

Smart Cities and Attitudes towards Them

Yumiko Takagi*, Yoshiki Sakurai*, Eiichi Miyazaki*,
Mitsuru Matsushima*, Nobuko Yoshikawa*, Peter Lutes**,
Yuri Machihara***, Arran J. Chambers***, Toru Takamizu***

*Faculty of Education, Kagawa University,

**Faculty of Agriculture, Kagawa University,

***International Office, Kagawa University

Email : ytakagi@ed.kagawa-u.ac.jp

“Smart Cities and Attitudes towards Them” was discussed from a variety of perspectives in two sessions. There were several proposals on the utilization of ICT with regards to technical contents. We recognized the potential and efficiency of using existing technology, especially commonly used devices, such as smart devices to promote learner’s comprehension in language learning. A case study showed that motivation of learners could be maintained and increased by utilizing virtual groups. Another of IT example demonstrated how inclusive environments can be created utilizing ICT equipment with a universal design for those who may need to work from outside of the office. At present, access to large amounts of data is not universal and can be very costly. However, by using the some of the proposed approaches for using smart phones, economic benefits and reduction of data bottlenecks could be attained that are appropriate and adjusted to the individual user’s goals, leading to the establishment of effective and optimal routes.

Another proposal outlined how the introduction of advanced technology could lead to a reduction on the burdens on the environment. Three cases focusing on people living in Smart Cities were presented. In order to “live in a smart city”, shareholders must be cognizant of an underlying basic concept: it is impossible to realize a smart city without changing the institutions and people’s consciousness. Two cases introduced the new Course of Study in Japan released in June 2018 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The new curriculum can be viewed from a perspective related to the development of smart cities, focusing on the development of ‘subjective, interactive and deep learning’ in education in Japan. There was also a report on an international comparative study focusing on the need to be healthy in order to live in smart cities.



Photo : Group Photo after session



Photo : Presentation of Session 1

Collaborative Research Discussion

In order to promote collaborative research, international collaborative research with grants from both universities and active promotion of this symposium by both organizers are required. Furthermore, we would like to actively promote research on the humanities and education. After considering the sessions, the two institutions discussed the focus, direction and goals for the Faculty of Education of Kagawa University's links with Chiang Mai University at present and for the future.

- Collaborative Research with Faculty of Humanities

- Joint student exchange programs

Asst. Prof. Wichian Sunitham and Anantanakom Panida (CMU) , and Prof. Akihiro Sato, Prof. Yumiko Takagi, and Assoc.Prof. Paul Batten (KU) are in charge of this program, now in its ninth year. Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) funding has enhanced this program-providing funding for both the CMU and the KU students. KU students go to CMU in March for two weeks. CMU students come to KU in July for one month. So far, more than 100 students and staff have taken part in this program. We would like to continue and promote these activities for students interested in Japanese culture and Japanese on the humanities and education.

- Collaborative Research with Faculty of Education

- Research and a research paper with Asst. Prof. Ratchaneekorn Tongasukdee (CMU) and Prof. Akihiro Sato, Prof. Yumiko Takagi, and Assoc. Prof. Paul Batten (KU) , on Special Needs Education Systems in Japan.

Especially focusing on 'Resource Rooms' in Japanese schools, and the screening processes in place in Japan for selecting students for early intervention and guidance. Asst. Prof. Ratchaneekorn Tongasukdee was a guest researcher at KU for 18 days, April 25-May 12, 2018, to research the SNE systems in Japan. We hope to continue a focus on this area. The CMU Faculty of Education has an Early Childhood Education and Special Needs course - this is one area for further research and collaboration in the future, a focus on SNE in Japan to match the students' developmental stages from kindergarten through to high school. What kind of developmental educational support is needed before intervention and what kind of on-going support is needed? It is essential to locate issues at an early stage in infants in order to provide appropriate support before the problems

become severe and to continue this until it is determined that assistance is no longer required. Approaches to these issues vary from country to country, and more effective solutions can be found through joint research.

Multi-disciplinary Programs

Multi-disciplinary Programs play an important role in strengthening connections and laying the foundations for future collaboration between Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University. Enhancement of opportunities for exchange and collaboration depends on attracting more students and recognizing that these students may benefit from the varied experience that multi-disciplinary programs can offer. To date, Kagawa University and Chiang Mai University students have come together in two multi-disciplinary programs.

• Short Stay Program for International Exchange and Educational Program for Food Safety

The Faculty of Agriculture offers a multidisciplinary program focusing on food safety with additional studies and activities in international exchange, Japanese language education, and professional academic skills. This program began in 2008, with 8 students from Thailand, China and Indonesia and grew to include approximately 30 students from 10 countries. The program is supported by JASSO and was identified as a JASSO model program in 2015. Many students from Chiang Mai University have joined this program, some of whom have gone on to graduate studies and research internships at the Faculty of Agriculture. Prof. Osamu Kawamura, Prof. Masahiro Ogawa, Prof. Hirotooshi Tamura and Assoc. Prof. Peter Lutes (Agriculture) organize this program with assistance from Lecturer Toru Takamizu and Lecturer Mika Shioi (International Office) .

• Sanuki Program

This program is conducted by the International Office of Kagawa University. Begun in 2014, it is a bi-annual, one semester program that offers international students to study the Japanese language and core courses in regional issues. The culmination of their studies is 'Project Sanuki', a project-based learning report on key regional issues. Students may extend the program and receive a placement in a faculty for further specialized studies. Chiang Mai University students have taken part in the program and the International Office hopes to welcome more in the future.

Prof. Lrong Lim and Lecturer Takamizu organize this program with teaching support from the faculties of Agriculture, Education, Engineering and Design, and Medicine, and also from International Institute of Rare Sugar Research and Education and Institute of Education, Research and Regional Cooperation for Crisis Management Shikoku, through the "Leading Edge Issues in Kagawa University Lecture Series".