

Fundamental Activities Information infrastructure, evaluation systems, international academic exchange

Interdisciplinary Communication and Science Café

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Activities

Discussion of Methods for Communication Skill Development to Break Down the Walls that Separate Different Organizations and Academic Fields

Issues, including global environmental problems, resource and energy problems that cannot be handled by the existing academic system, and educational systems segmented into the humanities and the sciences, separate, have been increasing since the end of 20th century.

For example, global environmental problems involve a variety of issues, including not only issues of technology, but also issues related to social and industrial energy-saving measures, and cultural issues regarding the transformation of lifestyle — as is symbolized by the problem of global warming. Therefore, it is necessary to approach these problems from various academic fields, from science and engineering to humanities and social sciences, including politics and economics, sociology and law. Furthermore, it is essential to have organic collaboration among such various fields of both humanities and science. Corresponding to the needs of today's society, we will create development methods for communication skills in order to break down the barriers between academic fields and different organizations, to encourage interdisciplinary communication.

Expansion to *Interdisciplinary Communication Theory*

The 1st Stage: Establishment of a Communication Model

We ask students to introduce issues of importance from their areas of specialization, and engage in group discussions of these issues. Through such discussions, we help students realize the difficulties involved in communication and the importance of communicating knowledge and information to others in different fields of specialization. We also attempt to clarify necessary expressions and methods of explanation during these group discussions.

The 2nd Stage: Establishment of a Problem Solving Model

Selecting social research subjects from among those submitted by the public through government ministries and local governments, we separate students into groups based on subjects (forming groups of students from various areas of specialization), ask them to create a research plan regarding the relevant subject, and present these plans for comment from participants.

[Lectures]

Science and Technology Policies, Science Theory

Firstly, we understand social background, which requires communication among different academic fields. In order to understand such social background we seek to attain minimum knowledge of Science and Technology Policies, and Science and Technology Mode Theory.

Methods of Problem Solving

There are currently various concepts of scientific technology for the solving of problems raised by society, including *Social Technology*, *Public Technology*, *Policy Science Theory*, etc., and some have actually been implemented.

We attempt to teach problem solving methodologies through the use and understanding of concrete examples as much as possible.

[Fieldwork]

To determine a concrete subject, implement interdisciplinary communication and establish a problem solving model.

Implementation of *Science Café*

This is a new type of symposium, which involves talk with specialists. In *Science Ishikawa*, we present findings by specialists and results obtained through school research, and provide feedback from actual regional activities on research, in order to increase mutual exchange and understanding.

Members

Masaru Ikariya (Researcher, Venture Business Laboratory)

Hiroyuki Tsuruoka (Researcher, Center for Strategic Development of Science and Technology)

Sun Jiasheng (Doctoral Course Students, School of Knowledge Science)

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