

INTERVIEW with

Dr. Michikazu Hiramatsu



♠ Sayaka Fukuda & Nuren Abedin

Dr. Michikazu Hiramatsu is an associate professor at Institute of Decision Science for Sustainable Society, Kyushu University. Besides his research on biodiversity of horticultural resources, he gives lectures on food education for university students and local residences throughout Japan.

Q1. What is food education for you? What do you particularly emphasize in food education?

A. food education has the power to create a society that is both kind and sustainable. I am an agriculture specialist. I think agriculture should be accessible to all. I have been working on making consumers aware of a farmer's need and feeling. Most consumers prefer buying food for cheap price which is bad for a farmer. Consumers are not aware of a farmer's circumstances and his investments for growing good food. I want people to consider and respect that. Consumption

Preserving Food Ecology and Local Culture through “Self-catering”

is investment. Buying food products equals to investment in farming and help the agriculture economy sustain.

Q2. What do you do to promote food education?

A. My main objective for promoting food education is to increase the number of people who can manage self-catering or cooking at home. Besides conducting “Bento no hi (a potluck event carrying a lunch box)”, I also conduct lectures to motivate more people to “self-cater”, at the university and all over the country. I try to arouse students to think and know what kind of dishes can be prepared using some cooking key words like miso, dashi, soure etc. Some cuisines from our cultural heritage like miso-soup, preparation of dashi etc. are endangered because many young people do not know how to cook those. For students, buying processed and cooked foods can be expensive and nutritionally deficient. I encourage students to be friends with local farmers, initiate exchange fresh vegetables and ingredients and at the same time develop cooking habit. This will sustain the local food ecology and protect our food heritage from being endangered.

Q3. We also see your active effort in raising awareness regarding food in disaster. How do you differentiate food in terms of daily life and disaster time?

A. No, I don't differentiate between those two. Disastrous conditions can often create barriers to the access to food. One may not find warm meals. This situation occurred during the great East-Japan Tsunami. Victims at the shelter were

forced to eat cold food from lunch boxes. Imagine eating cold food with solidified oil for days! However, one miso-producing shop owner of my friends in Yamagata claimed not to have those difficulties as they usually keep stock of miso, rice and vegetables for winter season in form of dried and pickled one and this local culture was extremely helpful for catering warm dishes even in a confused situation after the big disaster. During the great Kumamoto earthquake, some volunteer persons delivered miso-soup set, such as, paper cups, hot water, dried vegetables, and miso to people in the shelter. People were very thankful to have ‘instant’ warm miso soup at the shelter. It is always helpful to have a gas stove a home for emergency under the environment without electric supply.

Q4. What kind of habits and skills do you want students to develop from food education?

A. I hope that more people cook every day, and be conscious about buying foods to support producers like farmer or fisherman. My goal is to promote that consumers contribute to the social ecology by buying local food and goods. To understand the feelings of producers, yourself has to be a producer. Although, it would be hard for all to grow their own rice. That's why I think it is significant for students to cook their own meals. One do not need high skills in cooking, basic knowledge and practice of everyday cooking should be sufficient. You don't have to feel pressurized about preparing several dishes for one time meal. It is sufficient to have ‘ichiju-issai’(one soup and one side dish).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 22-24, Korea, **Future Earth project**, Korean Psychological Association, Governance Module.
- August 8-14, Thailand, **Field trip on face perception and expression of ethnic minorities in Thailand**, Human Module.
- August 31, Fukuoka, Japan, **Omuta City Zoo field trip**, Environment Module.
- October 8-10, Tohoku, Japan, **Tohoku field trip**, Disaster Module.
- October 12-13, Fukuoka, Japan, **The opening of gibier restaurant “Yaku-shika no tsudoi” at the “Kyudaisai” festival**, Environment Module.
- December, Yaku-Island, Japan, **Field trip, Decision Science Special Exercises**, Environment Module.

DECISION SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

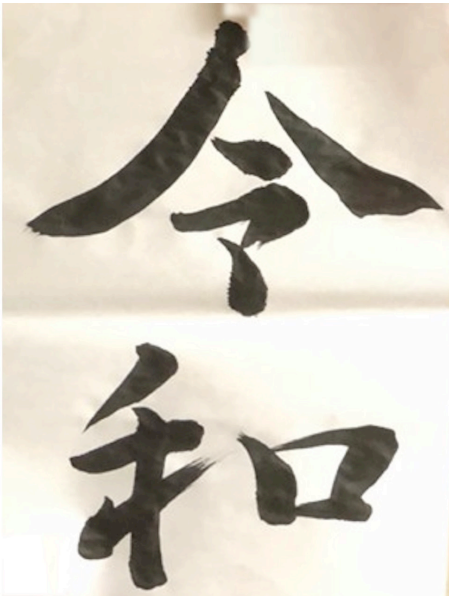
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Education | Reiwa
Bookstore | Mahara
Self-catering
Organic carbon

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The theme of the fourteenth issue of Decision Science Newsletter is "Education". "Education" matters a great deal in our society. Although it seems a familiar topic for all, we might see the limited scope of "Education". In this report, we shed fresh light on several aspects of Education other than schooling, such as food education, environment education, educational activities in a community. We report activities of each module conducted in the last few months.

FEATURE

Hold on, we're in the "Reiwa" era:

♣ Yoshihiko Kanegae, Andrew Rebeiro-Hargrave

For the record, Japan unveiled the Gengo name “Reiwa” for the imperial era when Crown Prince Naruhito ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne, May 1 2019. According to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Reiwa means “culture is born and grows when people come together and care for each other beautifully”. It's characters are taken from a stanza in a Japanese poem about plum blossoms that appears in Man'yoshu written about 759. Similarly, the application of Gengo to define a new Japanese imperial era has been used since the 7th century. Once the emperor ascends the throne, all official documents, unofficial documents, news-

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PROJECT



♥ *Feifan Xu*

In recent years, bookstores that combine books, catering, cultural creation, and activities have emerged and become a “standard feature” of shopping centers. Xu from disaster module, visited Xidian University and investigated several well-known conceptual

Is the bookstore welcoming the "honeymoon period"?

bookstores in Xi'an, such as “Yanjiyou”, “Sisyphus” and “Qujiang Book Store” From 2/14 to 2/22. XU’s project analyzes creative bookstores in Japan and abroad, in order to clarify the operation mode, specific forms of existence, and represent the bookstores under each category, summarize the challenges, and discuss the road to future development. To do this, XU interviewed XIDIAN University, librarian Zhao Xin who shared information about the current situation of libraries and academic environment in the Chinese university campus. In return, XU spoke about new concept bookstores in Japan such as Tsutaya and introduced Takeo City

Library and its honeymoon combination of public libraries and bookstores. Hearing this, Chinese students were fiercely eager to visit Fukuoka during the holiday in October this year, and fall in love with the new Japanese concept bookstore.



SEMINAR



♥ *Ai Nagahama*

IDS3 students, Asari Takada (Disaster module) and Ai Nagahama (Health module), joined a Finland-Japan Bilateral Seminar titled “carbon and nutrient dynamics from terrestrial to aquatic ecosystems” in Joensuu Unit, Finnish

Carbon and nutrient dynamics from terrestrial to aquatic ecosystems

Natural Resources Institute to learn importance of the forest management from the viewpoint of forestry, ecology and hydrology, and know related ongoing researches in Finland. An interesting example presented during the seminar was effects on organic carbon in catchments by land use and climate. They then visited the Hyttialä Forestry Field Station in University of Helsinki to learn about the previous and ongoing cutting-edge researches in Finland; supported by facilities and equipment in high quality for measuring various indicators, such as air/soil temperature and oxygen concentration in soil. The Finnish seminar

and field trip were a good opportunity to learn that, in forest management, it is important to understand the various basal functions of the forest, and then discuss how management can be done to take advantage of the functions.



PROJECT

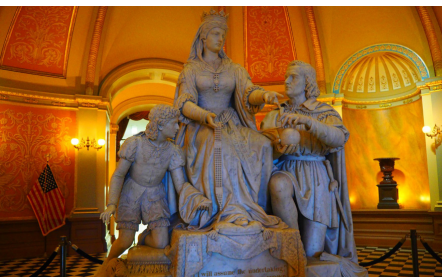
♥ *Ning Gao*

Governance Module student ‘Obata’ visited Los Angeles and Sacramento, California, USA to investigate the local labor movement from 2/26 to 3/6. The United States is a leading country for capitalism where poverty and disparities are dropping to critical levels. Consequently, there are many labor movements focusing on social issues, such as the 2011 Occupy Wall Street Movement, workers unions, and minimum wage raising movements. It has

Obata swims the currents of capitalism

been pointed out that recent upsurge of such movements led to the political revolution in the 2016 presidential election, and a new tide is emerging that counters the issues created by capitalism. Obata swam in and gained real experience from local communities in Los Angeles and Sacramento; he learnt that local market logic is very different in terms of fairness and justice. In Japan, labor market is modeled on the United States and reform is currently underway. But there is a growing call for

criticizing the current situation in the United States, so he sits and wonders that whether the reform in Japan is appropriate or not.



PROJECT



♦ *Tomobito Sekiguchi*

MAHARA in Uzbekistan refers to a local community and is the base for relationship between residents. Residents in Uzbekistan usually participate in community event such as weddings and funerals. Attendance is not forced but everyone joins it on their free will.

MAHARA, open source communication in Uzbekistan

Mr. Sunnatillo conducted interview surveys at four urban, three local, and one school MAHARA sites to investigate plans, activities, and collaboration between MAHARA and schools, and importance of these activities, for 1 month. Although Mr. Sunnatillo is from Uzbekistan, he discovered and learned many new activities. He learnt that the State policy supports youth to get a job, and that the local community actors conduct school interviews, and check attendance rate for class, and so on. He found some problems as well that include job shortage for youth along with increasing population and bad economic situation, espe-

cially in local area. Unfortunately, this situation encourages youth people to commit crime, delinquency, and to emigrate as migrant workers to Russia. He felt that it is difficult to solve all problems related with life and education of youth just through MAHARA’s activities.



FIELD TRIP

♦ *Hiroshi Takada*

Disaster module, PhD candidate ‘Asari Takada’ visited the Netherlands for overseas training from March 12th to 19th. His research concerns “water resource management for emerging Southeast Asian countries”. Takada visited the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and Seminar and studied the Dutch Water Resources Management System. Takada met Dr. Shreedhar Maskey at Department of Science and Water Engineering,

Takada and his pumping windmills

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and presented his research to doctoral students of teachers of the department. Takada learned the purpose of the delta plan in Deltapark Neeltje Jans. The “delta plan” were large-scale flood control projects such as water gates, breakwaters and weirs were created in 1953. Takada learned that in Kinderdijk, a World Heritage Site, windmills were used for flood control for the first time. He ponders that windmills are structured by people who

suffered from flood, to coexist with water. Takada feels the importance of water control and water resource management.



FIELD TRIP



♦ *Chikara Ijima*

Fukuda gained credits from practical training in Finland. Human Module Student “Fukuda” participated in a joint experimental psychology seminar at the University of Helsinki, and toured of the

Fukuda finds experimental histories in Helsinki

historical maritime fortress, ‘Suomenlinna’. During the joint seminar, IDS3 Dr. Qian introduced his research on illusion and facial expressions; Finnish researchers Dr. Salmela, Dr. Muukkonen, Dr. Olkkonen, Dr. Tarja Peromaa, and Dr. Kaisa Tiippana discussed their experiments; and Fukuda presented her new initiatives in the field of cognitive psychology. Fukuda visited the maritime fortress, Suomenlinna, and after a lecture on Finnish history by Dr. Andrew, she was inspired by the role Suomenlinna played by during the rule of Sweden and the Russian Empires. Following this, Fukuda started to recognize traces of the

Russian Empire on the building’s architecture as well as in the atmosphere of the Helsinki. Crudely put, Fukuda had an idea of Finland as another Nordic country, but during the training, learnt that Finland bears the traces of particular histories that have shaped it irrevocably.

