international exchange experiences. It seems that every group had the opportunity to communicate with people in various regions both inside and outside and to rethink the region from a new perspective. In future classes, we try to let each group to think what they can do to solve the problem.