

LORC Newsletter

Local Human Resources and Public Policy Development System Open Research Centre

Issue 1
October, 2004

Remark from the Director of LORC

The newsletter which is an important element of LORC program will now be periodically sent to all participants. As we enter the second year of the project, the results from the past are now gradually taking form, and research meetings and seminars are also frequently held. It becomes more important at this stage for further research to proceed, sharing information with people from other institutions as much as possible, as well as cooperating with local communities. I hope this newsletter will be useful for everybody.



Kiichiro Tomino

Director of LORC and Group 3 Leader

◆◆ LORC Events from April to September, 2004 ◆◆

- Records/ summary of some of those events below are available on our website (<http://lorc.ryukoku.ac.jp/>).
- Those not available on the website may be stored in LORC Office. Please contact Taka Matoba (Dr) (matoba@noc.fks.ryukoku.ac.jp) for other materials.

Date	Group	Subject	Note
APRIL			
9th (Fri)	ALL	Management Staff Meeting (1st)	Introduction for new staff, Research schedule for this academic year
20th (Tue)	1	Group 1 Research Meeting (1st)	Research schedule for this year
26th (Mon)	ALL	Research Liaison Committee Meeting (1st)	On the issues discussed in the Management Staff Meeting held on 9 April
MAY			
9th (Sun)	2	Group 2 Research Meeting (1st)	
11th (Tue)	ALL	PD/RA Meeting (2nd)	
17th (Mon)	3	Group 3 Research Meeting (1st)	
24th (Mon)	ALL	Management Staff Meeting (2nd)	
26th (Wed)	1	Group 1 Research Meeting (2nd)	

Date	Group	Subject	Note
JUNE			
5th (Sat)	4	Lecture on African Studies (Group 4 Research Meeting [2nd])	Lecturer : Prof. Aili Mari Tripp (The University of Wisconsin-Madison): <i>The Changing Face of Africa's Legislatures: Women and Quotas</i> , and Dr. Isaac K Nyamongo (Institute of African Studies, The University of Nairobi)
	1	Lecture Meeting (Group 1 Research Meeting [3rd])	Lecturer: Prof. Ken Spencer (The Institute of Local Government Studies, The University of Birmingham): <i>On the Evaluation and Accreditation of the Local Human Resources Development in the UK</i> , and Mr. Yoshi Oyama (Honorary Lecturer, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, The University of Birmingham)
7th (Mon)	3	Lecture Meeting	Lecturer: Prof. Ken Spencer Commentator: Mr. Yoshi Oyama
15th (Tue)	ALL	PD/RA Meeting (3rd)	
18th (Fri)	ALL	Management Staff Meeting (3rd)	
22nd (Tue) ~ 29th (Tue)	4	Short Visit to South India	Purpose: Negotiation for further joint projects Visitors: Dr. Fumihiko Saito (Deputy Director and Leader of Group 4, LORC, Ryukoku University), Prof. Chihiro Saito (Faculty of Healthcare Management, Nihon Fukushi University), and Dr. Nobutaka Matoba (Post Doctoral Research Fellow, LORC, Ryukoku University)
JULY			
15th (Thu)	ALL	PD/RA Meeting (4th)	
16th (Fri)	ALL	Management Staff Meeting (4th)	
18th (Sun)	4	Group 4 Research Meeting (3rd)	
20th (Mon)	2	Group 2 Research Meeting (3rd)	The content of the booklet
31st (Sat)	3	Group 3 Research Meeting (3rd)	Held in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture Presentation from a working group of Group 3
AUGUST			
21st (Sat) ~ 29th (Sun)	4	Short Visit to Indonesia	Visitors: Dr. Fumihiko Saito (Deputy Director and Leader of Group 4, LORC, Ryukoku University), and Prof. Eriko Aoki (Faculty of Sociology, Ryukoku University)

Date	Group	Subject	Note
SEPTEMBER			
11th (Sat)	3	Working Group Meeting	Discussion on the content of a research proposal on the accreditation system for public policy graduate schools, which will be produced next year to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
20th (Mon)	4	Lectures on the decentralization and local governance in India (Group 4 Research Meeting [4th])	Lectures: Prof. Chihiro Saito (Faculty of Healthcare Management, Nihon Fukushi University), and Dr. Nobuyuki Asano (Division of Childhood Education, Seibo Jyogakuin Junior College)

◆◆◆ LORC Plans from October 2004 Onwards ◆◆◆

Date	Group	Subject	Note
OCTOBER			
3rd (Sun)	2	Group 2 Research Meeting (4th)	
16th (Sat)	3	Working Group Meeting	
22nd (Fri)	ALL	PD/RA Meeting (6th)	
29th (Fri)	ALL	Management Staff Meeting (6th)	
NOVEMBER			
8th (Mon) ~ 10th (Wed)	ALL	LORC International Symposium: "Citizen's Participation in Local Public Policy Making: European Experiences in Global Perspectives"	Keynote speakers: Dr. Linze Schaap (Faculty of Social Sciences, Erasmus University of Rotterdam)
24th (Wed) ~ 25th (Thu)	3	Conference on local human resources and the social accreditation system	Keynote speakers: Prof. Stuart Bretschneider (Director of Center for Technology and Information Policy, The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs), and Chancellor Emeritus Dr. David Werner (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville)

■■ Progress Reports from Research Assistants ■■

LORC consists of 4 research groups, each of which has a Research Assistant (RA). RAs work closely with the Leaders of their Groups and support the organisation of the series of research activities. Here are the brief reports by RAs on the progress that the Groups have made over the last 6 months.

Group 1 Research Assistant (RA): Dr. Noriko Tsujimoto

At the first research seminar of the academic year 2004, which took place on 26 May, the primary research plan and activities for this year were discussed. Since then we have held several group seminars to narrow the focus and share the objectives of the research between the participating researchers.

The ultimate objective of Group 1 is to develop, with the concept of partnership, an “alternative” framework for local policy makings and implementations. Practical experiences of the development and implementation processes of local economic and environmental policies in Japan and other countries will be researched and fed back to the Group project. The particular focus will be on finding out what factors are required for “new” local governance.

Research materials of the advanced cases around the world, especially from Europe and the USA, will be collected and distributed to the member researchers. It is hoped that this will help the researchers to see the current states in this field and to share the vision as to what sort of framework should be developed for effective citizen participation and partnership in local governance. Based on this shared vision, the member researchers are expected to undertake research related to LORC project in their own fields. The outcome can then be presented and shared in the group meetings.

Group 2 RA: Mr. Ken Arai

At the end of the academic year 2003, Group 2 conducted a research on the staff training system of local governments, by the means of a questionnaire.

The first half of the academic year 2004 has so far been spent mostly on analysing the research outcome, and the final report is going to be printed soon. Group 2 has also been planning to publish a booklet on the problems of the present local government staff training systems based on the findings. Several research meetings including the forthcoming one in

October have been spared to discuss about and prepare for the content of the booklet, which is to be published towards the end of 2004.

While working on the booklet, Group 2 will also continue its research on the staff training system in the second half of the academic year 2004, and try to develop an effective staff training programme in the hope of putting it in practice in cooperation with local governments.

Group 3 RA: Ms. Hitomi Tamura

Research Group3 is to conduct research on local public policy in Japan. It will in particular consider what the accreditation agency regarding local human resources development may look like and in what ways it can be put in practice. Based on the outcome of the research, a policy proposal will also be created.

We are scheduled to submit a proposal regarding the accreditation system for public policy graduate schools to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in the next year. Therefore, we have discussed, firstly, the contents of the proposal and decided to make a framework of the accreditation system and examine its validity, rather than to build concrete curriculum of public policy graduate schools. We have then formed two working groups – one is for setting agenda for the proposal, and another to conduct surveys of the existing cases. Each group will independently advance research towards drawing a proposal.

We also have invited Dr. David Werner, Chancellor Emeritus at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in the United States, to engage in joint research with LORC researchers, from October 1 to December 31 2004. He has many years experience in the designing of the accreditation system in the United States, and is sure to make a great contribution to our project.

Group 4 RA: Dr. Zhan Jin

Group 4's first research meeting of this year was held jointly with Kyoto University at Ryukoku University Fukakusa Campus on 5 June. Prof. Aili Mari Tripp, a researcher on gender issues in Africa, was invited to give a lecture on “The

Changing Face of Africa's Legislatures: Women and Quotas".

On 14 June another research meeting was held. Members of Group 4 based at Fukakusa Campus gathered and had a discussion on the management and research plans of the group. The detail was discussed in another meeting held in Kyoto Shoko Kaigisho (the Chamber of Commerce and Industry) on 18 July. In this meeting, an arrangement was made that each researcher takes charge of the research of a certain country.

From 21 to 28 August, Dr. Saito and Prof. Aoki visited Hasanuddin University in Makassar (Indonesia) and the governmental organization in Jakarta, where they exchanged

information with related people.

The 4th research meeting of Group 4 was held in Fukakusa Campus on 20 September. The theme of the meeting was "Social Movement, Decentralisation and Citizen's Participation in Southern India". Prof. Chihiro Saito from Nihon Fukushi University and Prof. Nobuyuki Asano from Seibo Jogaku Junior College were invited to give speeches. After the speeches, there was a discussion with the participants. In this year, a total of five research meetings have been planned. The last one will be held on 8 November, the first morning of the International Symposium in the Netherlands.

■■■ LORC information ■■■

Activities (those not covered by progress reports above) at LORC will be reported here.

PD/RA Meeting

To develop stronger links between the Groups, and strengthen teamwork and building capacity of the PD (Post Doctoral Research Fellow)/ RA team, we launched a new monthly meeting called "PD/RA Meeting" in April. This has already brought some positive effects to LORC projects, such as better communications and sharing works between RAs.

LORC International Symposium: *Citizen's Participation in Local Public Policy Making: European Experiences in Global Perspectives*

LORC International Symposium is planned to be held on the 8th and 9th of November 2004 at The Hague, The Netherlands. We have worked closely with the VNG International (International Co-operation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities) for the organisation of the Symposium, and we are now in the final stage. Dr. Linze Schaap (Faculty of Social Sciences, Erasmus University of Rotterdam) will be invited as the Keynote Speaker at the Symposium. There will be around 30 participants from countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe. The report for the Symposium will be uploaded on our website later this year.

Notice Board

This space is free to be used by LORC researchers and readers of this Newsletter for reporting general information. Contributions on related issues are also welcomed. Please contact Taka Matoba (Dr) (matoba@noc.fks.ryukoku.ac.jp) for detail.



▶▶▶ **LORC Research Members** ◀◀◀

The LORC Project consists of more than 50 research members from different fields and countries. This wide variety of expertise is significant advantage of this project. Sadly, it is also true that we do not have many opportunities to get to know each other. Here, you can get some information about your colleagues!! We will ask the members for small comments and introduce a couple of them in each issue. In this issue, we have comments from the four group leaders and some of the sub-leaders of LORC (a comment from Professor Tomino [the leader of Group 3] is as “The remark by the Director of LORC” above).

Group 1 Leader: Professor Katsutaka Shiraishi (Faculty of Law, Ryukoku University)

The last few years of investigation on the local regeneration in the U.S. and the U.K. informs us of a slight difference of the social role and function of the respective NPOs within the two countries. In the U.S., NPOs and NGOs are regarded as a quasi-business, although their activities are still dynamic and have a lot of social meanings. Their movement is active yet they do not seem to establish the new sector on their own. This situation would be different if it were a Gore Administration instead of Bush. On the other hand, in the U.K., there has been a swift trend of organizing LSP (Local Strategic Partnership) and Local Compact, and with the budget such as global grants for local regeneration, there is a social experimental reformation to stimulate the establishment of the third sector.



A comparison between the two countries which makes us recognize the possibility of NPOs and NGOs will provide useful information for LORC’s research on the participation and partnership in the local system development. Group 1 will focus on the subject above to further our study in the year 2004.

Group 2 Leader: Dr. Kimie Tsuchiyama (Faculty of Law, Ryukoku University)

The achievement of the last academic year was such that the direction of the research is clearer now, and it seems that the more the research proceeds, the better motivated and intellectually stimulated we find we are. Supported by the members and staff of the project, and above all the group members, our research is now in the second year. I am planning to go overseas in the second half of the year for my own research, yet I will do my best to make our research lively, and the enthusiasm poured into the project by the group members greatly encourages me in so doing.



Group 4 Leader: Dr. Fumihiko Saito (Faculty of Intercultural Communication)

Developing countries have undertaken various initiatives in participatory and deliberative policy making and its implementation, which generates useful lessons for LORC. The main mission of the 4th group is to analyze such lessons.



Group 1 Sub-Leader: Professor Tatsuro Niikawa

The subject of our group is to analyze the process of public policy formation in the local community, and to study the training program of human resource development for the policy analysis and proposal. I am going to promote the research of community policy program from the standpoint of the new governance of local communities.

Group 4 Sub-Leader: Professor Chihiro Saito

In this project, I will explore in India how decentralization, which has long been called for, can be realized, and what roles civil organizations can play in this process.

The editors' notes

- ☺ When I was a Ph.D. student, my supervisor told me that a doctoral degree is a passport to become a future researcher. Now that I have the degree and I have begun to reflect seriously upon my supervisor's words. My life as a researcher has just started. (N)
- I will do my best to provide you with any necessary support for your research. (K)
- ☺ I switched my drink from sugary coffee to black recently, hoping its bitterness will freshen up my motivation as well as my body! (H)
- Recently, my computer at home broke down. Everything contained in it vanished. I depend on the computer so much that I do not remember my friends' addresses & phone numbers, and could not do calculation, and it seems impossible for me to write even Chinese characters. The human beings of "civilized society" depend on computers instead of their brains. It is maybe impossible for us in "civilized society" to return to even "primitive society", when we lost our computers. (Z)
- ☺ After having spent half a year in a tip of 'wet desert', the remote peninsula of Achiltibuie in northwestern Scotland, where the beauty of nothingness exists, and then shutting myself in a room in Kyoto with a bottle of Scotch (or was it two or three?), my only friend to share the agony of writing a thesis for the latter half of the year, I have almost forgotten that there actually is another world outside. And it is tough to get back to working society, wrapping myself in an ironed shirt and trotting in high-heeled shoes. Hello, everybody, I'm your new secretary and translator. It's my pleasure to be working with you all. (W)
- May I take this opportunity to confess that I should have produced this Newsletter much earlier this year. Well, if I am allowed to make an excuse, I (and RAs) have been so busy working that we have not got time nor the power to tackle with this ENGLISH Newsletter!! Anyway, we will try to produce it more often from now on. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any information regarding LORC matters. *My able colleagues* (including myself?) will be willing to help you anytime!! (T)



“PD/RA Meeting Desk”!!



“Shikoukan”, the building where LORC office is

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