

Professor Miyata from the Department of Media Engineering of Engineering Faculty teaches “Media and Global Society”, where students from the department collaborates with Hong Kong students on research activities.



Media Engineering Department students of Professor Miyata Yoshiro, collaborates with Hong Kong Polytechnic University School of Design students of Teaching Fellow Mr. Alex Ho on research activities.

According to Professor Miyata, the mass production, mass consumption and mass waste disposal of the modern society cause various global issues like environmental problems, poverty, wars and conflicts etc.. It is difficult for stake holders to understand these problems if they don't realize the causes. To remediate from these causes, we need to gradually reduce our reliance on the mass manufacturing and production system, while setting our goal to build a sustainable society.

. The process of how things that support our lives are made, like food, energy and tools are not visible to us. (Pre-packaged and microwave meals, air-conditioning)

. The motivation of making our own things because of curiosity or a will of challenging ourselves is difficult to come by. (We could buy all our necessities while throwing away broken objects without attempting to repair them)

. Its difficult to build a relationship with the people who make the crafts. (There is no connection between the consumers and the makers)

This collaborative research project started in 2015 and has been carried on for the third year. In May of 2016, two teachers and ten students from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University visited the Chukyo University Toyota Campus for one week. They joined the class from the Media Engineering Department, as well as observing the skills of local craftsmen and attending workshops where crafts are made from natural resources. From these, the students build up their curiosities and urges to challenge themselves. They learnt about the value of natural environment and resources through traditional craftsmanship workshops from Toyota City Asuke District and the Obara area.



(Photo)Obara craft washi paper making workshop (Obara Washi Museum)

Starting from 2017, Mr. Hussein Zanaty (Egypt), English lecturer of the Kitami City Board of Education also joined the activity. And in 2018, twenty six students from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University visited and did fieldworks with the Chukyo University students during weekend. During class time afterwards, they had group presentations on research topics about foods (local production, local consumption, handling of food waste, the differences in value of food between Hong Kong and Japanese culture etc.) and crafts (tools and the history of bamboo crafts, paper, knives, cloth etc.). With the support of 10 students from the Department of World English, they had an extensive discussion about sustainability and craft making.



(Comments from Professor Miyata)

Students are energized by these experience activities and we look forward to their contribution to building a sustainable society in the future.

As for the collaborative research, by cooperating between Hong Kong and Japan, utilizing the knowledge gained by fieldworks of Toyota city, linking up with partner researchers from regions in Japan like Hakodate, Nagoya, Wakayama etc., we are collecting the knowledge and creating a standard model. Also by collaborating with educator partners from 50 different countries through the World Museum Project to implement the activities and integrate the acquired knowledge, we plan to build a sustainable society framework that can be applied around the world.