

News Bulletin of the Union of National Economic Associations in Japan

No.52

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The Scholar's Pride

Kenichi ENATSU, President

There were diverse responses from various sectors to the notification sent from MEXT (the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology) to the respective national university corporations in Japan on June 8, 2015.

From the academic sector, the Science Council of Japan responded immediately to this notice with a public announcement by the Executive Board, “On the Future Direction of the University: In Relation to the Departments/Graduate Schools of Teacher Training and Humanities and Social Sciences” (July 23, 2015). This was an argument against the statement by MEXT that “Especially the teacher-training and humanities / social sciences departments and graduate schools should make efforts for an active involvement in the planning and implementation of organizational revision bearing in mind the demographic decline of 18-year olds, securing the demand for human resources, maintaining the standard of education and research, as well as closing the organizations or transforming them into subject areas with high social needs”, showing a profound interest in the issue, at the same time clearly indicating “the scholar’s pride”.

Similarly from the industrial sector, Keidanren, expected by most people to respond favorably to the notification, responded with an objection to the easy call for reform in a policy proposal, “Our Opinion Concerning Japanese National University Reform” (September 9, 2015). The objective argument was, “Some people regard the notification this time as accommodating the industrial sector’s demand for human resources with readily applicable business skills; however, the industrial sector actually needs the opposite type of human resources”.

In reply to these disagreeing opinions and objections, the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology explained in a press conference on September 11, 2015, that “The discontinuation issue does not target the humanities and social sciences. The lack of writing skills on the part of the government officials who composed the notification was the cause of the misleading passages.” This statement did not reduce the strong objections from the respective sectors; in fact, the criticism developed by certain scholars, namely “the unnecessary humanities department theory” has remained the focus of

attention to this day.

Further, this notification for national university reform has been extended to Japanese private universities, causing a sensation. The Japan Association of Private Universities and Colleges made a public statement, “Proposal on the Future Direction of Private Universities” (December 24, 2015). The announcement that the Japanese private universities also “should further work on transmitting the principles, roles, and initiatives, and acquiring the nation and society’s understanding” served as an opportunity to enhance the sense of crisis.

Nobody among the academics or industrial persons with good sense is supporting the idea of “unnecessary humanities department”, and the government officials at MEXT have explained that the term “unnecessary” was not to be taken literally.

The industry, government, and academia are truly a mysterious triad in terms of tension.

We should take this opportunity to pay attention to the real reason behind the roaring controversy.

The essential cause of the controversy is that we must accept the hard truth where Japan ranked lowest among the 17 OECD nations in terms of “the higher education costs vs. GDP ratio” (financial expenditure), where the statistic for Japan is 0.5 in comparison to 1.6 in Switzerland, with Sweden ranking highest. On the other hand, Japan ranks 3rd from the top in “the higher education costs vs. GDP ratio” (private expenditure), where the statistic for Japan is 0.8 with Korea at the top (2.0) and USA ranking 2nd (1.6). Also, we are facing the harsh reality where higher education in Japan depends on individual family or student (tuition, etc.) funds, and correspondingly, the national funding for education is scarce. This is why we cannot ignore “the people’s opinion”, that is, the other stakeholder.

The background to the current controversy consists of the “smallness of the pie portion” of the national funding for education and research, in addition to the limited distribution of this pie, as well as the perception gap between the country and university on implementing the “people’s opinion”.

I feel the urgent need for our country to execute a thorough reform on this issue.

“After learning, we understand insufficiency; after teaching, we understand intolerance.” (Quoted from Li-chi, Anthology of Confucian

Teachings)

As academics, we should face this difficult issue with increased “humility” and “sincerity”.

Report on Business Activities in FY 2015

I. Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars

We received one application this year. After the screening by the Board of Directors, financial support was provided to the following one academic society. Please refer to the “Report on Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars” for the respective reports submitted by the society.

1. Japan Business Communication Association: 100,000 yen for inviting Hyejung Chang, Professor, Kyung Hee University, who gave a lecture at the 75th National Conference held on October 10, 2015.

II. Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses

We received two applications this year. After the screening by the Board of Directors, financial support was provided to the following two academic societies. Please refer to the “Report on Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses” in this bulletin.

1. Japan Association for the Comparative Studies of Management: 150,000 yen for dispatching Yutaka KONISHI, lecturer, Gifu University, to the International Scientific Conference: The Quality of Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Vietnam-Current Situation and Solution held at Hanoi National University of Education in Hanoi, Vietnam, on August 24, 2015.
2. The Japan Section of the Regional Science Association International: 200,000 yen for dispatching Maria IKEGAWA, doctoral student, The University of Tsukuba Graduate School, to the 62nd Annual North American Meetings of the of the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) in Portland, Oregon, USA, held from November 11 to 14, 2015.

III. Assistance for Academic Societies

The purpose of this grant is to promote “academic research”, and it provides partial support for the conference expenses to conduct various activities related to academic research, such as co-hosting within the society of membership, co-sponsorship of a conference, and requesting external professionals to give lectures. We received two applications this year. After screening by the Board of Directors, financial support of 50,000 yen was given to the following two academic societies. Please refer to the “Report on the Assistance for Academic Societies”.

1. The Japan Society of Household Economics: This academic society held the 31st Annual Meeting under the common theme of “Abenomics and Our Daily Life”, with inviting experts.
2. Japan Academy of Management: This academic society held the 25th National Conference and the 14th Japan – Mongolia International Symposium held at Chuo Gakuin University. Many researchers from Mongolia also attended.

IV. Publication of the English Information Bulletin, No. 35

At the 2nd English Information Bulletin Editorial Committee for 2014 held on January 30, 2015, Professor Yasuyoshi KUROKAWA of Senshu University (Business Analysis Association) was selected by the members to be appointed as the Committee Chairman. For the details on the editing progress, please refer to “On the Publication of the English Information Bulletin, No. 35” separately indicated in this issue.

The English *Information Bulletin*, No. 35 was published in mid-December 2015.

List of Primary Proceedings of Meetings in FY 2015

2015.4~2016.3

27	5. 18	First Board of Directors Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on closing the books for FY 2014 • Budget for FY 2015 • New Project Planning for FY 2015 • Parliamentary Procedure for the Board of Trustees
		First Board of Trustees Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY 2015 First Review Report for Assistance for Dispatching to International Conferences, Assistance for the Invitation and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars • Report on the Publication of English Information Bulletin No. 34, Report on the Progress of Editing No. 35 • Report on the Publication of the Union News Bulletin No. 51 on the Web • Report/Approval of Audit of FY 2014 Settlement of Accounts • Future Operation of Special Accounting Activity Administration Fund • Approval of FY 2015 Budget • Approval of FY 2015 New Project Planning (Holding a Symposium)
	7. 13	Second Board of Directors Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of FY 2015 Second Assistance for Dispatching to International Conferences, Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses • Progress Report of Symposium (Academic Forum) • Report on Questionnaire for the Digitization of the Journals
	10.9	First English Information Bulletin Editorial Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Inspection of Draft for No. 35 • Confirmation of Editing Activity Schedule until Publication of Bulletin • Organization Heading the Writing of English Information Bulletin No. 36 • Report for stopping the English Information Bulletin as printed matter, but published on the

			<p>web</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of the project of National Institute of Informatics Electronic Library (NII) and change to J-Stage
	10.26	Third Board of Directors Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on holding Academic Forum • FY 2015 Interim Accounting Report • Report on the Questionnaire Result for the Digitization of the Journals • Report on the Progress of Editing English Information Bulletin No. 35 • Recruitment of FY 2016 New Project Planning • Decline for the second Assistance of Dispatching to International Conferences • Report on two New Membership Application to our Union
		Second Board of Trustees Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on holding Academic Forum • Report on the Examination of FY 2015 Second Review Report for Assistance for Dispatching to International Conferences and Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses • FY 2015 Interim Accounting Report • Report on the Questionnaire Result for Digitization of the Journals • Report on the Progress of Editing English Information Bulletin No. 35 • Recruitment of FY 2016 New Project Planning • Report on two New Membership Application to our Union
28	2.2	Second English Information Bulletin Editorial Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Editorial Committee Chairman for English Information Bulletin No. 36 • Editing Activity Schedule until Publication of Bulletin • Review of Writing Summary for English Information Bulletin No. 36 • Report on the Application to J-Stage

	3.7	Fourth Board of Directors Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Publication of English Information Bulletin No. 35 on our Web • Budget for FY 2016 • Examination of FY 2016 First Review for Assistance for Dispatching to International Conferences and Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses • Report on two New Membership Application (Transcultural Management Society, Academy of Multinational Enterprises) to our Union • Report on a Withdrawal Application (Application not submitted)
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On Publishing the 35th Issue of the Information Bulletin of the Union of National Economic Association in Japan

Yasuyoshi KUROKAWA (Senshu University)
Chairman, Editorial Committee

The 35th issue of the Information Bulletin of The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan was published in December 2015. The bulletin has been continuously published since 1980, providing in English the information on the activities of economics-related academic societies, not only for audiences in Japan but also for those overseas. We hope a lot of people around the world will become interested in Japanese academic societies through this issue.

The recent activities of the following ten academic societies were covered in this issue: 1) The Japan Institute of Public Finance; 2) The Japanese Society of Insurance Science; 3) Japan Society of Business Mathematics; 4) Population Association of Japan; 5) The Society of Economic Sociology; 6) Japan Society for Human Resource Management; 7) Japanese Association for International Accounting Studies; 8) The Japan Port Economics Association; 9) Japan Society for Business Ethics; 10) Business Analysis Association. The Editorial Committee members elected from these ten academic societies were Motohiro SATO, Yasushi MATSUSHITA, Nobuhide TANAKA, Reiko HAYASHI, Tsuyoshi HIROSE, Norio KAMBAYASHI, Eiji HISAMUCHI, Nobuhiro ISHIDA, Eiji FURUYAMA, and Yasuyoshi KUROKAWA. The writers were Motohiro SATO (The Japan Institute of Public Finance), Yasuo FUKUDA, Yasuo KOFUJI (The Japanese Society of Insurance Science), Yutaka TAKAHASHI (Japan Society of Business Mathematics), Reiko HAYASHI (Population Association of Japan), Tsuyoshi HIROSE (The Society of Economic Sociology), Norio KAMBAYASHI (Japan Society for Human Resource Management), Eiji HISAMUCHI (Japanese Association for International Accounting Studies), Yuka OKADA (The Japan Port Economics Association), Eiji FURUYAMA (Japan Society for Business Ethics Study), Hiroshi FUKUDA (Business Analysis Association).

The 1st Editorial Committee meeting was held in Conference Room No. 2 on the 5th floor of Building 9 at Waseda University, on Friday, January 30, 2015. The Chairman of the Editorial Committee was elected at this meeting, and the ten academic societies were fixed to submit articles for the new issue. The members considered the editorial work schedule and the writing guidelines. Other issues discussed included the Secretary General's report on the printed

number, distribution destinations, and the number of distributed copies with regard to the 34th issue of the English bulletin. He reported that 330 copies were sent to the research institutions and university libraries overseas, in 40 countries.

The 2nd Editorial Committee meeting was held in Conference Room No. 5 on the 4th floor of Building 11 at Waseda University, on Monday, October 19, 2015. At this meeting, the attending committee members performed the final checking of the manuscripts ready for the 35th issue. Then, the publication timing and the editorial work schedule up to the publishing date were confirmed.

The next issue (36th issue) of the bulletin is scheduled to be published in December 2016. The following twelve academic societies will submit their reports: Society of Public Utility Economics, Political Economy & Economic History Society, Japan Accounting Association, Business History Society of Japan, Japan Academy for International Trade and Business, Japan Academy for Consumption Economy, Nippon Urban Management and Local Government Research Association, Japan Society for Applied Management, Japan Risk Management Society, Japan Academy of Management, Japan Association for Evolutionary Economics, The Japan Society of Household Economics.

Starting with this issue, we stopped publishing the bulletin in hard copy, and the data was published on The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan homepage and the CiNii service (academic paper information navigator) of the National Institute of Informatics (NII). However, this service will end in March 2017, so we are in the process of applying for data transfer to a new service, J-STAGE, for continuing the data disclosure of our publications.

Also, we are considering ways to keep a record of our English bulletin issues since 1980 (the 1st issue, intended to disseminate our message worldwide) to the present by disclosing their PDF data on the web.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the honorable members of the editorial committee, the respective writers, Secretary General Masataka OHTA for guiding the committee operations to function smoothly, the Secretariat member Yoshiko ISHII for her kind support of the work, and Professor Paul SNOWDEN (Vice-President, Kyorin University) for his help in proofreading the English manuscript.

International Conference Participation Report

Yutaka KONISHI (Gifu University)

Japan Association for the Comparative Studies of Management

On Monday, August 24, 2015, I made a poster presentation at the international academic conference, “Inclusive Education in Vietnam for Children with Disabilities”, held at the University of Education, Vietnam National University (VNU UED) in Hanoi, Vietnam, with financial support from The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan.

In this report, I will first give an overview of the international conference, and then provide the details on my presentation as an academic emissary.

The international symposium at the conference consisted of opening speeches by NguyenVan Minh, President of VNU UED, and Joyce Patricia Bheeka of UNICEF Vietnam, followed by 7 academic research reports, namely 1) “Developing system of center of supporting and developing inclusive education for people with disabilities in Vietnam” by Nguyen Duc Huu of the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training, 2) “Quality Assurance of Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities in Schools” by Nguyen Xuan Hai, 3) “Key Findings from MOET-UNICEF Study on Readiness for Education of Children with Disabilities in Vietnam” by Le Anh Lan, the inclusive education program representative for UNICEF Vietnam, 4) “Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Vietnam” by Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy. As indicated in the respective titles, these four research paper presentations were made by the individuals directly involved in the current situation and issues to be considered for promoting inclusive education policies for children with disabilities in Vietnam. The keynote lecture, 5) “Creating and Sustaining Inclusive Schools”, was delivered by Richard A. Villa and Jacqueline Thousand of Bayridge Consortium Inc., USA, who were also the sponsors of this international conference. The research paper presentation, 6) “What research tells us about full inclusion of students with severe behavior problems”, was given by Robert A.Gable and Lauren C. Reed of Dominion University, USA. These two reports from American researchers not only mentioned the policies and issues concerning inclusive education but also theoretically explained the actualities and social problems occurring in the process of accepting young people with disabilities from the schools to society, and their contents were very interesting. The next

presentation, 7) “Examining Inclusive Education Model for Children with Developmental Disorders in Preschool” by Le Anh Nguyet, Duong Thi Hoai, PhamThi Hue, Bui Thi Kim Xuan, Tran Van Cong, was a hands-on report by nursery school teachers.

The time between the 6th and 7th reports (15 : 20 to 16 : 10) were allotted for the poster sessions. The total number of poster presenters was 22, of which 3 were Japanese and 19 were Vietnamese.

Initially for this international conference, I had accepted the offer as a social scientist to report on the status quo and issues of employment for persons with disabilities in Japan. However, it turned out that I made a poster presentation instead, having been requested to do so according to the decision of the program committee.

My poster presentation was titled, “The Problems of Employment for Persons with Disabilities toward Inclusive Society in Japan”. At this international conference that consisted mainly of papers related to the practice and issues of inclusive education, my poster session on Japanese employment of challenged persons attracted a large number of participants, and we were able to make active exchanges in the Q & A as well. I reported on the following four major issues: 1) In what kind of labor setting the challenged persons in Japan are working after graduating from school; 2) the overview and problematic points of the employment policies for persons with disabilities in Japan; 3) a domestic budget analysis of Japanese persons with disabilities; 4) how we should understand the problem of educational inclusion and social exclusion.

Fellow participants were especially interested in the corporate working support system. The actual situation is where the regular workers are taxpayers, and workers on welfare are the recipients of the taxes we pay. As part of the policies for the transition of challenged workers to corporations, it is essential to provide the following stages of support with sensitive consideration: 1) Support for job acquisition from school to corporation, 2) support for the continuation of work at corporations, and 3) support at the time of withdrawal from work. Vietnam is just starting to formulate and implement the policies for supporting challenged persons to find jobs. In this context, I am convinced that my poster presentation, despite its social-science approach, made a large contribution to the purpose of the international conference, namely the quality of inclusive implementation in Vietnam.

International Conference Participation Report

Maria IKEGAWA (The University of Tsukuba Graduate School)
The Japan Section of the Regional Science Association International

Owing to the recommendation by The Japan Section of the Regional Science Association International and the generous funding support for international conference participation by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan, I was given the opportunity to participate and report on my research at the 62nd Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International held by the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) in Portland, Oregon, USA, between November 11 to 14, 2015.

This academic society conducts research on the various regional sciences, including economics, international relations, political science, sociology, and history in North America. NARSC is one of the major member societies of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), corresponding to the Regional Association of the Americas of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) and the Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization (PRSCO), and participants from around the world, consisting of members of the above-mentioned organizations, gathered at the truly international academic conference. As indicated on the program brochure, there were 993 pre-registered presenters and 159 sessions were held at the 2015 conference. This was my second time to make a presentation at this conference.

The central theme of my research is an analysis of the criteria for selecting the location of Japanese frozen-food corporations in East Asia. I joined the session titled, “The Aspect of Location in Foreign Investment”, where the fellow participants were from Utrecht, Holland, and London, England. The presentation contents, including my own on the behavior of selecting locations for Japanese companies in East Asia, were about the quantitative analysis of M&A in Europe, the inter-regional R&D in Europe, and the spillover effect of technology in South America, among other reports. The session covered the crucial themes and regions in the behavioral analysis of selecting locations for multinational corporations. I also attended a session held on a separate date that included reports on the corporate selection of locations in the USA and Africa, and the gap between the national and regional differences in location selecting criteria were very interesting.

My own report, titled “Selection Criteria Analysis of Japanese Frozen Food Company Locations in East Asia: Applying the market access and supplier access based on the distribution rate of refrigerators”, consisted of building a model with consideration to the domestic distribution of refrigerators in East Asian countries as the cost-cutting criteria for corporate dealing in terms of demand and provision. First, I calculated the national domestic potential demand (market access) or the potential provision (supplier access) based on the New Economic Geography (NEG) theory and quantitatively analyzed the location selection criteria of Japanese frozen food companies by applying these accesses. The investigation conducted in the form of interviews to two Japanese frozen food corporations and the JETRO offices in China, Indonesia, and Laos revealed that a financial divide existed in the demand for frozen foods in East Asia due to income, refrigerator distribution, and other factors. Focusing on the distribution of refrigerators among these factors, I compared the cases where the analysis was made with or without consideration to the refrigerator distribution. The research results were most statistically competitive and most analytically suitable for the models that utilized both the demand and domestic provision with consideration to the refrigerator distribution rate, in addition to the traditional corporate cost-cutting criteria such as personnel expenses, infrastructure, and preferential treatment. This indicated the importance of domestic demand as well as domestic provision according to the NEG theory, in addition to the traditional methods for cutting costs, in selecting the new business locations of Japanese corporations. The analysis showed that the distribution of refrigerators, as part of the cold chain, was a crucial criterion especially for the frozen food companies to meet the demands and to provide frozen foods in East Asian countries, and that Japanese frozen food companies preferred to select business locations in countries and regions with high domestic refrigerator distribution rates. These findings were also compatible with the interview investigation on the two Japanese frozen food companies and JETRO, and the comprehensive approach combining the interview investigation with quantitative analysis was highly evaluated by the panelists.

In addition, after my presentation, I received some important comments, questions, and advice from not only the panelists and panel chairperson but also from the floor participants, and these were valuable for intensifying my own research. It was an extremely precious experience for me to make international exchanges, thanks to the fellow participants who helped me to interact with them such as giving me comments during the coffee-break time between sessions,

having the opportunity to meet researchers from diverse countries and regions, and communicating with them after the conference.

And last but not the least, I express my sincere appreciation to the support provided in the form of international conference participation funding by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan.

Reports on the Use of Assistance for the Invitation
and Stay in Japan of Foreign Scholars:
Reporting on the Lecture by Professor Hyejung Chang

Takehisa KOBAYASHI (Wako University)
Japan Business Communication Association (JBCA)

I will report on the keynote lecture by Professor Hyejung Chang of Kyung Hee University (Seoul, Korea) held by the Japan Business Communication Association for the 75th National Conference at 16:50 on Saturday, October 10, 2015, in Classroom E101 at Wako University.

Professor Chang, the Chairperson of KABC (Korean Association for Business Communication), is a business communication research pioneer in Korea. JBCA signed a partnership agreement with KABC in December 2015 for promoting official collaborative academic research between the two societies and implementing the exchange of researchers. As the memorable initial exchange opportunity by the two academic societies, the conference turned out to be a powerful driving force for diverse discussions concerning research collaboration in the category of comparative Korean and Japanese business communication research, business communication in Asia, and partnership with other Asian countries, among other issues.

Prof. Chang's lecture, titled "Business Communication Today: Improving Business Outcomes with Big Data and Analytics", analyzed ICT being utilized and advanced in all sorts of business settings from the communication perspective. He also presented the implications of the heretofore invisible customer consumption behaviors and the possibility of acquiring the business environment information of partners and competitors through big data analytics, pointing out the need for such positive implementation and analysis.

Many JBCA members, whose main concerns are in the fields of commerce, business management, communication, and linguistics, realized through the lecture their lack of correct knowledge that big data is in the process of fundamentally transforming the providing of corporate services and business administration, as well as the nature of business models, and innovating the industry itself in the years to come, and big data holds the potential to make drastic changes in the nature of communication between people or between the people and companies. We were similarly strongly stimulated by Prof. Chang

who is creating new research areas by combining information technology and business communication.

Approximately 80 scholars, students, and corporate participants attended and exchanged active discussions on the keynote lecture. We were able to make energetic exchanges throughout the occasion, including the opinion exchange on current issues concerning the new research of business communication between the 50 participants and Prof. Chang in the post-lecture reception.

With my above report, I express my sincere appreciation to The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan for their support.

Reports on the Use of Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses:
A Report on the 31st Research Conference of
The Japan Society of Household Economics

Naoki MATSUMOTO (Otemon Gakuin University)
The Japan Society of Household Economics

The Japan Society of Household Economics held the 31st Annual Meeting (research conference for the academic year 2015) during the 2-day period from Saturday, June 27, to Sunday, June 28, at Otemon Gakuin University in Ibaraki City, Osaka.

Free topic study sessions were held in the afternoon on Saturday, June 27, the first day of the conference. 5 sessions took place and 13 research report presentations were made on the following discussion topics: “home economics”, “child-raising support”, “quality of life”, “finance”, and “macroeconomics”. Approximately 100 persons attended the conference even though it was held during the Japanese rainy season, and each of the sessions attracted many participants, who made interesting presentations and active exchanges.

A symposium on the common theme of “Abenomics and Our Daily Life” was held in the morning on Sunday, June 28, the second day of the conference. The 3 panelists were Yukio Yanbe (Laboratory of Living and Economics), Chiho Ohyabu (Gifu University), and Eiichi Matsuzaki (Shinkin Central Bank); the 2 commentators, Yoichi Iwasa (Kansai University) and Shinobu Itoh (Meijo University), with the panel discussion coordinator was Kazufumi Ueno (University of Hyogo). Mr. Yanbe reported on “Abenomics and Our Daily Life” from a critical standpoint, mainly about the macroeconomic trends of the Japanese economy and financial policies. Ms. Ohyabu’s report, titled “Abenomics and Our Daily Life – from the home economic perspective”, presented the abundant home-economics related data available for free use. Mr. Matsuzaki spoke from the corporate perspective on “Abenomics as Regarded by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises”, and his discussion was based on various investigational results. After Mr. Iwasa and Ms. Itoh made their comments, the panel accepted questions from the floor participants and engaged in active discussion throughout the session that lasted nearly 2 hours and 30 minutes. As the outcome of Abenomics is becoming visible in current times, the participants showed a high level of interest in the session theme.

Finally, I express my sincere appreciation to every person involved in holding this conference. I owe the success of the conference to their cooperation. In recent years, the financial situation has been increasingly difficult for The Japan Society of Household Economics as well as other academic societies, so we are immensely grateful to the assistance for academic conference expenses provided by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan in organizing this conference. I would like to extend my special thanks to their support.

Reports on the Use of Assistance for Academic Conference Expenses

Mitsuhiro HIRATA (Chuo Gakuin University)
Japan Academy of Management

The 25th National Conference of the Japan Academy of Management was held during the 3-day period from August 7 to 9, 2015, at Chuo Gakuin University in Abiko City, with an attendance exceeding 100 members.

President Hideaki Sato of Chuo Gakuin University gave a special lecture on the second day of the conference.

The following panelists presented their views on the shared discussion topic, “Socially Responsible Business Management and Business Manager’s Behavior”: Mr. Mitsuhiro Hirata from the perspective of the business administration theory; Ms. Hitomi Awaya, from the vein market value creation theory; Mr. Hideki Ikenouchi, from the corporate governance theory; Mr. Katsuhiko Sakurai, the stakeholder theory; Mr. Keiichi Hasegawa, the management accounting theory. Then, we continued the discussion in the symposium on the last day of the conference, with Messrs. Saburo Ohta and Toshio Kikuchi as the coordinators. We confirmed our common understanding, as we conducted the Q&A with the floor participants, that the extended purpose of socially responsible corporate management was to create, maintain, and develop a sustainable global society, and that the business managers should be the chief promoters of such business advancement.

As we all know, sustainability is the keyword for global society in the age of globalization, and it is also the goal for mankind in the 21st century. Our common buzzword for the globalizing age is building, maintaining, and developing a sustainable global society. This is nothing but to build a low-carbon society controlling the production of greenhouse-effect gases to the minimum, a symbiotic society protecting the biodiversity on our planet, and a circulatory-model society securing the healthy cycle of substances. Corporations playing a part in this process are strongly expected to become aware of and promote the importance of socially responsible business management.

In addition to the above-mentioned reports and symposium on a shared discussion topic, the national conference program included free topic presentations by 18 junior and senior society members, who conducted lively exchanges and Q&A in the respective session halls.

Another important program of the conference was the 14th Japan – Mongolia

International Symposium took place on August 7 and 8, 2015, with 20 participants from Mongolia and 50 from Japan. As usual, the shared theme, “Miscellaneous Issues Concerning the Environment, Resources, and Business Management”, reflected our image of the wide, expansive land and culture of Mongolia. The 5 speakers from Mongolia, N. Suvd, C. Batsuh, K. Enkhbaatar, N. Sonintamir, Shinichiro Kawaguchi, and 4 speakers from Japan, Nobuto Iwata, Masako Shinkawa, Kanichi Iijima, Shozo Okuma, each presented his or her report full of originality and insight.

The Japan – Mongolia International Symposium has continued and developed since the first time, supported by Toshio Kikuchi leading the Japanese delegation and T. Dorj leading the Mongolian delegation. We regard this initiative as an invaluable occasion for academic and cultural exchange between Japan and Mongolia.

We owe the success of the national conference and international symposium between Mongolia and Japan held at Chuo Gakuin University by the Japan Academy of Management, an academic society with a remarkable history and tradition, to the following organization and persons. Representing the host institution, I express my humble and sincere appreciation to the support provided by The Union of National Economic Associations in Japan as assistance for academic conference expenses, the respective participants, President Sato, former President Shiina, and everyone concerned as the conference hosting institution, for their diligent support and cooperation.

Member Association Trustees

2016.3.31

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