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Attempts of Cross-cutting Education: The Case of Doshisha University's Global Resource Management (GRM) Program

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Abstract

The Program for Leading Graduate Schools is a program implemented by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, aimed at providing world-class graduate education. In 2012, Doshisha University's Global Resource Management Program was selected to take part in this program. The goal of the Global Resource Management (GRM) Program is to produce global leaders possessing a tenacious spirit and high ethical standards, who can assist emerging and developing countries, promote human security and inclusive growth, through global resource management, utilizing the knowledge from both the infrastructure science/resource and energy science and global studies. The program offers GRM Common Courses, GRM Sub-Major Courses, and other courses collaborated with Industries, Governments, and Educational Institutions around the World. It also offers support for building career paths and future courses of action.

1. Program for Leading Graduate Schools

Doshisha University's Global Resource Management (GRM) Program was selected as part of the 2012 Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Program for Leading Graduate Schools, under the category of interdisciplinary programs for a harmonious multicultural society. According to MEXT, the Program for Leading Graduate Schools promotes and supports profound reforms in graduate education. Graduate schools that develop and implement world-class comprehensive doctoral programs which go beyond the boundaries of an individual specialized field of study are supported by this Program. Participating graduate schools are expected to bring in outstanding domestic and international faculty and students, and develop creative leaders who possess a broad perspective and can work across industries, education, and governments on a global scale.

2. The GRM Program

2.1. What is the GRM Program?

The GRM program is an interdisciplinary

doctoral program in global resource management, where students taking Global Studies as a major will acquire Science and Engineering as a minor. The areas of studies in Engineering include infrastructure science and resource and energy science. On the other hand, students majoring in Science and Engineering will sub-major Global Studies. GRM fuses humanities, social sciences, and engineering and sciences. The Graduate School of Global Studies and the Graduate School of Science and Engineering are the core graduate schools forming the GRM program. However, students from other collaborating graduate schools can enroll in the program subject to meeting the program requirements.

2.2. Object of GRM Program

The GRM program is a comprehensive doctoral program providing advanced education in the interdisciplinary field of global resource management through the integration of global studies and infrastructure science/resource and energy science. These fields form the foundation of human society and security. The program aims at fostering global leaders who possess tenacious



spirit and high ethical standards, and are highly capable to partner and take action in the most troubled countries and developing countries. The ideal leaders GRM aspires to develop will be able to: work and learn alongside people facing life-threatening situations such as disasters, conflicts, and poverty, and formulate solutions that will alleviate them from their struggles; integrate natural sciences and social sciences to find solutions and alleviate the people from their struggles; promote religious and ethnic harmony based on fairness, equity and empowerment through the integration of engineering and sciences with social sciences and humanities, to prevent new struggles and promote recovery and development from existing ones; and form strategic partnerships with people and communities in developing countries who have overcome their struggles through the promotion of sustainable development and inclusive development.

2.3. The 3 main features of GRM program

#1 Fostering leaders who can assist emerging and developing countries

The ideal leaders fostered by the program will work alongside the local people and communities to gain a full appreciation and understanding of their culture and context and help them find solutions to their struggles. Through their experiences and practical knowledge, eventually, these leaders will contribute to the development of Japan and the world. They will not be modeled after pre-existing traditional leaders, and it is definitely not the intent of the program to develop monarchs.

#2 Targeting emerging and developing countries

The program targets countries and regions that are currently facing major struggles or are in the process of recovery and takeoff towards development. Conflicts and frictions between various ethnic and religious groups within these countries and regions typically arise from inequalities in access to infrastructures and/or in the distribution and ownership of resources. The

program assists in addressing these issues and strives to realize a harmonious co-existence of multiple cultures by providing solutions founded on sustainable development, human security and a fair and reliable distribution of resources.

In particular, the program is designed to focus on the most troubled countries and regions like Afghanistan and the Gaza Strip. Doshisha University has already been involved in peace-building in Afghanistan. In addition, the quality of research conducted by the University's Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions, is one of the highest in Japan. Based on the Center's research achievements, the program emphasizes on the co-existence with Islam as one of the major strategies towards realizing a harmonious multicultural society.

#3 Offering interdisciplinary educations

GRM program is formed by integrating two of the university's well-established educational systems. They are the natural sciences and engineering sciences, specifically infrastructure science/resource and energy science, Global Studies and the educational system of humanities and social sciences related to multicultural co-existence. In order to bring about positive breakthroughs to the modern world where economic growth is stifled, the program will strive to create a new kind of infrastructure that unifies the physical, social, and spiritual dimensions.

2.4 Importance of Cross-cutting Education

The aim of the GRM Program is to produce not highly specialized researchers but PhDs who can pull together knowledge from various disciplines to advocate and promote sustainable development and multicultural harmony.

In developing and emerging countries, the capacity of graduates from single discipline, like humanities or social sciences, to take part in nation-building, are relatively limited. The same is true for science and engineering graduates. Even a business corporation that has succeeded in expanding globally through its science and



engineering expertise cannot promote multicultural harmony without appropriate strategies and management practices and consideration for social responsibility. Similarly, an expert in humanities and social sciences will not be able to contribute effectively and holistically to society without any knowledge of infrastructure science/resource and energy science which form the core of the human society.

The GRM Program provides interdisciplinary education, integrating science and engineering and global studies, emphasizing the values of equity, inclusiveness, integrity and accountability in the management of global resources. Participants of the program are expected to gain strong support and incentives in promoting integrated multicultural societies around the world.

3. Cross-cutting Education in GRM

3.1. GRM Common Courses

We offer common courses related to global resource management such as:

- Organizing and Conducting an International Conference for GRM
- GRM Internship
- GRM On-site Practice
- GRM Fieldwork

3.2. GRM Sub-Major Courses

Also offered are interdisciplinary courses

outside of the graduate school to which the student belong.

- Lectures and discussions led by faculty and top leaders working in the diverse field of multicultural harmony
- Relevant case studies from the industry, government, education, international organizations, NGOs, and NPOs

3.3 Collaboration with Industries, Governments, and Educational Institutions around the World

The GRM program provides students with opportunities to develop their capacity toward the establishment of multicultural harmony. This will be pursued through practical experience gained in fieldwork. The program established collaboration agreements with foreign universities, corporations around the world, and international organizations to provide opportunities for internships and studying abroad. Instructors are also invited from outside the University.

3.5. Support for Building Career Paths and Future Courses of Action

The GRM program instructors establish collaboration with external institutions, and provide education and mentoring services to help them build their career path.

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