

## **【2012-2013】 Voices from Participants**



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■ Kaye Quiban(Ms.)

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Program on Human Security,  
University of Tokyo

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For anyone looking into starting a career or acquiring new knowledge in international development, the IDPTP gives a well-rounded perspective of the current and most relevant issues to the field by featuring expert insights from the business, ODA and law sectors as well as intensive media and negotiations trainings. Moreover, this year, we had the great pleasure of sitting in on the lecture series conducted by development expert John Page who imparted insider knowledge on the business of aid and international organizations such as the World Bank. I can fairly say that participating in the IDPTP has given me a rare opportunity to complement my academic studies in human development through a better understanding of the workings of game-changing organizations involved in development and humanitarian affairs as well as simulating critical political situations that confront government bureaucrats, non-government institutions and other major stakeholders. Through the media and negotiations training, I realized how effectively using the media can positively influence international society actors' decisions which can have a huge impact on the daily lives of people. Through the lectures of distinguished figures in Japan, I learned more about the Japanese model of development assistance and the role of Japanese public and private sectors in shaping the development landscape domestically. The Saturdays I spent at GRIPS were time spent well in the pursuit of intellectual and professional growth, and I look forward to meeting my IDPTP classmates in the near future in the global stage, as movers and changers in the international development field.

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■ Anparasan Mahalingam(Mr.)

Sustainability Science, United Nations University

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One of the greatest and unexpected joys during my stay in Tokyo for my graduate work at the United Nations University Headquarters was attending IDPTP. To say the least it was exceptionally wonderful. IDPTP's structure, success and coherent curriculum convinces me more about the ability of education in transforming the societies which I have seen by myself and by many other students who have participated. Dr. John Page's academic views molded by World Bank's public service to Dr. Junichi Ujii's industrial views crafted with Chicago-style academic serenity - you name it IDPTP never ceased to amaze me. GRIPS with its excellence in producing the world class leaders in the region and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan with its natural instinct to get the best out of Japan developed this IDPTP well and very successfully. As someone said during the classes 'if the answer had been wrong, while you try for the better you can also pursue to asking a better question'. With my experience at IDPTP I look forward to ask better questions in the long walk of development thanks to IDPTP. Congratulations Team IDPTP!!

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■ Francis Mwesigye(Mr.)

Policy Analysis program, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

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We tend to underrate the role of policy makers until we, ourselves, are involved in policy making. This is what I exactly thought after IDPTP, a program that sharpened my understanding of how the policy world operates.

Completely different from class work, IDPTP puts participants in the shoes of the world policy makers advising organizations such as NGOs, World Bank and countries. It then equips you with skills suitable for the task. The skills range from negotiations on behalf of your organization, policy advice taking into account of various stakeholders, and information dissemination to the public. For the first time I came to appreciate the power of information packaging, that if not carefully crafted, the message can be misinterpreted and result in serious repercussions. Thanks to Media training and role play negotiations that I feel a great improvement in my communication skills.

The lecture series by the most experienced policy practitioners which were well

blended with policy exercises were intellectually enriching and mind stimulating. I felt, a hitherto hypothetical, development policy get real as we interacted with our IDPTP lecture facilitator on policy exercises. Thanks to IDPTP program.

The international community of the participants with diverse backgrounds in terms of work, education and expertise made the environment conducive. The constructive discussions I have had with many of my colleagues will surely have a lasting impact on my career.

Lastly, the kind and hardworking team of GRIPS program coordinators who assisted us throughout the training taught me a great lesson of serving with diligence and passion. I will always cherish them.

I take it a unique privilege to have participated in this program and I thank all participants, coordinators and facilitators for making it such a big success.

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■ Ryoko Susukida(Ms.)

Policy Analysis Program, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

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The participation in IDPTP was a great opportunity for me to realize the importance of communication skills. Good communication skills are fundamental skills for me as a prospective researcher, who is expected to translate the research outputs into an understandable manner to the policy makers so that they can apply the research implications to the real policies. IDPTP is a well-designed program that offers unmatched opportunities to develop professional communication skills through the media workshops and the role-play simulation game, combined with a series of the stimulating dialogue with the front-line professionals in the field of international corporations.

Especially in the media workshops I keenly felt the difficulty of getting across my intended messages in a convincing manner without causing confusion through media. Media quickly disseminates one's words whether for intended or unintended. The experience of mock press conference and debate session has led me put further efforts to present my research in a plain and understandable manner.

I believe that IDPTP is a useful program to develop communication skills not only for me as a to-be researcher but also for whoever intends to play an international role in various fields of international cooperation. I am truly grateful for this great opportunity to improve my communication skills through its well-designed training program.