

DECISION SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

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Communication | Bonenkai
Jeju | Business | Lenin
Leading Forum | E-Science
Epidemiology



FEATURE

BMI sensei lets his hair down at the IDS₃ Bonenkai

EDITOR'S NOTE

The theme of the sixth issue of Decision Science Newsletter is COMMUNICATION. The Institute offers programs in five modules: Environment module, Disaster module, Health module, Governance module and Human module. We report various activities conducted by the modules, some of which were in collaboration among modules.

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♣ *Andrew Rebeiro-Hargrave*

As the year closes, groups of co-workers, researchers, and friends gather at lively parties to forget the woes and troubles of the past year, to fondly remember old acquaintances, and look forward to the coming year. In Japan, such end-of-year parties are called 'Bonenkai'. 'Bonenkai' are horizontal organization events and are times for letting one's hair down and not worrying about boss/employees formal relationship. At the IDS₃'s Bonenkai, with glass in hand, experimental psychologist Dr. Kun Qian scratches his head and explains further "usually the whole of December is bonenkais season, and groups of co-workers or friends visit izakaya or Japanese dining bars". Trying not to hiccup, he continues, "Normally, a bonenkai will

start with beer and partygoers shout "Toriazue-bi-ru" - beer first! From the second round, people order their preferred drinks". After hiccupping "It usually costs 3000-5000 JPY per head for a Bonenkai and often there are more than one party on the same night. The main party is called 'ichi-ji-kai' - 1st party. After this, some guys go to 'niji-kai' - 2nd party", and the most powerful BMI guys go on to 'san-ji-kai' - 3rd party". With an infectious smile, Kun Qian raises his glass and toasts "KAMPAI let the celebration begin". Meanwhile, the western world agrees with Qian sensei with these famous lines "Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and old lang syne?"

FIELD TRIP

Following the footpath of Lenin and back again



♥ *Jecinta Kamau*

Vladimir Lenin was probably the most influential person in 20th Century. In 1917, Lenin passed through Helsinki to initiate the Bolshevik revolution and consequently many communist revolutions that followed. Ninety-nine years later, six doctoral students and two staff from the IDS3 Human module visited Helsinki, Finland and St. Petersburg,

Russia, September 21st to 30th. Adhering to a busy agenda, the field studies group visited Ateneum art museum and observed Finnish artworks from since the 18th century. Mr. Miyajima, Mr. Akiho and Ms. Zhao presented their social psychology research activities at the Department of Psychology, University of Helsinki and received great feedback. The Swedish/Russian fortress of Suomenlinna, a UNESCO world heritage site, was liked and hiked. The field studies group then took a train to St. Petersburg, where they got in touch with the culture and atmosphere of the Imperial Russian era. They walked the path of the 1917 October revolution, from the battleship 'Aurora' to the Winter Palace. They measured the effects of art and history taking data from the Hermitage and histor-

ical churches. Returning to Helsinki, Taro Takeuchi demonstrated Japanese cooking in the kitchen of the Helsinki Culinary School Perho to young Finnish student cooks and tattooed chefs. The field studies group attended a workshop on 'getting refugees into meaningful work' at Hanken School of Executive Education. Mr. Tayi and Mr. Brian discussed trends in government policies in managing population decline and pattern recognition using machine learning at a fast growing company called Reaktor. The final visit was to Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Aalto University for lunch and discussion with Professor Riita Smeds, and participation at an interesting SIMLAB seminar on co-creation and digital services in hospital construction.

SEMINAR

A revolution to break an old mind

♥ *Qirui Yao*

Business continuity planning is the process of creating systems of prevention and recovery to deal with potential threats to a company. Natural disaster is omnipresent social and financial risk to the Japanese economy. To address such an important issue, the second Decision Science Session was held at Kyushu Economic Research Center on September 8th. The meeting hall was packed with fifty executive leaders from the local companies. Miss. Kuroiwa and Mr. Boto briefly introduc-



ed the Decision Science Group and Dr. Sugimoto led the discussion topic 'What a leader should do during a disaster?' It turned out that most companies had not realized the

importance of revising the present Business Continuity Plan. There was a lack of risk prevention awareness and between corporation and companies, and between companies and government during ordinary times. Most executives chose to initiate a preparatory plan for their own companies rather than one that stand together with counterparts when facing disaster. This meeting totally overthrew the audience's collective mind and contributed to the renewal of the local disaster prevention system.

SYMPOSIUM

Biblio battle and the tragedy of a Greek dress

♥ *Yirong Zhao*

The purpose of the "Biblio battle" is to help the combatants improve their communication skills and increase confidence using learning-by-doing techniques. The battle took place on Oct. 7th and was part of the annual TED tournament. This was the second IDS3 presentation fight and contestants displayed their competence in 'succinct book summary'. There were four steps to the Biblio battle: (1) chose a book to be presented; (2) present a comprehensive summary in 5 min-

utes; (3) answer questions from the audience; (4) after all presentations, vote on a winner. Twenty-five contestants, including professors took part in the Biblio battle. After a thrilling elimination round, Mr. Kumatani, Mr. Kusudo, Mr. Nitta, Dr. Eguchi, and Dr. 'bento guru' Hiramatsu were finalists. Mr. Kumatani was battle winner with his Japanese comic literacy weapon. He concisely explained the story and used accurate body language to show the characters appearance. Dr. Eguchi wore a traditional Greek dress to introduce

a Greek story, and left a deep impression on the presentation fighters. The "Biblio battle" is a good opportunity for the IDS3 students and teachers to train their public communication skills. At same time, it is also giving them a chance to know each other better.



PROJECT | Three Students in a BID

◆ *Kazuki Tagawa*

A business improvement district (BID) is a defined area within which businesses pay an additional tax in order to fund projects within the district boundaries. BID public-private projects involve cleaning streets, providing security, event setting and maintenance of the landscape. To gather fresh data, three disaster module students undertook a field trip to USA in November. They visited San Francisco, Portland and New York, and actively communicated their observations and findings

to each other. Architect researcher Mr. Sumi collected documents about a town planning and BID system led by members of a town block. He focused on landscape design in the BID system and observed a 'Street Scape project', and 'setting chairs and desks outside' in Parklet, San Francisco, and in Briant Park, New York. Upon return Mr. Sumi reported, "there was a diversity of size and design in the landscape" and "it may be due to the idea and consensus-making for designing one block in the BID system." The BID system has emerg-



ed in Japan. The Grand Front Osaka recently started a similar system and this has stimulated vigorous research into its development. Reminiscing on the USA field trip and eating a sandwich from a Ziplock bag, Mr Suma concludes "the trip was very interesting, and I would like to publish an article with the two other students."

PROJECT | Humanware and Jeju Free International City



◆ *Feifan Xu*

Will the city become the ultimate computer system? We have hardware, software and now humanware. Jeju Free International City Development Center (JDC), South Korea, applies the concept of humanware with the vision of becoming the best free

international city in North-East Asia. JDC uses customer-oriented management and creative-oriented management processes to understand what Jeju residents, investors and tourists want, and communicate their desires in tourism, education, healthcare and technology key projects. To learn how this approach works in practice, six students and three staff of Decision Science Governance module conducted field studies in Jeju City from November 24th to 27th. Focusing on urban planning in Jeju, the members visited several villages and local government offices in the four-day study. Whilst at head office,

the students learnt that JDC's mission is to contribute to 'happiness for citizens with characteristics in Jeju'. That public infrastructure projects are designed to put tourists before other matters. This is important as Jeju's temperate climate, natural scenery, and beaches make it a popular tourist destination for South Koreans and visitors from other parts of East Asia. The Jeju economy has traditionally been supported by primary industry, agriculture and fishing, but tourism has taken a more and more important role - the island site receives more than ten million humanware visits per year.

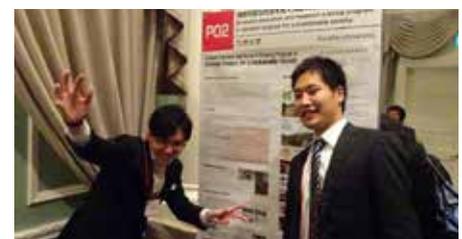
SYMPOSIUM | Leading Forum 2016 'Bridge over troubled waters'

◆ *Yuki Kubo*

The 2016 Forum of the Program for Leading Graduate Schools hosted by Keio University and Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) was held in Hilton Tokyo, Odaiba on Nov. 11th-12th. The purpose was to evaluate the Ministry of Education leading programs launched five years ago. Leading program graduate students who have participated for five years will go out into the world the coming spring. The focus of this year's forum was on graduates career paths after the leading programs. The Decision Science program has been running for 3 years and there are no students who have received the full education

for curriculum years in the program. However, some students, especially second and third-year doctorates will leave IDS3 and move into professional careers. Ms. Kuroiwa participated a round-table discussion as one of the representatives from the IDS3 program in the 'All-Around category'. She will start working at a management agency for wildlife and environment next April. She told that a global leader is a person who can become like a bridge between other persons and we could grow that attitude through the international collaborative projects and fieldworks. After the symposium, Mr. Honda and Kubo joined the poster session. The session provided

an opportunity for doctoral students to interact with managers and human resources personnel in private enterprises. Some HR personnel were interested in our program. We discussed professional careers after graduation with them. We realized that we should promote the advantages of the IDS3 program or we cannot get attentions from the world. Let's do it!



INTERVIEW

Assoc. Prof. Daisuke Ikeda



♣ *Brian Kenji Iwana & Haotian Sun*

Dr. Daisuke Ikeda is an Associate Professor in the Department of Informatics at Kyushu University. He is also the deputy leader of the Human module at IDS3. His research interests are in database, data analysis, and information retrieval.

Q: *Can you tell us about your research and how does it relate to Decision Science or "communication?"*

A: Regional forest condition in Southeast Asia. My research topic is eScience, which aims to find new scientific findings just through the data and without the model. The interesting part is that we are amateurs and we have to communicate with experts in other fields. It is easy to communicate with people of the same field, but sometimes it's difficult to communicate with people from other fields. For example, let's think about the physics. Experts in Physics think of the universe, and

Power of Communication

they build their own physical models and construct new theories based on the models. In the perspective of E-science, we try to find theories or new findings without physical models, which is solely from the data.

Q: *Currently, what projects are you working on?*

A: Recently, Mr. Kitao of Disaster module is developing a disaster database platform for diverse people. We are developing a platform to be used for many people, not just for experts in information technology. There is a movement toward Open Science, where there is a lot of data freely available to the general public. However, the data requires information science knowledge. We are working to make the data easier to use. However, to use the data is not a simple task. One has to know grammar of SQL, database language or programming language. We aim to remove such burden. The key for communication in my field is to remove this burden and make our platform accessible and useful for general public.

Q: *What role does communication play in decision making?*

A: Communication is important for leaders. The most basic task for leaders is to show a goal or vision. Once you come up with a vision, it is difficult to disseminate that idea. Communication is needed for leaders to lead people to the goal.

Information is the process to express our mind. When we communicate, we have to be aware of feelings. Some leaders try to disseminate their ideas logically, but sometimes

a good leader needs to be sensitive to moving people with feelings.

In Japanese, the word for information consists of two characters, 情報. 情 stands for feelings and 報 stands for letting people know. So, the process of expressing our mind is the original meaning of information. We should be aware feelings during communication.

Q: *What do you think about the future of Decision Science and the Human module?*

A: Now, we have five modules. However, Human module is a diverse topic. I would like to create a clear goal for the students in this module. The goal of this module should consider all the projects that's currently undertaking among students. I hope students in Human module would research and organize activities out of their own fields.

In Decision Science, communication among student in different modules is important. Students are accustomed to daily based, lab based communication. We should promote inter-module based communication for students in Decision Science. Face to face communication is necessary for newly enrolled students to get to know all the members in this program.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 1-11, Mexico, **Overseas field trip, Integration team.**

Dec. 2-5, Yaku Island, Japan, **Decision Science Special Exercises, Environment module.**

Dec. 15-16, Jan. 16, Yame, Japan, **Survey on building sustainable local community, Governance module.**

Dec. 26-31, India, **Overseas field trip: International research opportunity program for enhancing development of global entrepreneur, Health module.**

Jan. 18-20, Goto, Japan, **Survey on building sustainable local community, Governance module.**

Jan. 18-19, Fukuoka, Japan, **Future Earth and Decision Science Symposium, IDS3, Kyushu University.**

Feb. 3-19, Laos & Thailand, **International joint project on solution-oriented II, Environment module.**

Feb. 20-28, Cambodia, **Overseas training on solution-oriented, Environment module.**

Feb. 21, Tokyo, Japan, **1st International conference on Global Goals for Sustainable Development, Health module.**