COE-SEMINAR (in English)

A scientific discussion test on some social harmony problems

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Recently in China the government pays much attention on the social harmony problems, We run a special project on the subject of studying social harmony and social stability from 2004. We have joined this project team. In the summer of 2006 Gu had chance to teach a MBA course attached to Graduate School, CAS on the subject of knowledge management. In this course we require graduate students to use the advanced technology and methods in promoting people to obtain new knowledge individually and collectively by discussion, as a part of course we ran a scientific discussion test within a MBA course to see how they may work. We select some important and hot topics in social harmony problems in China for the discussion content and run discussion test within the graduate students with the help of members from project team. Although the formal test discussion only took half a day, but the total test process including the preparation, analysis and summary lasted 18 days (July 27-June 14, 2006).

The purpose of running this test is to teach MBA graduate students how the advanced discussion methods and tools may help people to learn the knowledge related to the social harmony and stability existed already and developed by students themselves by running an efficient and effective discussion meeting. The whole test was divided into six subtests by six groups (corruption, housing, medicine reform, unemployment, emergent events and peasant workers) and guided by seven facilitators from project team. Before the formal discussion test the facilitators made scientific design for each subtest in the meeting process. After meeting they made various analyses for the discussion results. We also ask all students to prepare his own talk on the related topic on base his own knowledge or collected from web and other information sources before participating in discussion. During the discussion we emphasized the concept of *Ba* proposed by Nonaka, this is both the hard and soft environment for the discussion meeting, for example we provided the good accommodated discussion rooms for their discussion, during the discussion we required the spirit of freedom, equality, independency, coordination and respect to each with other. We also emphasized the interdisciplinary study, so from one side we required the participants with different knowledge background in the same group and from other side we hope them discuss from different aspects. Finally we intended to use the advanced discussion tools and methods with the help of computers, we had used such as GAE (Group Argumentation Environment) developed by Tang and Liu, Institute of Systems Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, PathMaker by SkyMark Corporation, UciNet by Analytic Technologies, GIS (Geographical Information System), psychological survey and game theory etc. We stand for the combination of human and computer, but emphasizing the human. Most of graduate students had satisfied this discussion test and learnt a lot from this test.

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Speaker: Dr.Gu Jifa, Institute of Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Date and Time: Jun. 7th (Thu) 10:30 – 12:00

Place: KS building Ⅲ. 7F Seminar room