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Concern regarding employment issues for Ph.D. holder keeps increasing these days, because in Japan the main problem of doctoral study is the difficulty of finding a job after graduated while the opportunity for being Ph.D. is growing rapidly. Limitation of job field for Ph.D. holder, available mainly for job that is related to academia – lecturer or researcher, means the competition of seeking job for the Ph.D. holder is tougher than bachelor or master student. It happens because mostly employers are offering jobs only for bachelor or master degree, due to companies' requirement. It becomes the reason why higher level of studies not really favorable among the students. Program for leading graduate schools, as one of university program that offers chance for student to pursue master and doctorate degree in 5 years, is subjected to solve problem that has been rising among the business companies: specialty from Ph.D. holder makes them cannot adapt easily in the industry area which is very dynamic and need high adaptation skill in order to success. During the study period, the students will not only learn about their own specialty but also various fields of subjects such as social, economics, management and others. Within 5 years study, leading program aims to produce future leader in academia, business and government. The students are expected to have strong abilities in social, business and soft skills while at the same time aware with current environmental and social issues. However, employment issue is like vicious circle. Paradigm about Ph.D. in the society already developed and keeps spreading until now. Thus it is important for all correlated party to discuss together about what to do to overcome this issue.

Discussion with all of the stakeholder elements: student, company, school and government, is the main concept for Student Meeting forum that held in Kumamoto University at 21st – 22nd May 2014. Student as the main focus of this issue is expected to discuss several questions regarding the job expectation both from student and company point of view, the university role for helping the students meet the expectation, and about the future plan along with contribution as Ph.D. holder to the society. World café style used for the discussion, so all participants are given precise time to talk freely in group that consists of students plus one observer from company or government. In the end of discussion time, students in each group have to make report about the discussion result and give presentation based on it. After the discussion time, I got much knowledge that enlightens me for pursuing my degree. Having conversation with students that have same background and situation was enhancing my understanding about the carrier path that I can choose after graduation. Mainly of us want to have jobs that let the workers be creative and innovative in doing the work. The job also needs to be in our interest area, so we could choose what kind of work that satisfies our interest. While for the companies, we believe that they want workers that could follow the work rhyme, satisfy the company target and bring the company to achieve its objectives that

already set up before. Companies also want workers that could have good interaction and communication, and then pass the knowledge that they personally have to the others. The expectation lists is keep going on and we concluded that there is a gap exist between our expectations and the company requirement. So actions are needed to bridging the expectation and requirement from both parties. Three stakeholders, student, school and company can have direct actions while government can give indirect action related to policies or education system regarding the gap between students and companies.

In the following day, the Student Meeting was opened by greeting from the Mayor of Kumamoto then continued with panel discussion about employment issues for Ph.D. holders and graduate programs bonding the society. The panelists are Devang Thakor from United States and Trademark office, Kaname Kikuzato from Osaka University and Kumi Fujisawa from Sophia Bank. Both panelists delivered materials in the attractive way and inspired me a lot by listening their talks.

Dr. Devang Thakor gave brief explanation about the difference of Ph.D holder between Japan and foreign countries, in this case is United States. In the contrary, issue of employability in US does not exist. Many career options is available for Ph.D. holder both in the research and/or non-research field. A number of factors was described, such as emphasis on critical thinking and conceptual problem-solving, emphasis on independence, less hierarchy, etc. These factors are believed as main reason why US could successfully suppress employability issue within their countries. After that, Kaname Kikuzato delivered presentation about the reformation that is required for doctoral course education in Japan, and also the purpose of the reform action. Ph.D. per capita in Japan is supposed to be increased in order to get leader not only in the research area but also toward business and other section. Final presentation was delivered by Kumi Fujisawa. She discussed about how Ph.D. holders who received the education should contribute to the society. Panel discussion then closed with question and answer session with all of panelists and students. Today event then continued, keynote lecture was held from Keisuke Hiwatashi who are the major of Takeo. Then finally whole group discussion about yesterday result was presented by each group one by one.

Overall, Student Meeting in Kumamoto events was good experience for me to consider about my future plan and real condition that exists in the world. After knowing, I could evaluate myself and attempt to start what could I do as the Ph.D. holder candidate to improve my skills appropriately

