

4th International Symposium

International Symposium 2005

基礎学力——政策課題と教育改革

Core Academic Competences: Policy Issues and Educational Reform

Seminar Program

23-24 July, 2005. Tokyo
United Nations University

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Center for Research of Core Academic Competences
Graduate School of Education
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

Preamble

With the coming of the "knowledge society," understanding and encouraging various aspects of human ability is becoming all the more critical for creating and maintaining a dynamic and vibrant society.

Though ability in the traditional sense still constitutes the core of education in most countries, there is a growing awareness in many parts of the world that this is not enough to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Many countries are struggling to find new definitions of ability, and to understand how a broader range of "core competences" might be supported in education.

The mission of educators is not limited to the enhancement of academic quality in the narrow sense. Developing the ability to maintain meaningful relationships with others, critical learning skills, for example, are important concerns of educators. There is also the democratic mission of assuring a quality education for all, and for creating schools that further the democratic promise.

What are the core academic competences, the "abilities," that is necessary for children in the coming age? Why are schools facing difficulties, and what can teachers, schools, and policymakers do to help learning take place? What kinds of social support systems should be constructed and how?

These are some core questions that the Center for Research of Core Academic Competences, established in 2002, attempts to answer by furthering research, collaborating with scholars both within Japan and internationally, and by working closely with schools. The Center is supported by Japanese government funding, as one of the institutions designated as the "21st Century Center of Excellence (COE)." Its activities are carried out in three units: (1) Basic Research / Analysis of Academic Competences Unit, (2) Analysis of School Functions Unit, and (3) Evaluation of Alternative Educational Systems Unit. Center members and affiliated researchers jointly work together in these units. Academics in various disciplines, teachers, school administrators, and policymakers also participate in the activities through the advisory board system.

The Center also has a strong international component. Research projects link scholars in different countries and continents. Leading experts in the field are also invited to join as the international board, and the Center invites experts from the world as visiting research fellows for extended periods to work on projects with the Center. The Center also organizes international seminars and workshops to promote active dialogue on crucial educational issues.

This is the fourth international symposium of the Center, and since this year marks the end of the first stage of the projects at the Center, the Center has chosen to address its message to a wider public, and to suggest directions in which meaningful reform can take place in policy and practice. Each of the units will be presenting their projects, and international scholars will be invited to exchange ideas. How should we respond to the various pressures and challenges that education faces today? What can policymakers do? What can teachers do? With the participation of leading scholars from various nations, the symposium will provide an opportunity to understand the global situation of school reform, and to analyze the implications this has for policy.

First Day: Saturday, July 23

Reconsidering Core Academic Competences in the Japanese Context: Implications from Other Countries

9:30 - 10:00	Registration of Participants
10:00 - 10:10	Opening Remarks by the Dept. Head Manabu Sato (University of Tokyo)

【First Session: Policies and Practices in Comparative Perspective】 **Chair: Motohisa Kaneko (University of Tokyo)**

10:10 - 10:50	Strategies for High Level Education for All Reijo Laukkanen (National Board of Education, Finland)
10:50 - 11:30	Core Competences and Emerging Issues in Korean Secondary Education Chong Jae Lee (Seoul National University, Korea)
11:30 - 11:40	Break
11:40 - 12:00	Teaching for "Thinking" in Four Nations: Singapore, China, the United States, and Japan Ryoko Tsuneyoshi (University of Tokyo)
12:00 - 12:15	Comments Takehiko Kariya (University of Tokyo)
12:15 - 12:40	Discussion
12:40 - 14:00	Lunch

【Second Session: Dynamics in Schools】

Chair: Ryoko Tsuneyoshi (University of Tokyo)

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| 14:00 - 14:40 | Constructing Schools for Competence: Teaching, Assessing, and Organizing for Student Success
Linda Hammond (Stanford University, U.S.A.) |
| 14:40 - 15:00 | How Japanese Teachers Learn from Lesson Study: Collaborative Knowledge-Building and Collegiality
Kiyomi Akita (University of Tokyo) |
| 15:00 - 15:20 | Break |
| 15:20 - 15:40 | How Local Education Boards are Responding to the Academic Competence Crisis: Evaluation of the Policy Initiatives to Reduce Class-Size
Masahito Ogawa (University of Tokyo) |
| 15:40 - 16:00 | Comments
Manabu Sato (University of Tokyo) |
| 16:00 - 16:40 | Do the Numbers Speak for Themselves? The Complex Role of Data on School Performance in Driving School Improvement in England
John Gray (University of Cambridge, England) |
| 16:40 - 17:25 | Discussion |
| 17:25 - 17:30 | Ending Words by the Head of the Center
Motohisa Kaneko (University of Tokyo) |

【Reception for Guests】

Second Day: Sunday, July 24

Helping the Development of Competences: Policy Implications

9:30 - 10:00	Registration of Participants
10:00 - 10:05	Remarks by the Head of the Center Motohisa Kaneko (University of Tokyo)

【Third Session: Educational Reform in Japanese Context】 **Chair: Chong Jae Lee (Seoul National University, Korea)**

10:05 - 10:20	Educational Reforms in the Japanese Context - An Overview Motohisa Kaneko (University of Tokyo)
10:20 - 10:40	"Aporia" of Japanese Education Reforms for "Zest for Living" or "New Competence": Social Reproduction through 'Learning Capital' Gaps Takehiko Kariya (University of Tokyo)
10:40 - 10:55	Comments Reijo Laukkanen (National Board of Education, Finland)
10:55 - 11:05	Break
11:05 - 11:45	Development of <i>Componential Assessment for Mathematical Competences (COMPASS)</i> : Conceptual Basis, Results and Applications Shinichi Ichikawa (University of Tokyo) Mikiko Seo (University of Tokyo, The Center of Core Academic Competences) Kou Murayama (University of Tokyo, Graduate School) Yuri Uesaka (University of Tokyo, Graduate School)
11:45 - 12:00	Comments Tomokazu Haebara (University of Tokyo)
12:00 - 12:40	Discussion
12:40 - 14:00	Lunch

【Fourth Session: Implications for Policy】

Chair: Linda Hammond (Stanford University, U.S.A.)

14:00 - 14:20 How to Respond to the Creeping De-Professionalization
of Teachers

Manabu Sato (University of Tokyo)

14:20 - 14:40 Towards a New Mechanism to Foster Academic
Competences: Major Policy Alternatives

Motohisa Kaneko (University of Tokyo)

14:40 - 15:00 Break

15:00 - 15:45 Free Discussion

15:45 - 16:00 Ending Remarks by the Head of the Center

Motohisa Kaneko (University of Tokyo)

List of Participants

Chong Jae Lee

Professor, Seoul National University;
Former President of Korean Educational
Development Institute (KEDI)

John Gray

Professor of Education, University of Cambridge

Linda Hammond

Professor of Education, Stanford University

Reijo Laukkanen

Counselor, Finnish National Board of Education;
Docent in the University of Tampere

Motohisa Kaneko

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and Policy Studies, Graduate School of Education,
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Director of the Center for Research of Core
Academic Competences

Manabu Sato

Professor, Department of Teaching Curriculum and
Learning Environments, Graduate School of
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Dean of Graduate School of Education, The
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