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1 Professor Sugiyama Re-elected President

Professor Sugiyama was re-elected president of Hitotsubashi. This will be his third consecutive term in the office.



'I have been working in my current position for the past 4 years, and will continue to do so for the next 2 years from December 1. At this time, I would like to thank everyone involved with me in so many ways in the research and educational activities at Hitotsubashi University.

Japan's national universities have been operated as corporations since April 2004 based on reforms to the national system. The goals of these reforms were to advance the unique qualities of each university and enhance their independence through promoting competition between universities. Against this backdrop, Hitotsubashi University has sought to become a cutting-edge research center leading 21st century social sciences and a world standard educational center for training professionals, and has continued striving to establish this as a unique university. We would like to accumulate results from achieving these goals through greater links with domestic and international research institutes and researchers in both research and education going forward.

In terms of research, we established long-term university research strategies, and specified organized concepts of critical research fields for developing a system to promote research last year. We are promoting advanced statistical empirical analysis and comprehensive area research following this strategy based on our slogans "Promoting globalization, supporting the economy and society", "Asia's roles and potential" and "Environment and resource problems." Meanwhile, we have obtained research funds for the "Global COE (Center of Excellence) Program"

promoted nationally, and have already launched the "Innovation in the Japanese Corporation" and "Research Unit for Statistical and Empirical Analysis in Social Sciences" , 2 large-scale research projects, dispatched young researchers overseas for these, and are working proactively to further develop overseas links.

With respect to education, I would like to advance internationalization, greatly boost overseas training programs for undergraduate and graduate students, and promote long-term study-abroad centered on internships at overseas companies and at schools we have exchange agreements with.

Achieving a plan for both research and education will further promote exchanges between this university and overseas research institutes & researchers, and I hope this university can make contributions as a location for social science research developed worldwide. I would like to increase exchanges and links in the future.'

Takehiko Sugiyama

Takehiko Sugiyama

President

2 Coming Conferences

① The APFA (Application for Physics in Financial Analysis) 7th Conference

The APFA International Conference will be held from March 1 to March 5, 2009. APFA, short for Application of Physics in Financial Analysis, is a conference launched in 1999 to apply physical methods to massive financial data (current general financial and economic data). One of the goals of this conference is to promote

academic exchanges between economists and physicists, and is sponsored jointly by Hitotsubashi University and the Tokyo Institute of Technology, two major locations in Japan for humanities and science.

We occasionally use the following website to recruit audience members. We welcome your participation.

<http://www.thic-apfa7.com/en/htm/index.html>

② Fukino Research Project Conference –Global Crisis and sustainability of East Asia-

The International Joint Research Center's Fukino Research Project will hold an international conference on March 22, 2009 in Tokyo on the topic *Global Crisis and Sustainability of East Asia*. America's sub-prime mortgage crisis which started in the summer of 2007 and the Lehman Brother's collapse on September 15, 2008 has led to a severe economic meltdown in the United States and Europe while plunging the world into chaos.

The financial crisis and global meltdown have started to have the effect of reducing exports and depreciating some nation's currencies in Asia which were perceived to be shielded from these concerns. This international conference will be held to confirm the sustainability of East Asia in this worldwide situation.

The first half will be a discussion with up-and-coming experts from China and Vietnam on the sustainability of East Asia from the perspectives of labor and social security focusing on problems people at the mercy of money

circulating instantaneously worldwide are having, something that is also difficult to resolve.

The session in the second half invites famous researchers from representative think tanks in East Asia to debate how East Asian countries should cooperate on the global financial crisis in a panel discussion titled *Regional Cooperation in East Asia under the Global Financial Crisis*.

For further information, please contact 'HIT-U.NEWS' Office:
hit-u.news@ad.hit-u.ac.jp

2 Symposiums & Conference Report

① EU Parliament Member made a Speech in Hitotsubashi

The EUJ Conference was held on 28th October at Mercury Hall of



Hitotsubashi University co-organized by the 21st Century COE Programme, the Centre for New European Research and the EU Institute in Japan. The keynote speaker was Dr. Georg JARZEMBOWSKI, Chairman of the Delegation for relations with Japan in the European Parliament and a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) (2004-2009).

He made his presentation entitled "The European Parliament and the Lisbon Treaty - the present and the future powers and responsibilities of the European Parliament -", which states that the Lisbon Treaty foresees revised rules for the

decision making procedures and in December 2008, the majority of the Member States hope that Ireland will hold a second referendum in 2009 and they will permit the Treaty of Lisbon to come into force. Approximately 200 participants including EU-related students and the general public attended and showed much interest in the EP's major roles of the European integration.

After the Conference ended, Dr. Jarzembowski, Ms. Karin RESETARITS, 1st Vice-Chair, Mr.



Jaroslav SVERINA, 2nd Vice-Chair and Mr. Stefan HUBER, Deputy Head of the Delegation visited the Goblins in the University library and Kanematsu Auditorium. He was impressed with the Center for Historical Social Science Literature, the Gierke collection and the approximately 75,000 volumes of rare and valuable materials on Western social sciences.



② Contemporary Meaning of Reading Lu Xun Symposium

The Japan-China "Contemporary Meaning of Reading Lu Xun" symposium held by the Graduate School of Language and Society on November 8 was based on the Graduate School Project "Construction of the Chinese Modern Literature Research Network" 2008 for enhancing

academic exchanges with advanced research and educational institutions in China, establishing an exchange path for researchers and graduate students, and devising a new foreign literature research and education model based on international links. We gained support for the Hitotsubashi Invited Fellow Program, a program for inviting foreign researchers to this university from China.

This report was created from the Chinese side by Professor



Yuanbao Gao, Associate Professor Yesong Zhang both from Shanghai Fudan University and Professor Yi Xue of Shanghai Normal University, and from the Japanese side by Professor Fumiaki Ozaki and Professor Tomoharu Shiota from The University of Tokyo, Professor Yuzoh Nagahori from Keio University, Junior Associate Professor Noriyuki Abe from Doshisha University and Professor Masayoshi Matsunaga from Hitotsubashi University's Graduate School of Language and Society. Professor Hirobumi Sakai coordinated the symposium.

Lu Xun (1881-1936) was a renowned writer who laid the foundation for modern Chinese literature. However, this literature is not antiquated. Lu Xun's critical spirit instructs society grappling with various issues. This report sets out from the recognition of "Today's Lu Xun" and evaluates Lu Xun's literature and concepts from a variety of perspectives.

Close to 50 people were in the audience listening

attentively to the report despite the marathon schedule on that day from 10:00 am in the morning until 6:30 pm when the final Q&A finished.

③Public Hearing on the Financial Crisis

We held the "Public Hearing on the Financial Crisis" at Kanematsu Auditorium of this university from 2:30 to 5:00 pm on November 19, 2008. We were blessed with perfect weather, and 462 participants gathered despite the weekday afternoon hours for a lively debate.

This project was organized by the "Global COE (Center of Excellence) Program "Research Unit for Statistical and Empirical Analysis in Social Sciences", bringing together financial experts from our university on the financial crisis which is causing worldwide economic upheaval, and interpretations drawn based on complex views such as the substance of this crisis, its implications to macroeconomics, response by government authorities, efficacy and limits of the financial industry and the relationship to the Asian economy. The panelists were Makoto Saito

(Professor of Graduate School of Economics), Etsuo Shioji (Professor of Graduate School of



Economics), Yasuhiro Maehara (Professor of Graduate School of Economics), Toshiaki Watanabe (Professor of Institute of Economic Research), Eiji Ogawa (Professor of Graduate

School of Commerce and Management), and the coordinator was Yukinobu Kitamura (Professor of Institute of Economic Research).

There were many questions from the venue which led to discussions. We verified the tasks for the future such as how Japan fits into the Asian economy and Japan's contributions to global economic stability.

Ex-post comments were that this project generated intellectual resources for Hitotsubashi University and the demand for bringing it to bear on the pension, aging society, security and other areas.

④ Four University Confederation Open Lecture on Security and Safety

On November 27th, the Open Lecture Event was held at Ikkyo Auditorium in the center of



Tokyo. This event has been held since 2006 by eight research institutes and laboratories belonging to four universities, Hitotsubashi, Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) and Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT). The origin of the event derives from 'the Four University Confederation Charter' concluded in 2001. The Charter aims at having the member universities collaborate with each other according to the content of research and educational programs while each member maintains its independence,

thereby developing new types of human resources, a goal that higher education has been unable to achieve before.

This was the third open lecture event. The eight research institutes and laboratories belonging to these four top level national universities have been organizing the event. The contents of the lectures are designed to be suitable for the general public.

This unique event started in 2006 is aimed at contributing more to society than to the ivory towers of academia.

Every year, the program consists of four lectures concerning 'the Security and Safety'. Experts from each institute and laboratory give a lecture based on their own specialties. This is to say, the audience in the auditorium enjoy the lectures from different perspectives: economics, technology, medical science, history and linguistics on the same day.

On the day Associate Professor Ryo Kanbayashi from the Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi made a presentation concerning 'The safety net in the labor market' to which the majority of Japanese society has been paying more attention recently.

More than 500 audience members attended the lecture. The head of the Division of the Scientific Research Institute, Ministry of Education, Sports, Science and Technology gave the greeting and praised the event highly.

4 Global COE Programs

Two Global COE (Center of Excellence) Programs funded by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture

Sports, Science and Technology) have launched this year. We hope that these large scale research programs will attract many overseas researchers to work with. Here are small introductions of the two programs.

① Research Unit for Statistical and Empirical Analysis in the Social Sciences

(Program leader: Professor Kyoji Fukao)

The significance of empirical research in the social sciences can be compared to that of experiments in the natural sciences, and an indispensable prerequisite for such empirical research is the availability of long-term statistics and micro-data. Against this background, this Global COE Program – “Research Unit for Statistical and Empirical Analysis in the Social Sciences” (“Global COE Hi-Stat”) – aims to expand on the already existing statistical resources available at the Institute of Economic Research (IER) to build a comprehensive data archive, produce leading-edge empirical and theoretical research, train young scholars, and create a hub for international scholars and research activities.

At the heart of the Global COE Hi-Stat program is the expansion of existing statistical resources and the creation of new databases. Building on the work of previous COE Programs and led by the Research Centre for Statistical Information in the Social Sciences (RCISSS) attached to the Institute, the IER already possesses one of the most comprehensive data archives in Japan. For instance, in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the

Institute set up Japan’s first micro-data center providing researchers nationwide with access to the micro-data collected through official government surveys. The Institute has also constructed and partially published the Asian Historical Statistics for a range of Asian countries that allow the analysis of economic developments spanning a period of over 100 years. These statistics complement the RCISSS’s unrivalled collection of Japanese government statistics going back as far as 1868 and covering a variety of statistical resources from population statistics to education, police, and health statistics. In addition, in collaboration with the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), a previous COE Program created and published the Japan Industrial Productivity (JIP) Database, which makes it possible to examine productivity in Japan from an international comparative perspective.

These data resources will provide the basis for leading-edge empirical and theoretical research as well as the development of new statistical methods. In this regard, the Global COE Hi-Stat Program can count on the collaboration of leading Japanese empirical and theoretical economists in the fields of macroeconomics, finance, industrial organization, international economics, labor economics, public economics, and economic development that were members of previous COE Programs at the IER.

Another key objective of the Global COE Hi-Stat Program is the training of specialists in empirical research using micro-data. The program offers professionals and students both from Japan and abroad the opportunity to enrol in the university’s Ph.D. program, providing them with a world-class environment for training and research in the field

of empirical and statistical research in collaboration with resident scholars and foreign scholars visiting the Institute to use our data.

Already, the data archive and empirical research have made the IER a leading international center that attracts researchers from around the world, including scholars and Ph.D. candidates from universities such as Yale, Stanford, and the London School of Economics. The Program offers COE research scholarships for Ph.D. students and COE fellowships for post-doctoral researchers from both Japan and abroad. Together with the numerous international conferences that the Program is planning to hold, these will further contribute to the Institute's role as a major international center for advanced research and training.

• The Global COE program home page:

<http://gcoe.ier.hit-u.ac.jp/english/index.html>

② Innovation in Japanese Corporations –Education and Research Center for Empirical Management Studies–

(Program leader: Professor Tsuyoshi Numagami)

This 5-year program promotes empirical management studies on innovations in Japanese corporations and creates a research location for this. The characteristics of this program are to focus on associate professors and young professors at this university to provide training to graduate students.

The importance of innovation and its management is growing in Japanese corporate systems. Japanese society, unparalleled for its aging society and falling birth rate, cannot

achieve economic growth or resolve various problems without achieving innovations; i.e., new links with management resources. This is because the roles of companies and managers with specific responsibilities for innovations are extremely important. However, there are still many social scientific problems to be resolved in terms of innovations themselves and managers promoting these innovations, and it is of the utmost importance that large-scale research locations be created to cultivate human resources to take charge of this research in order to conduct these studies. If we consider the following questions, for example, we can come to realize the importance of this educational research area.

- 1) Innovations & Process: What processes create innovations in Japanese companies?
- 2) Innovation Strategy: What top management and management strategies promote innovations?
- 3) Innovations and Organization/Human Resources: What are the features of management organizations that hinder innovations at Japanese companies?
- 4) Innovations & Capital Markets: Will capital markets lead to proper capital allocations to promote innovations using an accounting system designed to evaluate technology, brand and other intangible resources?"

These programs incorporate the following steps to understand the above and promote research.

1. Empirical studies where in-house

company data is accumulated long-term: A close relationship with companies is utilized to



accumulate internal data, etc. over a long period of time for tracking the actual conditions in a company; education and research is conducted based on this and dispatched internationally.

2. Graduate student training through participation in empirical research projects: More practical training of researchers by having graduate students participate as assistants in projects for empirical studies using in-house company data.

3. Promoting globalization of young researchers: We will accumulate empirical research results under the banner "Innovations in Japanese Corporations", use methods such as the release of papers to international journals and send them overseas, while also sending young researchers who have doctorate degrees to overseas universities for joint research and bringing young researchers from overseas to our location and other measures to train young researchers who can operate globally.

Through our efforts over these 5 years, our goal is to be recognized as a global educational research center for Innovations in Japanese Corporations by the world's business management researchers.

• The Global COE program (HJBS) home page:
<http://www.cm.hit-u.ac.jp/hjbs/index.html>

5 Campus News

Not only the famous cherry blossoms in spring, but the burning gold autumn leaves attract many nature lovers to Kunitachi.

When you arrive at Kunitachi station in late

November, the gold-yellow ginkgo trees along University Avenue, 'Daigaku Dori' lead you to the university main gate.

The university campus is ablaze with colour in autumn. Many senior citizens and housewives with toddlers come to enjoy the autumn sunshine. Though we have had a long spell of rain this autumn, we were granted a few sunny days to appreciate the beauty of autumn in Kunitachi.



We are looking forward to receiving your comment in order to improve the contents. Please send e-mail to:
hit-u.news@ad.hit-u.ac.jp