

‘CAMPUS Asia’ 1st Monitoring in Japan
Summary of Self-Analysis Report

Program for Careers on Risk Management Experts in East Asia

KOBE University

1. Participating universities and academic departments in the project

Japanese University	Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS), Kobe University
Chinese University	School of International Relations and Public Affairs (SIRPA), Fudan University
Korean University	Graduate School of International Studies (GSICS), Korea University

2. Outline and progress of the project

1) Project outline

Aims

As agreed at the Japan-China-Korea summit in May 2011, the development of international co-operation between Japan, China, and Korea is not only significant in East Asia, but also throughout the world. The program aims to develop “risk management experts in East Asia” through postgraduate education on an international level by forming a consortium among the three universities: Kobe University, Fudan University, and Korea University. More concretely, the program aims to develop a new inter-collegiate curriculum by reviewing the postgraduate curricula currently on offer at the three universities. By developing such a curriculum, it is expected to equip students with (a) applicable expert knowledge and skills concerning risk management at the time of natural disasters as well as economic and social crises; (b) overall expertise in social sciences, including politics, economics, human resource development, and development management in Japan, China and Korea, with the three universities acting as the base; (c) communication skills so that policy and implementation support can be provided in English and local languages in addition to one’s mother tongue. The program is also expected to develop experts who can analyze problems, and lead policy development at public institutions, international organizations, and non-profit organizations (NPOs) at a time of crisis in the world as well as exercise leadership on the ground during disasters while showing a good cross-cultural understanding.

Overview

The Great East Japan Earthquake and accidents at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station have vividly shown that relief, recovery, and rebuilding operations face many difficulties and that a natural disaster and its associated incidents can exert an influence beyond national borders, triggering a currency crisis or posing problems to security arrangements.

Kobe University's Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies (GSICS) has developed a unique curriculum based on the lessons learnt from the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995. The curriculum combines lectures and seminars in the field of social sciences, such as economics, law, politics, educational development, development management, and international relations concerning Asian countries, which are offered in collaboration with the Research Center for Urban Safety and Security and the School of Humanities and delivered in both Japanese and English. The program also includes lectures and seminars in fields such as urban engineering and environmental hygiene. Many graduates have found employment in institutions such as the United Nations (UN), World Health Organization (WHO), and World Bank.

The program, drawing from the past achievements of Kobe University's GSICS in Japan and abroad, offers an extensive curriculum by collaborating with various research institutions and NPOs involved in risk management, such as the WHO Kobe Center, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s Hyogo International Center, currently, the Kansai International Center. The program arranges internship opportunities at international organizations in the university's extensive network, including the UN organizations, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank. In addition, by inviting part-time lecturers from universities and research institutions abroad, it provides enhanced educational opportunities to the program participants. It is also expected that the program offers opportunities to improve the program participants' practical skills. In addition, by further expanding the network with these institutions, the program is expected to offer enhanced career prospects to participants by securing them positions in institutions like the WHO, World Bank, and ADRC.

Fudan University, a partner of the consortium, is a leading institution in international relations education in China and offers many educational opportunities in East Asian international relations, including Japan-China relations, and in Chinese politics, sociology, economics, and languages. On the other hand, Korea University offers opportunities to research security, Korean affairs and policy making, as well as risk management during

economic crises. Opportunities for internships are provided in both Korean and English.

The program has developed a collaborative model based on incoming and outgoing students from the three universities, consisting of an exchange program and a double degree program targeted at master course students. Kobe University, Fudan University, and Korea University concluded the agreement on the exchange and double degree programs in 2012, and student exchanges have since begun in both programs. The aim of the student exchanges is to develop risk management specialists to work at both the East Asian and international levels. To facilitate students' participation in the program, pre-program courses are offered to participants at each university. In this course, students learn the language and culture of the destination country and prepare themselves to adapt to the education and life there.

The Consortium Steering Committee has joint representatives who are in charge of the Program at each participating universities, and 15 members, including one person responsible for implementing the program, one academic staff member, one academic staff member in charge of implementing the program, and one administration staff member from each university. The Program Management Committee reviews the quality and standard of the curriculum of each course, the criteria for converting credits, and the evaluation criteria in order to ensure consistency and to evaluate and select exchange students to be sent out both within and outside the consortium. In addition to the Program Management Committee, the Evaluation Committee, comprising some external members, aims to monitor and evaluate the program so as to ensure the quality and improvement of education on offer.

2) Progress of the project (until the end of March 2013)

Establishing and sharing the aims of educational programs

The program aims to develop risk management specialists who analyze the "risks" associated with various crisis situations; lead policy making decisions; and exercise leadership on the ground, working both in East Asia and throughout the world. To achieve this aim of developing human resources, each of the three consortium universities exploits its strengths and plays unique roles.

Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies(GSICS), Kobe University

- Training disaster relief and management experts, drawing from Japan's rich experience of providing foreign assistance
- Risk management education related to natural disasters and disaster reduction, drawing from the country's experience of the Great Hanshin Earthquake of January

17, 1995, and the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011

School of International Relations and Public Affairs (SIRPA), Fudan University

- Risk management education from the perspective of public policy and administration, taking advantage of being a graduate school in public policy;
- Risk analysis of international relations in East Asia, while incorporating a regional power (China) and future scenario planning for the region.

Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Korea University

- Risk analysis of security arrangements while exploiting the geographical location of the Korean Peninsula at the crossroads of East Asia;
- Risk management education related to energy issues, such as nuclear energy.

Organization and teaching staff at Kobe University

GSICS at Kobe University, SIRPA at Fudan University, and GSICS at Korea University teach courses or programs in English, and almost all of the participating teaching staff have studied and/or researched in English or other local languages in foreign countries. In addition, the three universities host many foreign students from all over the world, and have sufficient experience and support systems to conduct research and education in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean.

In addition to these existing facilities, the “CAMPUS Asia” office in charge of the program is staffed by Chinese and Korean native speakers as well as individuals who are highly proficient in English so as to ensure the smooth running of the program and effective support for students. Each graduate school has a number of experts specialized in the country of exchange, which enables us to provide educational support to the program participants tailored to their backgrounds.

Curriculum content, methods of delivery, and incoming students at Kobe University

Kobe University’s CAMPUS Asia office has arranged voluntary seminars for students going to Fudan University and Korea University and provided educational support with a view to improving their TOEFL scores. Furthermore, Kobe University has designated or newly created ‘CAMPUS Asia subjects’ which are in line with the program’s educational system and are treated as the core subjects of the program.

In addition, during the 2012 academic year, six “risk management seminars” were held with experts and specialists invited from Japan and abroad. These provided educational opportunities with an added international value that exceeded the consortium’s framework.

This year, internships took place in Thailand and Otsuchi, Iwate Prefecture, which were hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Students were offered further opportunities to carry out fieldwork: overseas fieldwork in the United States and a domestic study tour in the Tohoku region in relation to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

In the 2012 academic year, Kobe University hosted three double degree exchange students from Fudan University as well as one double degree exchange student from Korea University, who arrived in September 2012 and are due to complete the program in September 2013. Korea University has also sent four exchange students for 6 months: one arrived in September 2012 and returned in March 2013, while three arrived in March 2013 and are due to return in September 2013.

Educational and general support of Kobe University

Each university syllabus is made available to outgoing students before the start of their study period abroad, and orientation sessions on choosing courses are held. Student handbooks are translated into various languages so as to facilitate the diffusion of information about the destination university. Incoming students are supported by teaching assistants, who are assigned to each lecture, and personal tutors, who are assigned to each incoming student; they provide support tailored to each student's needs.

From the 2013 academic year, we intend to facilitate better communication between the program graduates and participants by setting up an alumni association.

In terms of the learning environment, the library, information technology facilities, and databases subscribed to by the university are made available to exchange students on the same terms as other registered students. The program has rented a number of apartments within commuting distance of Kobe University for the program participants in order to provide them with accommodation.

The Student Career Office of the Kobe University's GSICS holds a monthly consultation session where students can discuss any issues related to finding employment. Various job and career seminars are also held.

Mutual recognition of credits, marking criteria, and degree conferral

The Consortium Steering Committee from the three universities has discussed the curriculum standard of each university, the criteria for mutual credit recognition, and marking criteria in order to ensure the consistency of the program. Each university evaluates a student's performance according to its own criteria, and certificate of

completion is issued upon approval by the Program Management Committee on completion of the course.

Credits gained through the exchange program are recognized as credits required for completion based on the criteria specified in each university's regulations. The three universities have already concluded associated agreements and agreed upon a method for converting credits. In addition, the double degree agreement among the three universities stipulates that upon gaining the necessary credits and passing the thesis examination, the student will be awarded a degree from each university involved after passing the degree examinations at each university.

Evaluating the educational impacts and post-completion situation

Both outgoing and incoming students are required to submit a monthly report on their daily education progress and achievements to ensure regular reports are received. Similar reports are required for domestic or overseas internships in addition to the monthly report.

At the end of the 2012 academic year, two exchange students, an outgoing student in the 2011 academic year and an incoming student in the 2012 academic year 2012, had completed the program at Kobe University. The 2011 student has been issued the certificate of program completion upon confirming the credits gained at the destination university and is currently in employment. Both students submitted a study abroad report, and we are currently researching and gathering information regarding their satisfaction with the program and post-completion situation.

We are planning to carry out a survey on student satisfaction with the double degree program after their degree conferral and return to the home country.

Internal quality assurance system, record of improvement, and future planning

The program asks program participants to submit a monthly report through which the curriculum content is continuously monitored. An external evaluation committee with participants from Japan and abroad, both from Kobe University and outside the university, was convened to evaluate the program's achievement and review the program's implementation and educational content.