

Flexibility, Endurability, and Peace



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

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TAOYAKA

TAOYAKA Newsletter

Vol. 11 January 2020



Student symposium at Tsubakikaikan Music Hall, Kure-City, August 25th 2019

TAOYAKA Onsite Training

Summer Onsite Training 2019 Mitarai Village, on Ōsakishimojima Island

<2019/8/21~26>

By **Rie Usui**, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Letters

In summer 2019, the Taoyaka Program organized an onsite training session in Mitarai—“Community-oriented tourism planning for a small island village.” This weeklong training entailed two days of lectures on campus and four days of fieldwork that began with a visit to Kure City. Mitarai is a small village with a population of just over 200, approximately 57% of which is aged 65 or older (National Population Census, 2015). During the 18th century, it developed and prospered as a port town. However, changes in

transportation from marine vessels to land vehicles caused a rapid population decline during the modern period. While the village faces the same problems associated with depopulation and youth outmigration reported in other Japanese communities, it has rich and unique historical and cultural resources that can attract tourists. Nevertheless, revitalizing this small village through tourism under the current conditions is a real challenge. Twenty-seven students from seven different universities from Japan, the USA,

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and India took up this task. They were divided into six groups and each group was assigned a topic concerning the challenges Mitarai's community encounters when it comes to revitalizing the community through tourism:

1. Inconsistent number of tourists

– Tourists in Mitarai tend to visit mostly on weekends and numbers are low during weekdays

2. Fewer repeat visitors

– There are limited ways to attract repeat visitors

3. Sightseeing

– Tourists “see” things but do not spend much money

4. Townscape preservation

– Preserving Mitarai's buildings is challenging in this aging and depopulating community, while its historical townscape is an important tourism resource

5. Lack of new businesses

– New businesses are needed to increase community development

6. Concerns of residents

– Some residents are worried that their life or community may be disturbed by a large influx of tourists.

As this onsite training is a part of the Cultural Creation Course, students were expected to understand the community's characteristics and propose suggestions based on the culture that is specific to the Mitarai community. The fieldwork outcome was shared on two different occasions—in Mitarai as well as in Kure city. This year's onsite training concluded with a symposium held in Kure city that was organized with city officials,

under the Taoyaka Program. Thankfully, the City Mayor of Kure attended the presentations made by the students.



Interview with local people



Student presentation at the symposium

TAOYAKA Program Completion Ceremony (Convocation)

The Fourth TAOYAKA Program Completion Ceremony was held September 20th, 2019

The fourth TAOYAKA Program's Completion Ceremony was held in the Hiroshima University Reception Hall in Faculty Club on September 20th, 2019, followed by the Hiroshima University's Fall Semester Degree Conferment.

Six students were completed both their graduate schools and TAOYAKA program at this time. They were admitted as the TAOYAKA Program students in April or October 2014 and April 2015. Students worked a wide range of interdisciplinary course work on and off campus such as Onsite Training or Onsite Team Project through Taoyaka Program and developed their abilities.



Graduates with their family, supervisors and staff

Professor Miyatani, program director, encouraged these graduated students to take an active role in society as global leaders after their graduation. He expressed

his respect for their continued efforts and congratulated on the completion and the hard work they put into the program.

~Message from Graduates (6 students)~

Cultural Creation Course

Nguyen Van Hoang Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Sciences

From: Vietnam



I joined Taoyaka program five years ago as the fourth generation of Taoyaka family. During the last five years, I have obtained not only knowledge and skills of a particular field but also the wide range of learning as Taoyaka is a multidisciplinary program. I would like to express my most gratitude to all Taoyaka professors, staff, and students for your kind support, nice friendship. Without which my study in Japan could not have been possible. The best wish to Taoyaka program and future students.

Career after Graduation: *Lecturer, University of Social Sciences & Humanities, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City*

Md Masood Imran Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC)

From: Bangladesh



It is a privilege to claim myself as a graduate from Hiroshima University because of TAOYAKA programme and the dearest Professor Seki Koki. Achieving the award of PhD is the agony of struggle, in the same time, interesting for me. The design of TAOYAKA program generated huge rush to meet with multidisciplinary approaches, which have screwed me but at the end, I found the impacts in final design of dissertation, where the works of on-site team project became enormously contributing. Thanks to TOYAKA officials, who are so professional to tackle my unusual queries. Thanks a lot dear TAOYAKA Program.

Career after Graduation: *Associate Professor, Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Social Implementation Course

Alam Mohammad Jahangir Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC)

From: Bangladesh



It is my immense pleasure to write about the journey of PhD under the TAOYAKA Program at Hiroshima University. I came to Japan on April 5, 2014 to start five years of academic study whose aim was to create global leadership. It was an excellent platform for me to gather multidisciplinary knowledge through field-level rural data and interactive collaborative programs across different institutions from developing countries. Now I am confident of overcoming the constraints of rural development and able to prescribe need-based solution due to appropriate course design of this program. Peace is an integral part of sustainable development, and the program is focused on peaceful resolution of the problems confronting societies around the world based on intellectual capabilities. I am highly impressed with this new issue and

optimistic that every nation applies this tool to resolve all kinds of problems and conflicts in future. I would like to show my gratitude Professor Shinji Kaneko, Supervisor, on Hiroshima University for giving me a proper guideline for PhD thesis throughout numerous consultations. I would also like to expand my gratitude to co-supervisors, Taoyaka staff, friends and all those who have directly and indirectly guided me in completing the PhD degree.

Career after Graduation: *Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.*

Blevins Benjamin Kane Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC)

From: USA



Were it not for the TAOYAKA program, I would likely never have had the opportunity to earn a Ph.D. or to have the time and resources to publish in Impact Factor journals. Now, having accomplished both of these goals, I see how many new opportunities are before me thanks to the quantitative and research skills that I have obtained. These opportunities include positions at the United Nations, research institutions, and university professorships. In addition, living in Saijo and exploring Japan with new friends was such a wonderful experience. I am very grateful to the Japanese taxpayer, MEXT, and the TAOYAKA program.

Career after Graduation: *Consultant at the United Nations*

Hongsakhone Soulixay Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC)

From: Laos



To Taoyaka program, I will always remember how important the people around me are, especially Taoyaka staffs and administrators, all of you have played an important role in helping me be where I am now. The lessons and experiences I learned from this program will surely help me get through next stage of my life and career. I would like to take this golden opportunity to thank you for your continue support and I am sincerely grateful to all of you.

Career after Graduation: *Luang Prabang Provincial Department of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR.*

He Bing Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC)

From: China



I really appreciate the support from TAOYAKA Program in the past five years. During the years in TAOYAKA Program, I got the chances to learn different courses, received the financial support to attend summer course in Texas, US and other international conferences. All these broaden my eyesight and enrich my knowledge which will be helpful for my whole life. Without the strong support from TAOYAKA Program and the nice staffs belong to TAOYAKA Program, I can't graduate that successfully. I wish TAOYAKA Program and the students in TAOYAKA Program will have a good future.

Career after Graduation: *Lecturer, Jiangsu Ocean University*

Welcome to TAOYAKA Program!

Opening Ceremony: October 3rd, 2019

The twelfth TAOYAKA Program opening ceremony was held on October 3rd, 2019.

The Program members and students warmly welcomed these newly admitted 3 students from Germany, India and Japan. The program has now 46 students from 16 countries with various professional, academic, and cultural backgrounds.

TAOYAKA students belong to different graduate schools as well

as one of the Program's three courses. The students are required to take courses not only from their own graduate schools but also from the Program's unique subjects called "Multicultural Coexistence Practical Subjects" and "Reverse Innovation Practical Subjects" in order to gain broad range of knowledge and skills to be used in multidisciplinary research and



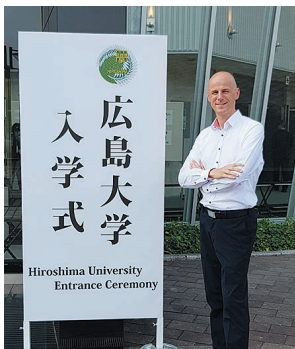
New students and their supervisors

solving issues in disadvantaged areas in Japan and/or overseas.

Introduction of New Students

Cultural Creation Course

Von Beuningen Pascal Graduate School of Integrated Arts & Sciences



I am Von Beuningen Pascal from Germany. I graduated in Hospitality Management from University of Plymouth, UK and hold an MBA from University of Warwick, UK. I have been working in the tourism and hotel industry. Before I came to Hiroshima, I was a part-time lecturer for tourism in Germany, where I discovered my interest in cultural and religious tourism.

From: Germany

Therefore, my PhD research focus is on the interaction of international tourists with Japanese Shinto Shrines. With a steadily growing number of tourists, my goal is to explore and understand various perceptions and expectations of the local population towards visitors of their shrine, as well as the expectations and perceptions of travelers.

Social Implementation Course

Shimooka Yuki Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC)



I'm Shimooka Yuki from Japan. Before this, I was a student of the Institute of Technology, Kure College. I specialize in disaster prevention for sediment related to disasters. I have been continuing the research about disaster prevention for 3 years. However problems in disaster prevention are

From: Japan

still here. I would like to solve them and make the world free from victims of natural disasters. Therefore, it is necessary to increase my knowledge and experience. That is why I chose the TAOYAKA program. I am really excited to learn anything from now on.

Technical Creation Course

Ramasamy Priyanka Graduate School of Engineering



I am Ramasamy Priyanka from India. My research interest is to develop a human assistive device for all group of people in any of the

fields like sports, biomedical augmentation, etc.

I have chosen Electronics and Communication Engineering in my bachelors with an urge to delve into challenging field. During my under-graduation program I learned the various fundamentals of Electronics and Communication which together with practical course work reinforce interest. After graduation, I continued my carrier in multinational companies for nearly three years. At my work environment, I got an opportunity

From: India

to understand the various skills that each people possess and everyone intends to build fine leadership quality.

My native place is a small village, which requires more facilities and technologies to make the lives of people a better and comfortable one. Through Taoyaka Program, I would like to achieve my goals like becoming a good leader and will support the growth and develop the life of people in disadvantage areas.

Dialogue with Ms. Setsuko Thurlow, leading figure of the ICAN

Opportunity talk to Hibakusha at Hiroshima University

By **Henriquez Millon Maria Adriana** (D5), Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC), Social Implementation Course



Left: Ms. Setsuko Thurlow, right: Henriquez Millon Maria Adriana

Being an international student at Hiroshima University has been not only challenging, leaving beloved ones behind to embark on a journey with ups and downs, but also a platform to meet beautiful and inspirational human beings. In Hiroshima prefecture, there is an active role in spreading the message

of peace, and in abolishing nuclear weapons, these messages have been the core of many hibakushas within and outside Japan.

As a student of peace studies, I have been aware of the essential role of the hibakushas and the symbolism of Hiroshima as a city of Peace worldwide. In this regard meeting, Ms. Setsuko Thurlow, a hibakusha, and 2017 Nobel Peace Price Recipient on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN) was a real privilege and once in a lifetime opportunity. It was not only listening to her powerful testimony, her resilient in turning sorrow and suffering into powerful peaceful weapons to tell the world the atrocities of the first-ever atomic bomb attack, but the unique opportunity to talk directly to her and received advice from her.

“Have courage, be confident and

take action,” were her advice to the students in the room that day, three different messages toward the same goal; PEACE. She was strongly criticized by her own country people at the beginning of his activist career, she dared to overcome the criticism, she was confident enough to know how to used her experience to transform society, and took action, an action that will be printed in history forever.

As a Costa Rican citizen I felt overjoyed when Ms. Setsuko, addressed to me “you come from the country with best army in the world: the teachers,” it is beyond words to describe how I felt with these humble words, I was part of that army for ten years, I will have confidence and take action to fight for my country to continue in the peace path, as a country who opposes to war just like Japan.

Team 13 Onsite Team Project Report

By **Zollet Simona** (D4), Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC), Cultural Creation Course

Kloepfer Thomas Michael (D4), Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC), Social Implementation Course

Dutta Sunandan (D5), Graduate School of Engineering, Technical Creation Course

Sharma Sneha Atul (D4), Graduate School of Engineering, Technical Creation Course



With participants at the workshop

Between April 2018 and March 2019, we Team 13 (Zollet Simona, Kloepfer Thomas Michael, Dutta Sunandan and Sharma Sneha Atul) held our Onsite Team Project. We started our project design by thinking about some of the most pressing issues that characterize rural Japan: an aging farming population, the lack of farm successors and widespread farmland abandonment. On a more global scale, climate change, biodiversity loss connected to intensive agriculture and a growing unsustainability of global and local agri-food systems also threaten the future of agriculture and rural areas. Considering both these dimensions, we decided to focus on newcomer organic farmers, looking specifically at the barriers to the viability of small-scale organic farming in marginal rural areas of Hiroshima Prefecture. We used an interdisciplinary approach to connect different aspects: a) the needs of organic farmers in terms of appropriate technology and tools; b) the ways in which organic

farmers are creating and maintaining efficient market networks; c) the rising interest among organic farmers for traditional (open pollinated) seed varieties and seed-saving activities.

The technical side of the project

covered two parts: the first consisted in the development of a weeding robot for paddy fields, “AIGAMO-I”. The initial design was developed by an NPO and tested in the field belonging to an organic farmer. Therefore, we decided to apply a ‘reverse innovation’ kind of thinking and focused on the farmers’ feedback and needs to improve the robot design. In the second part we tested a soil sensor based on the semiconductor technology that measures soil environmental conditions. Both these technologies can be useful to small scale organic farmers because they contribute not only to eliminate the need for chemical inputs, but they also

complement farmers’ knowledge and reduce labor.

We also addressed some socio-cultural aspects of organic farmers’ work: first, we conducted a questionnaire survey during three *marche* (farmers’ markets), in order to understand visitors’ attitude towards buying organic products and the ways in which organic farmers can better connect to customers. After that, we closed our project by holding a workshop in Hiroshima city entitled *Tane no Mirai, Mirai no Tane*. In the workshop we focused on seeds, as they are one of the keys to agriculture and food sustainability. We invited two speakers, John Moore and Yamashita Kai, who talked about the importance of seeds and about the current changes in the legal framework of seed-saving in Japan, respectively. After the lectures, we had an open discussion for the participants to share concerns about the current situation of sustainable farming and about what future action is needed from both farmers’ and consumers’ standpoint.



Workshop



In the field

Upcoming Events

- Onsite Training: India, February 2020
- TAOYAKA Seminars: Please check our website and Facebook for details.

Admission Information

Admissions for October 2020 and April 2021 (both general and transfer into the third year admissions) will be open soon in spring 2020. Please check our website for details.

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