

Session 7 Fostering and Developing the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

Date: Aug, 26, 2022 (10:40-12:00)

Number of Participants: 4 (online) 12 (on-site)

Presenters:

Joshua Flannery (Founder & CEO, Innovation Dojo Japan)

Terumasa Matsuyuki (Co-Creation Bureau, Osaka University)

Content:

Joshua shared the case of Innovation Dojo Japan in supporting foreign startups in business development and venture capital raising, startup ecosystem building, and entrepreneurship and innovation skill building, also shared the case of Kobe Startup Hub and Global Mentorship Program in fostering startups successfully.

Terumasa shared the cases of the Innovator's Club at Osaka University. It helps the students and faculties develop the idea of innovation through extra-curriculum activities, courses, and internships, and also provides support to entrepreneurship.

The presenters also introduce a national project to offer entrepreneurship education, the Keihanshin Startup Academia Coalition (KSAC) is a coalition of twenty-two universities in the Keihanshin region, industry, and local government to bring up startups and innovation.

Q & A

The participants asked many questions about entrepreneurship education in higher education. The credit is not provided for participating in entrepreneurship education at Osaka University, as the unique support from the university is for motivated students with interests. The strategies used by universities to promote entrepreneurship education varied, the research university may focus on science and technology, and others may focus on software. Even a university with strong engineering and technology background may face challenges in humanity, language, and project experience when going outside of Japan. The role of the university in entrepreneurship education is unique, as a pastor's role looking at students without prejudice, offering pure guidance and caring to the individual student.

The successful case of combining study abroad with entrepreneurship education is shared by presenters, the Startup Creation Program supports study abroad from Japan to Australia by matching the student, academics, entrepreneurs, and business people from two countries with each other, simulating the creation of new startup to solve the problem faced by both countries, the business idea fostered in Australia was launched in Japan.

How to describe "entrepreneurship education" in higher education is one issue that needs to address. Some way of describing it may cause unconscious bias from students or scare them away. The appropriate way can attract more motivated and talented people, even if the startup is not the choice in the end, the learning outcome from entrepreneurship education can still be used in other areas.

Reporter

Yan Deng (Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies, Waseda University)