II   Panel Discussion

"Creating the New Vision of Translational Studies for Inclusive Society"

The Outline of Panel Discussion
"Creating the New Vision of Translational Studies for Inclusive Society"

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Now it's time to start the 3rd section of the conference. We'll start the panel discussion. I'm going to serve as moderator. My name is Inaba from the College of Policy Science of Ritsumeikan University. The keynote speech was about human services. This 3rd section will be a kick-off meeting of "Translational Studies for Inclusive Society" project. The panelists are the researchers who are serving as the team leaders in the project. Before our discussion, I'll explain the framework of this panel, and also this project, followed by the presentations of five researchers. This is a kickoff meeting, so they're not going to talk about the research results, but they're going to talk about the prospect of their research. After their presentations, we will take some questions from the floor. I'd like to ask for your active participation. Finally we are going to have comments from Dr. Soydan.

Now, let me explain the outline of the panel discussion and the brief overview of the project. Translational Studies for Inclusive Society, that's the title of this project. The professors here are the leaders of various projects, and we all agreed on this title. My expertise lies in information technology, and we also have experts in social science, social welfare, and sociology. We had a discussion to find something that we have in common. We concluded that what we have in common is the motivation for establishing inclusive society. We thought that that's a great idea and a great keyword. That's how we started this project. When I did some research on the title, inclusive society, using the database, CiNii—it's a Japanese database—I did some searches and I couldn't get a lot of hits with the

keyword. I actually found only four papers that have "inclusive society" in their titles. Most of them were about disabled people. Then, I did a search of the papers that have "inclusive society" in their contents, not in the title, but most of them again were about disabled people. When I did a search on the words, "social inclusion" I got a hit of 189. That has a broader meaning, but again it was mainly about disabled people. Of course, we work for disabled people in our research, but we all agreed that we should give a broader definition to inclusive society.

Therefore, we came up with a new definition or new vision for the phrase inclusive society. We came up with three categories. The first one is proactive support. Dr. Tsuchida is going to talk about this later. This is to proactively prepare for the potential problems so that we can prevent them. As we get older, we may have problems with our cognition. In order to prevent those problems, we should act proactively. Other problems might include driving by elderly people. What kinds of accidents those elderly people may face, and how we can prevent such accidents. Those are the things that we study in this area. That's one category that we have in inclusive society.

The second category is escorted support. This is support for isolated people, excluded people, or people who have difficulty being involved in society because of social withdrawal or disability. What we want to do is to solve those problems with them, not just by giving them or teaching them an easiest answer. That's what we call escorted support.

The third category is so-called restorative support, like criminal offenders. Of course, criminal offenders are considered bad people in our society. However, on the other hand, those people may be forced to do something wrong because of their problems, like poverty. What we want to do with them is rehabilitate them so they can recover a normal social life with jobs. Also, when they were accused for wrong reasons, sometimes they were sentenced to death for what they didn't do. For those people, we have to create a society in which we can prevent such things as false charges. That's the third category that we want to deal with in

inclusive society.

I think some of those studies may go beyond the conservative sense of inclusive society, but this is our definition under this project. As the basis of those categories, we have to do primary studies to come up with methodology, so there is a group to deal with the methodology study, and the other groups deal with the primary study related to social inclusiveness and social support. So we have five groups under inclusive society and today we have invited the leaders of those projects.

The other main keyword of our project is the translation. It is about the relationship between academia and real world. It is also about the connection between practice and research. What we want is not researchers only reading books in their office. Instead we want to be connected with practitioners such as lawyers, or prisoners, or those people who are working at prisons. We want to cooperate with those people, those practitioners, so that we can really include those people, the excluded people in society, so that they can be legitimate and relevant members of society. This is the basic approach that we take in inclusive society. We deal with the problems of social withdrawal, false charges, and criminal offenses. We shouldn't consider those problems as someone else's problems or the government's problems, or other practitioners' problems. We have to consider those problems as our own problems. Therefore, we have to cooperate with each other. We have to share and exchange information so that we can create an ideal society in which nobody is excluded. We want to create a society in which anyone can have opportunity. So, that was about the basic idea of our project.

Now, I'd like to introduce the leaders of each project. All the presentations will be translated into English, so please have your receiver on when necessary.

Now, I'd like to introduce the first speaker, the methodology of translational studies, Dr. Matsuda.