Symposium Report

Date and Time: January 11th, 2014 (Sat.) 1:00pm~5:00pm
Place: Sophia University, Yotsuya Campus, Central Library, 9th floor, Room 921
Title: Environmental Politics: Local, National, and International Perspectives

Title of each presentation, presenter's name & affiliation
1. Nuclear Energy After Fukushima: The Choices Made by States
   Akira Igata (Keio University, Graduate School of Law)

2. Coalition Building among Heterogeneous Organizations in the Biodiversity Policy Arena: Case Study on "Long-term" Coalition after CBD-COP10
   Kenjiro Fujita (Tokyo University, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology)

3. Intersection of the Local and Global: Meaning Construction Process in Iwaishima Island Anti-nuclear Movement
   Yousuke Tastuno (Sophia University, Graduate School of Global Studies)

4. Emotions, Memories, and Frame Resonance in the Outcome of Social Movements: Comparing Three Mile Island and Fukushima
   Risa Murase (Sophia University, Graduate School of Global Studies)

Title of keynote speech, speaker's name & affiliation
Guest Commentator: James M. Jasper (Professor, City University of New York)
Commentator: Akira Suzuki (Professor, Hosei University)
   David Slater (Associate Professor, Sophia University)
Moderator: Daishiro Nomiya (Professor, Sophia University)
Summary of the symposium (aim of the symposium, summary of each presentation, comments by discussants, and result of the symposium etc.)

The goal of this symposium was to illustrate the issues of global environmental politics. In recent years, the challenges of the environment have become one of the major issues for both countries and actors of civil society. Seen from examples such as global warming, climate change, air pollution, destruction of the ecosystem, and the risks of atomic energy, the issue of the environment has rapidly developed into a “global” issue making solutions impossible to attain with the power of a singular state or organization. By taking such global environmental issues into observations through different fields and levels our hopes were to come up with a new perspective to view such debates.

One of the issues that was focused on was the perspective of the state. Igata’s presentation focused on how and why the state continued to use nuclear power even after the nuclear power plant disaster of Fukushima had happened.

Our second and third presentation came from a more meso level of perspective, mainly focusing on organizations. Fujita examined the type of social movement organizations that participate in long-term coalition, through a case study of environmental NGOs in the Japanese biodiversity policy arena. Another presentation from the meso level was presented by Tatsuno who examined the relationship between global and local meanings by focusing on the case study of an anti-nuclear movement in Iwaishima.

Finally, we had a perspective from the micro level, focusing on individuals. Through field work in two different communities that had suffered a nuclear power plant accident, Three Mile Island and Fukushima, Murase presented the emotions and perspectives of local residents.

With the following discussions with the audience and commentators we were able to see and compare the differences and similarities of each perspective. Having the chance to interact and discuss with scholars from different fields was not only academically intriguing but also was of great help in stimulating further research.