

NEWSLETTER

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Season's Greetings!

The festive season is just around the corner. From all of us at GSEP, we wish you happy holidays and a prosperous New Year!

At the end of a busy yet fulfilling year, GSEP students, graduates and faculty came together for a GSEP lunch meeting on Dec 5th. Sharing slices of free pizza from the Chair, and some sweets sent over by Edensensei (a former lecturer in the UK), students all enjoyed a warm and relaxed get-together.



GSEP Invited Talk on career path

For the majority of students, defining their future career goal is not an easy process. It involves self-assessment to identify one's strengths and values, followed by career research into the industries of interest, and the development of a career plan. One of the useful steps in shaping your vision is to listen to the experiences of seniors.

On October 11th, GSEP invited Dr. Ken Harada, a graduate of Tokyo Tech, to give a talk to students on "Career insights for your long career path". With a PhD in Computational Intelligence and System Sciences, Dr. Harada's career has spanned various sectors including a securities firm, a life insurance company, an asset management company and currently a US IT company. During the talk, he explained how he has shaped his broad career trajectory, with some comparative analysis of each profession.



Dr. Harada lecturing to students

Shambhava Sood, a first year GSEP student and one of the participants, said of the lecture, "What inspired me the most was Dr. Harada's willingness to embrace the unexplored. This lecture provided me with a glimpse into the boundless opportunities that lie ahead. While I'm not sure how my academic and career journey would quite unfold, I've learned the value of venturing into the unknown."

In an ever-changing, complex modern society, students are being challenged to explore the possibilities of their career paths.

Get to know our sensei



Sunkyung Choi,
PhD
GSEP specially
appointed lecturer

What is GSEP for you?

For me, GSEP is not just simply an educational program that allows students to learn intellectual knowledge and skills in transdisciplinary science and engineering, social sciences, liberal arts, and etc with understanding values in different cultures and background. GSEP is more like an active living thing and an environment that gradually grows with you and changes over time with common visions shared among the members.

GSEP students are brilliant, creative, passionate and definitely talented in each different way. They are exposed to various challenges and opportunities which make them explore and attempt in various directions. I believe that this eventually brings up each student's highest potential that you have not ever recognized before. We are certain that our students would not only excel in their competencies but also be devoted to solving problems in society with care and a deep understanding of each other.

I am amazed and indeed very proud of GSEP where faculty and students can build their trust and relationship through learning and extensive support in their student life. Being a part of GSEP also keeps on motivating me to become a better me than yesterday.

Could you tell us about your research?

I have a bachelor's degree in interior architecture and built environment from Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea. I came to Japan to pursue a master's and doctoral degree after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake happened. With that in mind, I always had a great interest and care for helping people and wanted to become a global leader in safety and security issues in disasters. Thus, my intellectual curiosity was stimulated to adapt in solving real-world problems through the curriculum provided by the Department of International Development Engineering of Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Under the supervision of Prof. Shinya Hanaoka, I started developing a research theme and conducted research on the enhancement of airport operation in disasters. It is nevertheless to say the importance of airport operation in the first 72 hours aftermath of disasters where airports' role as a base for transporting personnel and delivering goods as a point of entry to the affected area.

My research centers on enhancing urban resilience with a focus on human-centered approaches, incorporating three key elements: tourism transport policy, disaster management, and data-driven behavioral studies. I aim to shape my research around practical, real-world challenges, striving for outcomes that enhance public safety, inform government policymaking, and fortify societal stability.

My primary focus delves into tourism crisis management, an transdisciplinary field bridging tourism studies and disaster management, an area relatively unexplored in Japan. Within this field, my investigations cover diverse topics, including analyzing the evacuation behaviors of international tourists through simulation and data mining, evaluating the resilience of tourism cities, improving information dissemination, and strategizing shelter planning.

For research collaborations, I've partnered with researchers from the United States, Thailand, Korea, and Australia from various disciplines. Furthermore, I'm broadening my research scope by exploring sustainable tourism transport initiatives.

Tell us about your career vision.

Regarding career vision, I have several visions in mind at the moment. As a faculty of GSEP, I should actively engage and undertake in GSEP and pursue excellence in research at the same time. I wish our devotion to education and teaching will bring change to GSEP students who could have an influence on society and want to be remembered as "a good teacher" someday. Other than research and education, I want to develop a program or social enterprise later in my career to help children and students in need based on my intellectual knowledge and various intercultural experiences. Lastly, I wish not to lose the value and everlasting starving in learning throughout my life.

Alumni's Voices



Rezkitia Ramadhani Rudjito '20

Where are you now?

Hello! I'm Rezkitia and I'm presently employed at L'Oreal in Indonesia. As a Junior Medical Digital Manager, I collaborate with Healthcare Professionals and Telemedicine partners to deliver better dermatological solutions to patients in the country. Skin issues like Acne or Atopic Dermatitis can significantly impact the daily lives of many individuals, including children, teenagers, and adults. However, only 10% of the population can access a dermatologist, primarily due to financial constraints, geographical barriers, or limited awareness.

By focusing on education and teledermatology, we aim to broaden access to professional diagnoses, enabling individuals, regardless of their economic status or location, to receive the proper care they need.



View from my office in Jakarta

How do you describe the benefits of GSEP?

The program has shared many benefits, with the primary benefit being the opportunity to immerse in Japanese culture while receiving top-tier education from Tokyo Tech. The program conducts all classes in English, eliminating concerns about language barriers for international students. GSEP is also equipped with state of the art technical laboratories and an extensive research network, accommodating some of the best lecturers and professors in Japan.



Graduation Day with GSEP & TSE friends

The program's immersive nature also extends beyond the classroom as I experienced regular educational and cultural trips across the country. These trips include visits to industry companies, historical sites and museums which provides firsthand insights into Japan's traditions and working culture.

How does GSEP contribute to what you are doing now?

GSEP adopts a transdisciplinary approach, offering students a wide-ranging selection of courses across science, engineering, and humanities. This all-encompassing curriculum empowers students to identify the disciplines crucial for their envisioned career paths. In the final year, I had the flexibility to tailor my coursework, selecting subjects aligned with my personal interests and goals.

Furthermore, the program consistently emphasized the significance of tackling global challenges and contributing to larger societal causes. This emphasis motivated me to undertake undergraduate research centered on sustainable small-scale businesses in Indonesia, and also has continued to motivate me to pursue my current professional role.

What is the best highlight of GSEP?

Undoubtedly, the highlight of GSEP was creating friendships with the people in the program and the department, many of whom I remain in contact with to this day. The experience of studying abroad, experiencing Japan and growing up together created lasting bonds and unforgettable memories.

In a twist of fate, I also met my now-husband during my studies at Tokyo Tech, adding a truly special and unexpected dimension to my GSEP journey.



My traditional Javanese wedding in early 2023