

Opening Remarks

Futao Huang

Kim sensei, can you hear me?

Yangson Kim

I can hear you.

Futao Huang

Thank you. I think we should start the workshop. Greetings from Hiroshima, Japan and welcome you all to join us online. I'm Futao Huang, professor of the Research Institute for Higher Education in Hiroshima University, which organizes this workshop: the impacts of the pandemic on higher education. I will be chairing the first half of the workshop. As you know, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education worldwide are evident and significant. These impacts range from teaching, research, learning activities, and methods of instruction to the cross-border movement of students, academics, and researchers, and various forms of international collaborative activities.

The purpose of this online international workshop is to explore what general and specific impacts of the pandemic on higher education in Australia, China, Japan, the European continent countries, and the UK, what challenges they have faced and will face, and what strategies they have developed and will develop to deal with these impacts in a post-pandemic world. In the first half section of the workshop, we shall invite five distinguished speakers to talk on these topics. In the second half section of the panel discussion, we have invited Professor Akiyoshi Yonezawa, professor from Tohoku University to act as commentator, and we shall make more comprehensive and in-depth discussion with the five speakers on relevant topics.

Now, as suggested in the program, I'd like to invite Professor Shinichi Kobayashi, vice president of Hiroshima University, director and professor of my research institute to make the opening remarks. Let's welcome Professor Kobayashi. Thank you.

Shinich Kobayashi

Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon or good evening, everyone. This is Kobayashi speaking. Can you hear me? On behalf of research institute for higher education, RIHE, I'd like to welcome all the speakers and remote participants. It is unfortunate that we cannot hold face to face workshop due to COVID-19. But it is also acknowledged that international online meetings become popular and convenient. Let me share my slides.

I begin with introduction of our history. RIHE was established as an Inter-Faculty Research Center of Hiroshima University. It was the one and only center into the field of higher education study in Japan, so researchers came from all over Japan from the beginning.

RIHE has played a role not only as a center for the university, but also as a center for Japan, and the center that represents Japan to the world. This picture shows RIHE was placed in the old library building on the Hiroshima campus in mid-1990s.

Now, we moved to the new campus. RIHE has been open internationally through seminars, workshops, exchange program so on. This picture shows the second international seminar held in 1980, and RIHE will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 1st next year, 2022. RIHE will hold its anniversary events from January 2022 to April 2023. I don't know much about the topics that Presenters will cover, so I'd like to talk a little about what I think, regardless of what they are. Particularly, I'd like to point out two issues that I am facing as a dean of the graduate school and a vice president of the university.

The first is an issue of students' mental health. In Japan, it is said that the numbers of suicide among elementary school, junior high school students has increased by several hundreds, maybe 500, because face-to-face classes were eliminated under COVID-19. We don't have the exact statistics for university students at this moment, but it is estimated that the number of students' suicides in 2020 was the highest in recent years. Suicide is just a symbol. At least many students become mentally unstable, isolated, and have conflicts with their mentors, causing various problems.

Second one is university and cyberspace issue. Today's students are called the

“digital natives” generation. They don’t read newspapers. They don’t watch TV, while they live in cyberspace using iPhones and other mobile devices. In COVID-19, universities stopped face-to-face classes and moved to remote and on-demand classes. From the university’s viewpoint, it’s an “innovation.” On the other hand, from the students’ viewpoint, this simply means additional internet contents, and it is quite expensive. There is a lot of free educational contents around the world. There are many seminars with charge as well. At the same time, there are so many pseudo-scientific and questionable contents in the cyberspace. How can every university claim its own originality and significance from now on? This is a very important issue, I think.

Now, I should stop my speech. There are excellent speakers and a commentator to give speeches today. I believe today’s workshop will be exciting and insightful. Thank you.



広島大学
高等教育研究開発センター



Research Institute for Higher Education,
Hiroshima University

Anniversary
50th

Hiroshima Online International Workshop
COVID-19 and Higher Education
新型コロナウイルス感染症と高等教育

Opening remarks

2021.12.11
小林信一
Shinichi Kobayashi

Director & Professor of RIHE,
Vice President of Hiroshima
University





センター紹介 About the Center

RIHEは、広島大学の「学内共同教育研究施設」として設置されました。高等教育分野の研究拠点としては国内唯一の存在でしたので、当初から全国の研究者が集まりました。学内のセンターであると同時に日本のためのセンター、世界に対して日本を代表するセンターとしての役割も担ってきました。

The RIHE was established as an "Inter-Faculty Research Center" of Hiroshima University.

It was the one and only research center in the field of higher education study in Japan so that researchers came from all over Japan from the beginning.

The RIHE has played a role not only as a center within the university, but also as a center for Japan and a center that represents Japan to the world.

Kobayashi, S.

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広島市東千田キャンパス時代のRIHEは図書館の中に
RIHE was placed in the old Library building at Hiroshima Campus to mid 1990s.

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RIHE
広島大学高等教育研究開発センター
Research Institute for Higher Education



The Second Hiroshima International Seminar on Higher Education
HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE 1980'S — CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES
Hiroshima University January 29 to 31 1980

1980年開催の第2回国際セミナー
RIHE has been open internationally through seminars, workshops and exchange.

Kobayashi, S. 4



RIHE
50th
Anniversary

Anniversary
50th

Research Institute for Higher Education,
Hiroshima University

50周年

RIHEは2022年5月1日に創立50周年を迎えます。
2022年1月から2023年4月まで、50周年事業を実施します。

RIHE will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 1st, 2022.
RIHE will hold 50th anniversary events from January 2022 to April 2023.

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COVID-19 and Higher Education

- 報告者が扱うトピックについて私は詳しく知らないなので、それらとは関係なく、私が考えていることを少し話します。
- とくに、研究科長、副学長として直面している問題を2点指摘します。
- I don't know much about the topics that Presenters covers, so I'd like to talk a little about what I think, regardless of what they are.
- Particularly, I'd like to point out two issues that I am facing as a Dean of the Graduate School and a Vice President of the University.

1) Mental Health of Students

- 第一は、学生の精神衛生の問題です。
- 日本では、コロナ下で対面授業が無くなったことから、小中学校の児童生徒等の自殺者が数百人増えたと言われています。
- 大学生については正確な数字は分かりませんが、2020年の自殺者数は近年最高だったと推定されています。
- 自殺まではいなくても、精神的に不安定になり、孤立化、メンター等との諍いなど、さまざまな問題が起きています。
- The first is the issue of students' mental health.
- In Japan, it is said that the number of suicides among elementary and junior high school students has increased by several hundreds since face-to-face classes were eliminated under COVID-19.
- We don't have the exact statistics for university students, but it is estimated that the number of suicides in FY2020 was the highest in recent years.
- At least, they become mentally unstable, isolated, and have conflicts with their mentors, causing various problems.



2) University in Cyberspace

- 第二は、大学とサイバー空間の問題です。
- 今の学生たちはdigital nativesと呼ばれる世代で、新聞も読まなければ、TVも見ませんが、iPhoneやその他のモバイルを使って、サイバー空間の中で生活しています。
- 大学は、COVID-19の中で、対面授業を停止し、リモート授業、オンデマンドの授業に移行しました。
- 大学から見れば、ある意味ではイノベーションです。
- The second one is the “universities and cyberspace” issue.
- Today's students are called the “digital natives” generation. They don't read newspapers. They don't watch TV, while they live in cyberspace using iPhones and other mobile devices.
- In COVID-19, universities stopped face-to-face classes and moved to remote and on-demand classes.
- From the university's viewpoint, it's an “innovation.”

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2) University in Cyberspace

- 一方、学生たちから見れば、これはインターネット・コンテンツが増えたに過ぎません。しかも、高価です。
- ネットの世界には、世界中に流通する無料の教育コンテンツが多数あります。また、有料のセミナーなども多数あります。
- 同時に、ネット世界には、擬似科学やその他の怪しいコンテンツも多数あります。
- そのような中において、大学は、いかにして独自性、存在意義を主張したらいいのでしょうか。
- On the other hand, from the students' viewpoint, this simply means additional Internet contents. And it is quite expensive.
- There is a lot of free educational content around the world. There are many seminars with charge as well.
- At the same time, there are so many pseudo-scientific and questionable contents in the cyberspace.
- How can every university claim its own originality and significance from now on?

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