

Co-Learning Program

Report on 2nd English-based career seminar (Feb. 28, 2019)

Staff from Kyotomorrow Academy, as well as Glocal Human Resource Development Center conducted the second seminar for International students. The talk was led by Ms. Hila Yamada from Glocal center, Mr. Hiroyuki Kashiwagi, the former president of Wacoal Career Service Corporation and the executive director of Wacoal Society-Managed Health Insurance, was invited to be the guest observer for the event. The second seminar began with discussions in briefly introducing SPIs and entry sheets to the students as primary documents for job-hunting.

Dealing with more specific aspects such as company expectations to applicants and the differences between western style job-hunting and that of Japan became the primary focus of the seminar. For instance, the importance of university titles and individual character reflected from the SPI input takes precedence to the actual performance within the educational institution resulted to mixed reactions, mainly wondering how companies select their applicants. This situation can be put to one's advantage as values each applicant possesses can significantly contribute to his or her chances of being hired, taking note of the usual Japanese language proficiency requirement. On the other hand, academic-related achievements, as they are not highly prioritized, could lead to cases of difficulty for those who have specialized, high level degrees.

Although at a slow pace, it was said that the Japanese job-hunting system is changing as a growing number of institutions are leaning towards the benefit of international applicants in terms of requirements. Some companies were said to have lenient requirements in terms of Japanese language skill, so it was a sign, as what Ms. Yushan Lin, an alumna of the university advised, to 'take action' as early as possible as these companies could serve as realistic game-changers.

The greatest takeaway from the seminar, in my opinion, was that self-motivation is the sole key of getting the job. Eagerness and a good CV is one aspect, but diligence and persistence towards career-changing opportunities will, and always take one further. With institutions like Kyotomorrow and Glocal center, finding jobs became much easier and more interactive as events are always present to help future applicants. However, the responsibility falls upon oneself to seek further his or her vision towards career-building, or extensive living in Japan.

The event closed with the promotion of events involving Kyotomorrow and Glocal center. These institutions became major contributors to the success of the seminar series.



Fig.1 Career seminar photo (from Pius Gibulobe)