Introduction to Meiji University

Meiji University was founded as Meiji Law School in January 1881 by three young lawyers still in their twenties, Tatsuo Kishimoto, Kosei Moriki, and Misumi Yashiro. It was an era when Japan was determined to transform itself quickly into a modern and independent nation, and the founders of Meiji Law School hoped to foster bright, capable youth to lead the modern civil society that was then emerging.

As a result, Meiji University was established as one of the scholarly and educational centers which has now developed into one of Japan’s leading private universities.

With “rights, liberty, independence, and self-government” as the guiding principles, Meiji University has produced more than 500,000 graduates to date, contributing to Japanese society and the world. The numerous alumni who play key roles in various fields have also earned a high reputation for their achievements.

Meiji University ranks solidly among the best universities in Japan. It currently consists of nine undergraduate schools: the School of Law, School of Commerce, School of Political Science and Economics, School of Arts and Letters, School of Science and Technology, School of Agriculture, School of Business Administration, School of Information and Communication, and School of Global Japanese Studies. It also has nine Graduate Schools—the Graduate School of Law, Graduate School of Commerce, Graduate School of Political Science and Economics, Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Graduate School of Science and Technology, Graduate School of Agriculture, Graduate School of Business Administration, Graduate School of Information and Communication, and Graduate School of Humanities.

Global Japanese Studies—and four Professional Graduate Schools—the Law School, the Graduate School of Governance Studies, the Graduate School of Global Business, and the Graduate School of Professional Accountancy. There are also six affiliated junior and senior high schools.

The university has three campuses: the Surugadai Campus, Hibiya Campus, and Hikita Campus. Along with an excellent teaching staff, each of these campuses features modern facilities, including an array of affiliated educational and research institutes and amenities for extracurricular activities. The Surugadai Campus, where the Graduate School of Governance Studies is located, features the Academy Common, which is equipped with the latest IT infrastructure and designed as a center for lifelong learning and professional graduate training. In addition to being home to the administrative headquarters and Alumni Hall, the campus also features Liberty Tower, which has become a local landmark.

Selected as a Core University for Internationalization under the “Global 30” Project, Meiji University is one of the thirteen universities selected by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for its “Global 30” Project for Establishing Core Universities for Internationalization aiming for universities to become competitive in the international society and provide education for global citizens. MEXT provides grants for five years to universities selected as core schools for educating international students through courses taught in English. The universities are expected to accelerate their globalization efforts and enhance the academic structure international students studying or conducting research in Japan.
From Government to Governance: Toward a New Ideal of Society Based on Collaboration among Diverse Individuals and Organizations

At the Graduate School of Governance Studies, we aim to produce well-versed professionals with the breadth of vision, keen insight, and good analytical and decision-making skills needed to cope with the administrative demands of an ever more complex and specialized society.

These needs arise as the role of government undergoes changes, together with society itself, in the context of globalization. Where “government” once signified a governing authority and its functions, the word “governance” is now taking its place. This shift is due to a widespread failure of trust in government, accompanied by a decline in the function of the government sector, both national and local, in many countries. In its place a new way of managing society is emerging, based on equal cooperation between national and local governments, the private sector, NGOs, and civil society.

For example, in Japan, local governments and residents are already accustomed to working hand in hand, a partnership that started with recycling of household garbage and eventually led to volunteer involvement in such areas as community building and welfare. We must now proceed to expand such cooperation and replicate those experiences in other fields. In Governance Studies, we analyze an ever-growing range of issues in order to realize these aims. The quest for “GOOD Governance” is the objective of this field. Our aim is to develop the answers through theoretical and practical case studies. This will enable graduates to analyze a social problem, evaluate it from a theoretical point of view, and apply practical policies to create actual Good Governance.

In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, the Graduate School of Governance Studies offers these programs in the English Program.

Curriculum Policy

The Principles of the Curriculum

The first decade of the twenty-first century has seen Japan’s national and local governance systems engage in the existing issues of decentralization reforms and local governance. During this time, in an initiative of its own, the Graduate School of Governance Studies in Japan has undertaken to establish public policy studies as a holistic science with a view to supporting “endogenous local development” through institutional partnerships among communities both within Japan and internationally. Based on these public policy studies, the graduate school is to produce well-versed political and administrative professionals with the breadth of knowledge and vision, keen insight, and good analytical and decision-making skills needed to address the issues involved in ever more complex and specialized policymaking.

Curriculum Structure

The curriculum structure is of the cross-curricular type. First, to provide an understanding of governance from all aspects, the students that make up governance studies are arranged in “fields” which offer a broad international perspective with the three disciplines of politics and administration, economics and public finance, and law, together with an array of policy studies courses designed to familiarize students with the active status of developments in these areas.

The Graduate School offers four programs, that is, if offers four combinations of the fields most relevant to the different professional communities (Field A: Policy Studies; Field B: Applied Policy Studies; Field H: Practical Seminars. Note: Fields E and F are not available on the Japanese degree track).

Distinctive Features of the Curriculum

The Graduate School of Global Studies is a center that brings together, on the one hand, mature students with a particular interest (and perhaps some prior work experience) in areas such as community building and renewal, and, on the other, recent university graduates who aspire to create the communities of the future. In this way, it forms a learning hub where innovative ideas germinate, spread, develop, and feed back into the creative process, thanks to exchanges of information and personal contacts among people with a wealth of experiences, including the full-time and visiting professors of the Graduate School, special invited professors, and part-time lecturers. Although we use the word “graduate,” in fact many of our alumni remain involved in ongoing projects, and this continuity has been highly productive. In particular, the Governance Policy Research Network, the Urban Policy Forum, the Public Quality Management (PQM) Forum, and the Governance Salons are nodes of practice and research that serve to link not only fellow alumni but also alumni and current students—giving our graduates a very real presence on campus.

Diploma Policy

The Image of Our Ideal Graduate

The Graduate School of Governance Studies was established against the background of decentralization reform, so the enactment of the Comprehensive Decentralization Act, which came into force in 2000. Those who have pursued their studies at the School include (1) elected leaders, representatives, and public servants involved in government at the local level and in international cooperation; (2) NPO and NGO workers, corporate employees, and public officials.

Concrete Goals to Achieve That Ideal

With the objectives of supporting “endogenous” political economy, economic, and cultural development by local authorities well rooted in governance, the program enables students to improve their theoretical and practical skills so that, by the end of the program, they will have a command of both the theory of public policy and an array of techniques, grounded in the theory, with which to address the issues facing their own communities.

Admission Policy

Qualities Sought in Applicants

The Graduate School of Governance Studies aims to produce graduates capable of meeting the political and administrative needs of the coming era. Our program is designed to train professionals with advanced knowledge, vision, and a high level of ability to formulate and carry out policy. In our entrance examination and interview, we look not only for special knowledge or skills relevant to public policy and associated fields that the applicant may have, but also for the qualities conducive to professionalism and for signs that applicants who have these potential are likely to expose it to the full.

Eligibility to Apply and Intended Students

Applicants must be university graduates or expected graduates, or be recognized by the Graduate School of Governance Studies as holding academic abilities equivalent to those of persons who hold university degrees. In particular, our programs are suited to practitioners in fields of public administration, such as elected representatives, public servants, NPO and NGO workers, and businesspeople employed in the private sector, and to people who aspire to political or public service careers.

Approach to Learning and Teaching

If a collaboration, participatory society is to be achieved in the coming era, teachers and students, working closely together, must consider a wide range of public issues and practice in practical fields. To that end, our curriculum is designed to enable students to take charge of their own learning through case studies and presentations on ongoing issues, while providing a grounding in theoretical studies and other basics. Our faculty embodies this approach to a high degree, with many of its members bringing collaborative working-styles and practical experiences in policy-making and implementation, and who contributing legal expertise in areas like the relationship between public policy and lawmaking, and analytical skills to specialize in NPOs and NGOs. Many also bring a wealth of research experience and invite students to learn by providing their global perspective and an opportunity to work with practitioners in various fields.

Points to Note about the Entrance Examination

The entrance examination consists of written tests and an interview. Prior to the examination, applicants are required to submit a personal statement discussing their long-term goals and motivations, why they plan to attend graduate school, and so on. (Application for Admission and Study Plan). With the guide of the Graduate School of Governance Studies as basic criteria, applicants are judged on qualities such as their reasoning skills and analytical abilities. In the interview, the ability to present one’s ideas persuasively and with clear logic carries particular weight.
Solving both Global and Local Issues: The Principles

Training Professionals in Politics and Public Administration
The aims of the Governance Studies Program of the Graduate School of Governance Studies are to support policy creation by community residents and local governments through research and education in public policy studies, and to produce professionals with advanced specialized knowledge and global vision. The program is designed for persons involved in government at the local level or in international cooperation or similar areas. It includes elected leaders and representatives, public servants, NGO and NPO workers, and corporate employees, and is also for recent university graduates with an interest in those public policy fields who aspire to careers in public service. The English degree track is for international students, including those sponsored by their own governments, those granted MEXT scholarships, and long-term trainees under Japan’s official development assistance program.

Advanced Education and Research for Professional Practitioners
The term “public policy” refers to the creation of policies in light of data-gathering and analysis to determine the status of policy issues at home and abroad. In policy formulation and deployment reports, experts take a fresh look at conventional policy drafting and decision-making processes to see how they can be restructured in purposefully rational processes incorporating, in particular, citizen participation. They conduct simulations to test the feasibility of policy goals, checking for any harm that might be done by experimental measures, identifying its causes, and making adjustments accordingly. Finally, whether at an end point or on an ongoing basis, they observe the results and evaluate the policy.

The curriculum of the Graduate School of Governance Studies is organized along the same lines as this version of policy formation and deployment process, resulting in a system that is clear to the students and that steadily builds their skills in creating, implementing, and assessing policy. The core fields for this purpose are: Policy Science (Field A), International Policy (Field B), which provides the background and foundation of policy science; Public Management (Field C); Law (Field D); Development Policy and Economics (Field E); and Environment and Community Policy (Field F). Two further fields are Applied Policy Studies (Field G), in which students do research by means of concrete case studies of public policy, and Practical Seminars (Field H), which provide guidance on writing research papers, improving presentation skills, and so on. The Governance Studies Program thus aims to provide a professional education centered on practically applicable knowledge and technical expertise, while at the same time reshaping the academic disciplines of public policy studies into a holistic science that integrates the three existing fields of politics and administrative, economics and public finance, and law.

The Qualities of English Degree Program Graduates
The English degree program aims to prepare professional practitioners and researchers with an advanced level of knowledge in the area of governance and public policy. To graduate, students must possess (1) a high level of specialized knowledge of disciplines in various fields of governance and policy studies, and (2) the ability to utilize that knowledge to solve actual issues.

Our ultimate goal is to produce graduates who have a good command of the policy-making and implementation skills needed to help resolve the complex problems in this diversified and bewildering society.

Actual Case Analysis through Field Research
A variety of interesting field research trips are organized within Japan during the school year. These field research trips provide opportunities to see actual policies in practice in both national and local public administration authorities. The field trips are also an occasion to talk directly and discuss matters with practitioners, providing a professional and local Japanese perspective. Through the field research trips, students will accumulate a number of case studies in Japan. In addition, a thorough understanding of Japanese society and culture can be acquired.

Field research themes

Main Places Visited

Academic Schedule

Spring Semester begins Mid-April
Spring Semester ends July 31
Summer vacation August 1 to September 19
Graduation Ceremony for September graduates September 19
Autumn Semester begins Late September
Winter vacation Late December to early January
Autumn Semester ends Early February
Graduation Ceremony for March graduates March 26

Spring Semester begins Late September
Winter vacation Late December to early January
Autumn Semester begins Early February
Graduation Ceremony for March graduates March 26
Spring Semester begins Mid-April
Spring Semester ends July 31
Summer vacation August 1 to September 19
Graduation Ceremony for September graduates September 19
Degree: Master of Public Policy

Curriculum Structure

The English degree program is designed to accept both Japanese and international students from various disciplines. While refining the approach of public policy, international Development Practice, and Administration and Management, we wish to study issues of governance which are essentially how governments, corporations, and citizens should be involved in the management of society. This basic approach will be based on case analysis in Japan and other countries in the areas of economic development, political and administrative reform, and related areas. Emphasis will be on the social development of the Japanese post-war period.

The three programs that form the degree program integrate both local and international issues. Their courses consist of: Public Policy, International Development Practice, and Administration and Management. From these standpoints, they take up major topics of interest to contemporary social issues, including decentralization, “good governance,” citizen participation, sustainable development, regional development, poverty reduction, environmental politics and crisis management.

Courses with Special Features

Applied Policy Studies Courses

Policy Study IX-A Human Resources Development in Local Government

Shigeru Yamashita, Professor

This course aims to provide students with practical information on systems and working of human resource development (HRD) in the local government (LG) sector of Japan. The class will visit sites of the leading public institutions for staff training, study their roles and curricula etc., and observe actual activities of each institution. Students are expected to obtain practical information and expertise through classroom lectures, on-site study, and through discussions and reporting work.

Policy Study IX-B Human Resources Development in Local Government

Takahumi Kanemura, Professor

This course aims at providing students with practical information on systems and working of human resource development (HRD) in the local government (LG) sector of Japan. The class will visit sites of the leading public institutions for staff training, study their roles and curricula etc., and observe actual activities of each institution. Students are expected to obtain practical information and expertise through classroom lectures, on-site study, and through discussions and reporting work.

Policy Study IX-D Tax Policy and Tax Administration

Takahumi Kanemura, Professor

This course aims at providing students with basic knowledge of the Japanese tax policy and administration system. The Japanese tax system is characterized by the threeonomies of: taxation, administration, and accounting. In this course, students will learn about the structure of the tax system, how taxes are collected, and how they are used to fund public services. The course will also cover the role of the tax administration in ensuring compliance with tax laws.

Policy Study IX-E Community Participation in Policy Formulation

Yukio Minamuro, Professor

This course aims at providing students with practical information on systems and working of community participation in policy formulation. The course will cover the role of citizens in the policy-making process, including the use of public hearings, referendums, and citizen juries. The course will also cover the role of the media in the policy-making process, including the use of public hearings, referendums, and citizen juries. The course will also cover the role of the media in the policy-making process, including the role of journalists in the policy-making process, including the use of public hearings, referendums, and citizen juries.

Policy Study IX-I Introduction to Structural Planning Tokyo

Shigeru Yamashita, Professor

This course aims at providing students with practical information on systems and working of structural planning in Tokyo. The course will cover the role of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in the planning process, including the use of public hearings, referendums, and citizen juries. The course will also cover the role of the media in the planning process, including the use of public hearings, referendums, and citizen juries. The course will also cover the role of the media in the planning process, including the role of journalists in the planning process, including the use of public hearings, referendums, and citizen juries.

The program is designed to cover the area of public policy by identifying issues to formulate, implementing, and evaluating policies. This involves the growing importance of implementing various related knowledge to the policy-making process, including expertise in political science, public administration studies, and business management style efficiency. Courses provide an understanding of the nature of public governance, covering various aspects of governance, covering political science, public administration, public finance, public management, and urban policy, in addition policy studies designed to familiarize students with the actual status of developments in these areas are also provided.

Goverance 1

Kiyoko Ryo, Professor

The program aims to cover the area of public policy by identifying issues to formulate, implementing, and evaluating policies. This involves the growing importance of implementing various related knowledge to the policy-making process, including expertise in political science, public administration studies, and business management style efficiency. Courses provide an understanding of the nature of public governance, covering various aspects of governance, covering political science, public administration, public finance, public management, and urban policy, in addition policy studies designed to familiarize students with the actual status of developments in these areas are also provided.

Spatial Planning

Yasushi Araya, Professor

Spatial Planning is a relatively new concept. It is a sector of research that aims to understand the distribution of people and activities in space. The Spatial Planning program is also considered as a form of planning in Europe, with many countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and many others. The United States of America, the United Kingdom, and many others. The program is designed to cover the area of public policy by identifying issues to formulate, implementing, and evaluating policies. This involves the growing importance of implementing various related knowledge to the policy-making process, including expertise in political science, public administration studies, and business management style efficiency. Courses provide an understanding of the nature of public governance, covering various aspects of governance, covering political science, public administration, public finance, public management, and urban policy, in addition policy studies designed to familiarize students with the actual status of developments in these areas are also provided.

International Relations 1

Yusuke Sakamichi, Professor

This course aims at providing students with practical information on systems and working of international relations in the context of Japan. The course will cover the role of Japan in the global community, including its role in the United Nations and other international organizations. The course will also cover the role of Japan in the economic and political development of other countries, including its role in the Asia-Pacific region and its relationship with other countries.

Talent Quality Management in the Public Sector

Katsuyuki Nishiyama, Professor

Major Objectives of the Course

An essential component of public sector reform is the identification and management of talent. The course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the role of talent management in the public sector. The course is designed to cover the area of public policy by identifying issues to formulate, implementing, and evaluating policies. This involves the growing importance of implementing various related knowledge to the policy-making process, including expertise in political science, public administration studies, and business management style efficiency. Courses provide an understanding of the nature of public governance, covering various aspects of governance, covering political science, public administration, public finance, public management, and urban policy, in addition policy studies designed to familiarize students with the actual status of developments in these areas are also provided.
The Three Programs

International Development Policy Program

Drawing on disciplines concerned with international economics, international cooperation, and the environment, the program is designed to give students an understanding of the global issues of sustainable development and poverty as viewed from perspectives of various social systems. While economic development has created a wealthy society, it has also posed problems such as environmental degradation and income disparity. To address these issues in the areas of public policy, the courses focus on international development policy, macro- and micro-economics, environmental policy, environmental economics, resource management, and other related areas.

Macroeconomics 1
Elena Shidlin, Associate Professor
This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the foundations of economic analysis with concentration on macroeconomic structure and module as they relate to the real-world economy. The course focuses on fundamentals of demand and supply analysis, measures of economic activity such as GDP, employment and inflation; determinants of trends in economic growth and business cycle fluctuations; fiscal, monetary and international trade policies and their effect on domestic and foreign business cycles and growth.

International Investment
Massahiro Yamamoto, Professor (cross-appointed from the school of Commercial)
International Investment primarily deals with the decision making process within multinational business enterprises on how to invest scarce monetary resources globally. Given that capital markets, particularly stock exchanges, are internationally integrated, such multinational enterprises are able to finance capital outside the home country and invest them wherever they want. This means multinational enterprises can easily go beyond the national borders. Such decisions are made as international investment.

Investment decisions are the most critical decisions made in market economies, as any decision needs to spend money first and wait return afterward. The target of this lecture is, therefore, to understand the structure of such complicated decision making. It is also targets understanding the technical basis for internal rate of return.

Environmental Assessment
Thomas E. Jones, Senior Assistant Professor
This module advocates a strategic approach which can yield prompt, hands-on assessments based on scientific practice. By instilling environmental biases that are legitimate and relevant to decision-making processes, the module will offer skills that facilitate collaboration between a wide range of stakeholders.

Each lecture uses PowerPoint presentations supported by handouts and case study examples, both domestic and international, which allow a fuller understanding of the diverse perspectives involved.

The aim is to facilitate students with the systematic process for predicting, and evaluating the environmental impact of a proposed project or to impact the full range of assessment skills such as, but not to make students aware of the pros and cons of different tools which policymakers use to assess environmental impacts.

The Three Programs

Community Planning and Management Program

The community is where governance comes most closely in contact with people’s lives. Planning social issues from local perspectives, the program is organized around the process of making, implementing, and evaluating policies to find solutions. It also focuses on crisis management and the role of the community in responding to natural disasters. Areas covered include community policy, community development, NPOs, social development, crime management, and disaster management.

Community Policy and Management 1
Rosario Laratta, Senior Assistant Professor
What we focus on become our reality, if we focus on what is wrong or what is missing, we tend to see everything through that filter or frame. Peter Senge.

In this course students will explore the asset-based community development (ABCDD) approach and learn how within this framework community strengths and skills are mobilized to address important community issues. In order for local governments to understand community strengths and skills, as well as important community assets, asset mapping and community consultation is essential. An asset-based community development framework adapts the view that 1) all community members have skills and strengths, 2) community members are best placed to identify community issues and solutions, 3) community connections are critical, 4) action must be community centered (i.e., action driven from the inside out).

Regional Planning 2
Junichiro Yubata, Visiting Professor
This course will provide knowledge and understanding of regional development with a focus on implementation strategies in Japan. The course examines real-time case studies, sectors programs and the Exchange of Country Experiences and Ideas of other countries. This course is based on practical experiences, knowledge and participatory. At the end of the course, the participants are expected to be able to recognize and assess relevant development experiences in their own country in the light of the course topics.

Human Resource Management
Makoto Nagashita, Professor
No one claims that “Community-Based” development is one of key elements for good local governance. How the local people can actively take part in the process of local development is a major concern for all the practitioners and policy makers. In order to address active participation of community people in the development process “facilitation” is in important theory and skills that all the concerned persons should know and utilize. In the course, theory and skills of facilitation will be given primary focus for human resource management in community development. In addition, macro processes of community based development through collaboration among various stakeholders will also be studied. Throughout the course, the participating students will be expected to acquire basic knowledge on facilitation theory and collaborative management of community development as well as some skills of facilitation. Facilitation skills are also useful for managing human resource within an organization or institution.

Crisis Management and Leadership
Kazuyuki Sasaki, Senior Assistant Professor
This course discusses the challenges that public leaders face when crises or disasters impact their governance area.

There are several indicators that disaster may be increasing: increasing density of population, building in vulnerable areas, global climate change, potential for disease epidemics and increasingly explosives weapons are all elements contributing to an increased risk. Managing during crises involves a different set of conditions than during normal times, and requires new skills for leaders to be able to make decisions based on limited information, customary relationships and ways of doing business change, and the scope and parameters of responsibility are often increased.

This course will deal with the concept and theory of “leadership” and highlights key leadership characteristics and strategies for successfully negotiating a response to, and recovery from, crises.
Thesis Guidance (Details vary depending on the faculty advisor.)

Requirements for Completion of the Master’s Degree

1. As a general rule, students must be enrolled in the Graduate School of Governance Studies for at least 3 years and must obtain at least 50 credits and prepare a master’s thesis.
2. Among the 50 credits required for completion, students must obtain at least 40 credits in Policy Studies (Field A), 4 credits in International Policy Studies (Field B), 2 credits in Public Management Studies (Field G), and 6 credits in Special Research Studies (Field F).
3. Students must enroll in the following four courses taught by their faculty advisor: Research Method 1, Research Method 2, Research Paper 1, and Research Paper 2. Students also must prepare a master’s thesis with necessary guidance from their advisor.
4. In addition to the above four courses, students must complete at least one other course taught by their faculty advisor.
5. Students must complete a maximum of 36 credits in a single academic year.
6. Where recognized by the faculty council of the Graduate School of Governance Studies, interdepartmental courses, up to a maximum of 6 credits, shall be counted toward degree completion and shall be included in the maximum 36 credits allowable in a single year.

Research Method:
In these seminar courses, students choose a governance/public administration related topic and conduct their own research. Through reviewing the relevant literature, students will acquire skills for theoretical studies and policy analysis. This process will guide the students toward the appropriateness of their definition of the topic.

Research Paper:
These seminar courses focus on writing academic papers. Students learn to construct a thesis and employ research methods, data analysis techniques, and related skills in writing actual papers on their own research topics.

Titles of Past Theses


Rural Retention of Civil Servants in Lao PDR: What has been done and what to do next

Oblivious Agriculture Extension Services in the Philippines: A Policy Assessment

Gender Discrimination in Bangladesh Public Sector: A case study on BCS/administration cadre

Participatory Budgeting in Local Government: Existing Practices and an Alternative Framework for the Union Parishad of Bangladesh

Accountability of the police in Japan: Lessons for Bangladesh

A Multi-Method Approach to Civil Service Recruitment and Selection: Lessons for Lao PDR

Decentralization in Cambodia. A Bottom-up Approach and National Building

Towards Improvement of Fishing and Human Resource Development Programs in the Local Administrative Ofils in Cambodia Based on Japanese Practices

Government Budgeting: Transparency. A Case of the Office of the Regional Administrative Secretary (OARAS) in Tanzania

Application of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Infrastructure Development: A Case of Road Transport Infrastructure in Vietnam

Towards a Basic Pension System in Malaysia: An Exploratory Study Based on International Experiences

Zero-Waste Disposal Policy: A Development Pattern for Post-Consumer Plastic Waste Management in Metro Manila

Improving Production through Effective Policy Implementation: A Proposal on the Application of Knowledge to the Philippine Office of the Ombudsman

The role of local bureaucrats in facilitating people’s participation in local development: Focused on the local government in Bangladesh

Performance Measurement and Accountability in Bangladesh’s Central Government: Utilizing Lessons from International Experience

Long-Term Comprehensive Planning in Japanese Municipalities: Lessons for Bangladesh

Factors Affecting Project Sustainability: Implications of Case Studies in Uzbekistan

Comparative Study of Performance Budgeting: Its applicability in Uzbekistan

Thesis Workshop
Thesis workshops are held for all international students at the Graduate School of Governance Studies. This workshop provides students with an opportunity to exchange one another’s work and engage in intellectual exchange on their approach to governance studies and their theoretical and research procedures.

Faculty

ICHIKAWA Hiro (Professor)

Japan is moving in a new direction by trial and error on the realization that new structures and approaches are no longer tenable. In the coming era, we cannot expect to fall back on past successes when addressing issues like the global environment, a maturing society, or diversifying values. An individual who seeks a public role in society without policy-making skills is, in effect, poised to fail in a company. We will set out together on our voyage into the future with the compass of governance to guide us.

Profile: Born in Tokyo in 1965. After graduating a Bachelor of Engineering in Architecture and a Master of Engineering from University of Tokyo, he studied under a Canadian government scholarship at the University of Manitoba, where he received a M.Eng. in Urban and Regional Planning. He has worked for organizations including the International Development Center of Japan and the Urban Research Institute Corporation before being appointed professor at the National Institute of Public Administration and Public Policy at the University of Economics and Sciences.

Aoyama Yasushi (Professor)

Aoyama is a professor at the Graduate School of Governance Studies, Meiji University. Together with analysis of urban problems in metropolitan areas of the industrialized world, he has also been involved in development planning in Iraq, Brazil, China, and other developing nations for many years. In Japan, he serves on many national and local government policy committees and also serves as chairperson of the NPO Creating Japan’s Future, a board member of the NPO Developing New Urban Centre of Metropolitan, and deputy chair of the Executive Committee of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s Creating New Community.

Kitaoji Nobusato (Professor)

In his field of public management, he believes that business management, examines practical methods of achieving better performance, and contributes to a better society. He is currently an administrative professor at Hokkaido University. He is an expert advisor to a number of companies, and is responsible for the awarding of management systems. He serves on several national and local boards, including the Order of Management for Local Government, and the Advisory Committee for Public Management, of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. His fields of research include public management policy, public evaluation, human resources management.
MURAKAMI Jun [Professor]

Meiji University’s Graduate School of Governance Studies aims to enhance the quality of Japanese civil society based on the findings of public policy studies. Over the years, I have held training courses for the employees of many local governments, but there was always a limit to what we could cover in the time available and in a one-way lecture format. Local assembly members, people who work for local governments, NPOs, and NGOs, and others whose interest in policy and local government-related legal studies is not satisfied by on-the-job training courses are welcome to enroll as graduate students.

Profile: After graduating in law from Waseda University in 1979, he earned a master’s degree in administrative law from the Graduate School of Tokyo Metropolitan University. In 2005, he was appointed as a full time tenure assistant professor, and professor in the Faculty of Law, Kanagawa University. During this time, he earned a PhD in law from Tokyo Metropolitan University. He has provided training in administrative law and the Local Autonomy Act for local government employees in Tokyo and adjacent prefectures, especially at the Staff Training Center of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and has also served on a number of councils and committees.

Courses Taught:
- Japanese Liberal ONLY

YAMASHITA Shigeru [Professor]

In the age of governance, those responsible for public policies, especially in the national and local government sectors, need not only expertise and breadth of vision backed by academic knowledge, but also active personal qualities and social skills. To apply the new governance model based on the practical studies, the participation of the citizens and governmental stakeholders is essential. The participatory model can be applied not only in the UK and France, but also in the US and Japan. These models are being tested in Japan to improve the quality of democracy.

Profile: He graduated LL.B. in 1987 from the University of Tokyo and became a civil servant at the Ministry of Home Affairs (NPO, NPO). Since the Ministry’s staff members have taken an active role in the Ministry of Home Affairs (NPO), NPO, he served as an assistant director of the Regional Policy Bureau and the Parliament Bureau (Legal Affairs Bureau). He served as the Secretary General of the Cabinet Secretariat and the Legal Affairs Bureau. He served as the Secretary General of the Cabinet Secretariat and the Legal Affairs Bureau. He has also served in various capacities at the Cabinet Office, the Legal Affairs Bureau, and the Cabinet Office, the Legal Affairs Bureau. He has also served as the Secretary General of the Cabinet Secretariat.

Courses Taught:
- Public Policy Management Reform Seminar
- Research Method 1

KANEMURA Takafumi [Professor]

The Japanese government is presently in the midst of administrative and fiscal reform. Major reforms are also underway in the local government sector, including municipal mergers, the “tri-party” reform, and the discussion over a dual-track, or regional block, system. The next phase of the reform will focus on local government issues, including the tri-party reform, and the discussion over a dual-track, or regional block, system. The next phase of the reform will focus on local government issues, including the tri-party reform, and the discussion over a dual-track, or regional block, system.

Profile: After working toward a doctorate in Social Sciences at the University of Tokyo, he has become a guest research assistant professor, and professor at Waseda University. In addition to his teaching and research activities, he has undertaken studies on local government reform, the nationalization of social insurance, and the privatization of public service provision. He has also served on the board of the local government research association, and has assisted the local government in the area of social security. He is also a member of the National Government Asset Management Association, and has served on the board of the local government research association.

Courses Taught:
- Contemporary Public Policy Seminar
- Research Method 1

RYU Kyoko [Professor]

What is the “public sphere”? What role should government play therein, and how? These are questions that never cease to be relevant in the public sphere. The discussion over the relationship between the national and local governments is closely related to the public sphere. The discussion over the relationship between the national and local governments is closely related to the public sphere.

Profile: After attending the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Law, Kyushu University, she became an assistant in the Faculty of Law, Kyushu University in 1991. From 1995, she spent two years as a postdoctoral British Council fellow studying public policy reform in the Department of Government, University of London, UK. She became a professor in the Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, before becoming an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Governance Studies. In 2005, she returned to the UK to conduct research at Cambridge University.

Courses Taught:
- Public Policy Management Reform Seminar
- Research Method 1

MINAMOTO Yuriko [Professor]

The negative impacts of globalization include growing social inequality as the gap widens between rich and poor. Against this background, new emphasis is being placed on human and social development. In planning, implementing, and evaluating social development, rather than an exclusively government- or administrative-led model, a governance model that involves the community becomes important. Focusing on specific, medium and large projects, we will look at the progress of these issues.

Profile: After graduating from International Christian University, she earned a master’s degree in Global Management from the Graduate School of Global Management in the US. After working for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID), she became an international development consultant. During the time, she completed many theoretical studies of development assistance research and developed management and evaluation methods and systems for JICA, the World Bank, and NIDC.

Courses Taught:
- International Cooperation Policy Seminar
- Research Method 1

SASAOKA Yuichi [Professor]

My area of interest lies in global governance, local governance, and their image in forming public space. I am particularly interested in analyzing how the governance is, and can be, related to development and security from the perspectives of international relations. I have 30 years of experience as a practitioner in the field of development while conducting research and teaching at universities. My main area of focus has been on sub-Saharan Africa while having a strong interest in other areas such as Asia.

Profile: After graduating in 1992 from Toyo University (political science), he earned a Master of Public Administration from the Kennedy School, Harvard and Ph.D. in social science from Waseda University. While working for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) between 1992 and 2011, he worked as an advisor to the Ministry of Finance and Planning in Uganda, as a senior advisor for the institute for International Cooperation, and a special advisor for the Institute for International Cooperation, as a special advisor to the JICA Tokyo Office, and as a senior research fellow at the JICA Research Institute. He also served as a visiting professor at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, as a professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, and vice president of TSCD Civil Society Forum.
NAGAHATA Makoto  [Professor]
In recent decades, as modernization has prevailed all over the world, traditional local communities drastically lost their importance in human lives, and both the nation states and the market economy play much more the important roles for fulfilling various needs of the people. However, no one denies that there are serious problems which can be solved neither by the public sector nor by private companies alone. It is inevitable to undertake collaborative actions involving non-private non-governmental (NGOs) to overcome complicated issues in modernized societies. The emergence of NGOs can be regarded as an indication of active civil participation in the process of self-governance.

Profile: After graduating from the University of Tokyo, he completed a master's program at the graduate school of Global Studies, Sophia University. Then, he joined a Japanese NGO that has two development projects in the South Asian countries and worked there for 14 years. Including his work in Ethiopia, he currently works in Indonesia. In 2004, he established his own NGO in Tokyo aiming at promoting mutual learning network among practitioners and study-makes in community development both in Japan and in the developing countries. His NGO implements various capacity development activities for government officials and NGO leaders in Japan. He also facilitates training courses on particular community development methodologies developed by JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Elena Shadrina  [Associate Professor]
Increasingly complex and interconnected changes in economic, social and ecological environment have facilitated a dramatic transition in the mode of governance. These transformations are characterized by a move from hierarchical control to network-like interaction, from state-led steering to market-oriented coordination and from strictly bound by legislation activity to voluntary cooperation. When the efficiency of traditional forms of governance arrangements is being challenged, a search for means to enhance the effectiveness and legitimacy of the emerging configurations of governance appears a timely task. Embedded in the multi-cultural environment and interdisciplinary context of the Graduate School of Governance Studies, and enriched by the discussion with the experts in the areas from the Karabakh Institute, such an exploration promises to become an engaging undertaking.

Profile: After graduation from Kharabakh State Academy of Economics and Law (Karabakh), she earned a degree of Candidate of Social Sciences in Economics. She worked as a consultant at Kharabakh State Academy of Economics and Law and the Eastern State Technological University and worked as a consultant at the Russian-American Center (Educational Scientific Center) for the regional governments in the far East of Russia. She has simultaneously been involved in implementation of a number of research projects, two of which were supported by the Turkey-Karabakh Youth Exchange Initiative and Jince Institute for International Affairs. She gained her PhD in Economics at Nagoya University, Japan under a Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Monbukagakusho) Fellowship. She was then invited by the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies in Oslo to conduct a research project. Upon her return to Japan and before her affiliation with Ushiku University Graduate School of Governance Studies she was heading macroeconomics at Temple University, Japan Campus.

SASAKI Kazuyuki  [Lecturer]
Japan’s society and economy are said to have reached maturity. As people’s attitudes diversify and institutions grow more complex, the social structure is also changing as the birthrate declines, the population ages, and the number of single-person households increases. Social changes are occurring more rapidly in Japan than elsewhere, and many countries are watching Japan’s response. What possibilities and challenges (lie ahead for Japan)? Together, we will examine the role of the public and private sector and civil society, the necessary politics and methods of implementation, and the ideal forms of central and local government, among other topics.

Profile: After graduating from the College of Liberal Arts of International Christian University, he completed the master’s program at the Graduate School of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University. Before his current appointment, he held a non-sworn post at a Japanese diplomatic mission (the Japanese Embassy in Norway) and worked as a researcher at the Institute of Social Sciences, Waseda University, a junior lecturer at the College of Economics and Human Sciences, Waseda University, and a researcher at the Institute for Urban Policy, Japan Center for Cities, among other positions.

Rosario Laratta  [Senior Assistant Professor]
Nowadays government officials and community leaders need much greater skills to manage the rapid changes and mounting pressure on communities. My lectures are designed to assist local, state and federal government officials build more effective, engaging roles with communities. The topics I cover during my courses include: 1) the role of government in community development — understanding how to implement strategies to better balance active delivery and community development; 2) how local government can encourage community participation — developing “engaged governance” — enhanced policy, development, structural arrangements and organizational culture for government to better work with communities; 3) sustainable development — enhancing the role of local citizens in delivering government services; 4) organizing communities — building the skills of staff in community development; 5) incorporating community development into local government planning and actions — seeking new forms of accountability and evaluation to better measure the contribution of government agency programs to community capacity.

Profile: Before his current appointment at Meiji University, he had a post as a Visiting Scholar at the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science at the University of Tokyo and a fellowship at the British Council at the University of Oxford. He earned an MA and PhD in sociology from the University of Arkansas (USA) and in public administration from George Brown College (Canada). He has a BA in economics and social sciences from Catholic University (Italy). He is the author of two books and more than fifty peer-reviewed papers on leading international journals such as the European Journal of Social Policy, and the International Journal of Social Policy, the International Journal of Social Welfare, the International Journal of Community Research, and the Public Management Review, the Taiwanese Journal of Social Welfare, the Japanese Journal of Social Economy, etc. He is a member of a number of academic associations on nonprofit organizations, social welfare and public administration in both, UK and Japan.

Thomas E. Jones  [Senior Assistant Professor]
Environmental issues are playing an ever-greater role in 21st century politics, and their increasing ubiquity necessitates an interdisciplinary approach to policy-making. Yet even as clean technology and technological innovation pave the way for sustainability, the divide between “developed” and “developing” countries has widened. Pulled common knowledge from a global range of case studies, we will share information and strive for practical solutions to environmental issues in global governance.

Profile: After graduating from Sheffield University, he relocated to Japan to specialise in Forest Science. He gained a Masters from Waseda University and a PhD from Toyo University in 1998. He was then appointed senior research scientist at the University of Tokyo, and in 2007 became a Researcher at a regional NPO, carrying out identification for Mirimuru City in the Japan Alps. His research revolves around social approaches to natural resource management, focusing particularly onnational parks, indigenous communities and natural resources. When红线 environmental themes related to ecosystem services, place identity and regional development, his work has been published in The International Ecotourism Society, and presented frequently at the Japanese Forest Society and the Japan Institute of Tourism Research.

SASAKI Kazuyuki  [Lecturer]
Japan’s society and economy are said to have reached maturity. As people’s attitudes diversify and institutions grow more complex, the social structure is also changing as the birthrate declines, the population ages, and the number of single-person households increases. Social changes are occurring more rapidly in Japan than elsewhere, and many countries are watching Japan’s response. What possibilities and challenges (lie ahead for Japan)? Together, we will examine the role of the public and private sector and civil society, the necessary politics and methods of implementation, and the ideal forms of central and local government, among other topics.

Profile: After graduating from the College of Liberal Arts of International Christian University, he completed the master’s program at the Graduate School of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University. Before his current appointment, he held a non-sworn post at a Japanese diplomatic mission (the Japanese Embassy in Norway) and worked as a researcher at the Institute of Social Sciences, Waseda University, a junior lecturer at the College of Economics and Human Sciences, Waseda University, and a researcher at the Institute for Urban Policy, Japan Center for Cities, among other positions.

YABUTA Jinchiro  [Visiting Professor]
Foreign students in the master course of Meiji already have professional experiences in specific fields. In Dr. Yabuta’s lecture, they are encouraged to look over surroundings of the field of their professional experiences rather than just focusing on one specific field. If you would like to become a good explorer, you must not only find your field to explore but also find your own curiosity. If you find your “curiosity” to be the one, you can hardly think of building another field in the lot. If you do not find any gas station nearby, a gas station could be a good option for your business.

Profile: He gained a Masters from Nagoya University of Technology and a PhD from Nagoya University. He worked at United Nations Centre for Regional Development and then, at International Development Center of Japan. During his tenure in IDE, he led many consultant teams for regional, community and economic development in Africa, Asian, and Latin American countries. In 2014, he engaged himself in managing IDE as its president. He is currently a senior advisor to the president. Being a planner in development planning and international cooperation, his lectures are mostly case-based and participatory in addition to often using cases of planning and implementing the policies and programs in Japan.
Facilities in Ideal Location in Central Tokyo

The Graduate School of Governance Studies is located on Meiji University's Surugadai Campus, which is right in the heart of metropolitan Tokyo, a hub city alive with contemporary and traditional culture. Graduate School classes are held in the Academy Common building, consisting of eleven floors above ground and two basement levels with fully equipped computer technology. Access to the campus is excellent, with the nearby JR rail service and five subway lines.

International Student Lounge

In the “Governance Studies Lounge,” international students are provided with an English-language advisory service to support them in their studies and in their lives in Japan. Logistic assistance for research activities and student life is available from full-time staff who have a wealth of overseas experiences. In addition, the “Lounge” organizes and supports field trips, has a small library corner with books covering various fields of public policy, and has a number of computers for student use. The “Lounge” also organizes Brown-bag Seminars where actual practitioners or scholars are invited to lecture on topics related to “governance.” The lounge provides a complete international environment.

Facilities

Building 14

Study space is provided for students of the Graduate School of Governance Studies. Each study is equipped with a power outlet and LAN connection for laptop computers. Full Internet access allows students to consult online journals, external databases, and library catalogs. There are also lockers, copying machines, and an open printer service. (Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.)

Discussion Rooms and Graduate Schools Lounge

Discussion rooms on the fourth floor of Building 14 can be used for group study and other purposes. There is also a student’s lounge shared by the four professional graduate schools.

Central Library

The 12,085 m2 Central Library provides seating for 1,274 readers. Its extensive collection includes 1.6 million books, 21,000 newspaper and journal titles, and a comprehensive range of electronic materials on microfiche, CD-ROM, and other digital media. The catalog database can be searched using the OPAC system, and the library provides free access to the essentially database EconoStica and many other academic databases.

Bookstore

The Sanseido Bookstore operates a branch in Basement Level 2 of Building 12 on the Surugadai Campus. Goods include textbooks, general books, and other books. Meiji University students save 10 percent on all books purchased using their Student ID card.

Convenience Store

Meijin Mart Convenience Store is situated at floor B1 of Building 12 on the Surugadai campus. This store is equipped with a variety of goods convenient for both academic and student life at Meiji. Selected goods include pens and notebooks, Meiji University character goods, soft drinks, snacks, and food, with some products sold on discount.

Dining Facilities

Sky Lounge: Akasaka cafe-styled Student Dining Hall on the 18th floor of Liberty Tower. The 365-seat facility features a wide view over the city. Drinks and light meals are also available in the Cafe Fenice coffee shop on the first floor of the Academy Common.
Messages from Alumni and Current Students

Sabio Balmes
From: Philippines

I am an integrated graduate of the Master of Public Administration and Governance at the University of the Philippines. My experience in this program has been invaluable in my career, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to its development. I hope that the program continues to thrive and serve the needs of the government.

Md. Ruhul Amin
From: Bangladesh

I am a 2018 graduate of the Master of Public Administration and Governance program at the University of the Philippines. I am currently working as a research scholar at the University of Dhaka. I am grateful for the knowledge I gained from this program and hope it continues to provide opportunities for my colleagues in the future.

Normalia Ibrahim
From: Malaysia

I am a graduate of the Master of Public Administration and Governance program at the University of the Philippines. I am currently working as a research scholar at the University of Malaya. I am grateful for the knowledge I gained from this program and hope it continues to provide opportunities for my colleagues in the future.

Mohammad Sh bipon MIA
From: Bangladesh

I am a graduate of the Master of Public Administration and Governance program at the University of the Philippines. I am currently working as a research scholar at the University of Dhaka. I am grateful for the knowledge I gained from this program and hope it continues to provide opportunities for my colleagues in the future.

Bajhate Mungo
From: Tanzania

I am a graduate of the Master of Public Administration and Governance program at the University of the Philippines. I am currently working as a research scholar at the University of Dar es Salaam. I am grateful for the knowledge I gained from this program and hope it continues to provide opportunities for my colleagues in the future.

Mohamad Hassen Allamine
From: Chad

I am a graduate of the Master of Public Administration and Governance program at the University of the Philippines. I am currently working as a research scholar at the University of Yaounde. I am grateful for the knowledge I gained from this program and hope it continues to provide opportunities for my colleagues in the future.