

Social Science and Humanities

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Oral presentations for the Social Science and Humanities were held on September the tenth. Poster presentations were also held on the same day. Our session proved a great success with the participants, twenty-two professors and four students. We had eleven oral presentations and four poster presentations. There was lively debate amongst all the presenters and students, and one of the students also received an award for her poster.

The focus of the two Humanities sessions covered a wide range of areas: language acquisition, student exchange programmes and other areas of the presenters' research, ranging from climatology to hot springs. Ideas and research from both Japan and Thailand were presented and commented on. It was very beneficial to listen to and compare our areas of research from varying perspectives. Furthermore, as a result of our collaborations until now, we also found research issues in Thailand parallel to those we are facing in Japan, for example, the development of community-based tourism.

As it was a humanities session, learning was an overall theme, and one connecting thread was a focus on effective and inclusive education programmes for a wide range of learners and educators. For example, special needs learners in Thailand, EFL learners of English in Japan, scientific researchers studying food science and Japanese in Japan, and novice principals' needs.

Through the presentations, we were able to learn about community development and the need for sustainable development from an interdisciplinary approach. Possible future collaboration between several researchers was suggested in the areas of English language education, as well as special needs education comparing the situations in Japan and Thailand.

On a technical note about the sessions, we also considered how to call for papers in the future for each of the five sessions. It was also discussed whether more plenary sessions might be a good idea in the future. Finally, as a result of this session in the humanities, we can hope for further increased collaboration and cooperation between our two universities and it is hoped that the fieldwork and links with other institutions that were included in the programme this time will also prove to be beneficial to all participants in the future.