Aiming to Be A Global Leader: Group Project Exercise II

グローバルリーダを目指す、グループプロジェクト演習 II

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The future sustainable development of science and technology powerhouse in Japan will require a revolution of quality and quantity of higher education. The fact that Japan has been ranked 27th in an international competitiveness reflects our sense of crisis in higher education. Although a number of start-up companies including Google and Amazon have been flourishing in global markets, it is a crisis that there have been declines in number of new innovations from Japan. In addition, Japanese culture hinders a development of start-up industry with high technological expertise. In other words, we all know that undergraduate and graduate educations are responsible for the crisis in Japan. In response to this concern, the group project exercise, one of our leading program core curriculums, emphasizes the four challenges in order to foster students to have a sense of innovation and leadership in the society: (1) an ability to identify and understand real issues in the society; (2) an ability to analyze and respond to solve the issues; (3) an ability to grasp global issues; (4) an intellectual ability to work collaboratively in the context of cultural differences. Therefore, the leading program has been asking mentorships from various social sectors including industry, government and law firms to challenge our research assistants (RAs). As a team, one or more RAs have been working together with a mentor to produce a term paper

科学技術立国である日本の将来の発展を支えるのは、高等教育の質と量の改革しかないと。日本の国際競争力が27位という現状は、高等教育に対する危機感をさらに強めている。たとえば、GoogleやAmazonに代表される新興企業が世界で活躍する中で、日本発のイノベーションの数は大きく減少している。世界をリードする技術を持ったベンチャーが日本国内で誕生しにくいことも、大きな問題であろう。つまり、大学および大学院教育が、現在の日本の危機に対する責任を負っていることは、誰もが強く認識している。本プログラムの共通科目の一つである「グループプロジェクト演習」は、社会のリーダーとして活躍できる人材を育成するため、以下の４点に重点を置いている。1つ目は、実社会問題の抽出、2つ目は問題解決のための企画力と実行力、3つ目はグローバルな状況把握力、最後は異文化を理解する知識能力である。

そのために、企業人や行政官、法律家といった社会の最前線で活躍されている方を、幅広い分野において多様な視点をもたらし、研究助手（RA）の指導、連携に参加していただく。1名から数名のRAからなるグループは、メンターの指導の下でプロジェクトを進め、その成果をチームキーとして

A “Field” and “Cooperation”
「現場」そして「連携」

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Approximately 30 years ago, after graduating from Keio University, I began my career with the Kawasaki City Government. I chose to become a civil servant since I wanted to be in a job that involved engaging with people. Even though there are various civil servant levels - national, prefectural, city and municipal - all play a role in people’s societal lives and a variety of businesses fields, including welfare, education, city planning, promotion of industry, etc. I decided to join the municipal level as it was the easiest to image myself playing a role in various sectors through each of the City’s departments and as I wished to work in the “field”. As expected, I have been able to gain precious experiences of working in all manners of fieldwork after I sought employment with the city. For the last 30 years, although the majority of my work has been dedicated to the planning and financial section of the city, rather than to fieldwork itself, I have always keep myself informed on what is happening in the field. I strongly believe that challenges come from the field, and that voices from the field are key in overcoming these challenges.

慶應義塾を卒業し、市役所に勤めたのは30年ほど前である。人とのかかわりを実感できる仕事に携わりたいと考えていた、これを現実化する職業として公務員を志望した。

公务員といえば、旧由縄衙府、市町村の役所などさまざまなところであるが、福祉、教育から街づくり、産業振興など、人々の生活や企業活動の幅広い分野に関わり、その役割を一番イメージしやすかったことや、それぞれが現場を持っていて、自分自身が現場で仕事をしたいという思いから、市役所をめざすことになった。実際に、入庁後はこうした分野の現場で貴重な経験を得ることができた。これまでの30年のキャリアで、現場においても企画や財政部門での経験が長くなっているが、それでもなお、アンテナは絶えず現場を指向しているつもり
here is one example of the group project exercises. Social networking service (sns) has recently become a popular communication tool. When the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami devastated the pacific coast of the northeastern us on march 11, 2011, information provider tools have been implemented using twitters between japan and the rest of the world. by using individual know-how and information in sns, various technologies and skills can be possibly combined, since a long-term planned development of system is not feasible when a disaster happens. the group project exercise is, thereby, to understand this entire issues and possibilities of sns, since sns is capable of being self-organized with its own robust effectiveness and being autonomously perpetuated. the project is to analyze the mechanisms using a method (s), i.e., kj method, in light of social science, system engineering, policy system as well as communication science and communication and network engineering. rAs and a mentor have been interviewing the people that actually became involved in sns, gathering information and analyzing it. the project like this really inspires the rAs, as the mentor could provide them guidance and let them think and imagine. our group project exercise proves to be an effective activity that strengthens rAs’ capabilities with ingenuity and a wide range of vision.

as a ‘wettingter’ where animals in savanna gather and exchange dnAs for their evolution, our leading program functions as a global center of academia, industry and governance beyond the boundary of diverse expertise of graduate students and members of society. it promotes graduate students to become a ‘golden egg’.

graduate education should not be established in a circumstance that graduate students are from the financially advantageous backgrounds and/or they make efforts alone without assistance. instead, it is a precious opportunity that our society should support and educate graduate students toward the bright future of our society itself. therefore, i am hoping that our leading graduate program will make a great contribution to this opportunity.

on this note, based on my experience, i would like to highlight the importance of “cooperation”. “cooperation” takes many forms, notably between industry and academia. thus forth, if it is without a doubt that, when participating in cooperative activity as a regulatory entity, the government must share responsibility with industry and academia as well as serve as an intermediary and/or resolves an issue with their collective effort and strength. in this regard, representative examples taken by Kawasaki city include various projects: a part of the Kawasaki Business Incubation Center and “shin-Kawasaki Science Park” (in which keio university’s k2 town campus is also situated) and an establishment of “keihin coastal area life innovation comprehensive special zones for international competitiveness development”.

other forms of “cooperation” include those that combine efforts of a variety of industry sectors. it is essential to take a face-to-face approach to challenges that arise from the field without preconceptions, but instead with efforts unimpeded by the boundaries of different sections and/or expertise.

japan previously achieved a rapid level of growth but has now completely transformed into a mature society. the society is now no longer able to merely submit to steady growth. rather it is experiencing a decline of wealth due to a rapidly growing proportion of aged people, a decrease in population and a decline of internationally competitive industries. being faced with a series of daunting challenges, industry, academia and government have been working together to seek solutions. i believe that the keio leading graduate school program is aiming to create solutions for such challenges. fortunately, as a member of the government sector, i have been given an opportunity to participate in this program. therefore, i would like to convey my message to students “from the field”, where various issues continue to arise, and consider with them how “cooperation” should take form as the key to overcoming these challenges.

altogether, i am looking forward to the future of this program, and i hope that it will be a valuable opportunity for all participants to learn from each other and grow as individuals and professionals. i strongly believe that this program will contribute significantly to the development of our society and the world at large.