

International Issues I Abstract

- Date: August 28, 2015
- Place: Akita International University
- Objective: Observe the lectures and panel discussion and plan own themes
- Contents: Fill out students' assignment sheets. Join the panel discussion voluntarily
- Coordinator: Dr. Takeshi Akiba, Akita International University
- Panelists: Mr. Akihiro Oyama, JETRO Akita
Dr. Kentaro Nagahama, Akita Prefectural University
Mr. Hidekazu Matsubuchi, The Akita Economic Research Institute

1. Lecture

(1) What is "Research"?

- a. From the question to the goal
 - i. What you want to know.
- b. Clarify the "Approach"
 - ii. How to get the goal
 - Books or documents
 - Interview to the specialists
 - Participate or Experience
 - Experiments
 - iii. Hypothesize



(1) How to start your research? What is the point of it?

① Group 1:

1. "Rising Rice- Save the starving countries with rice farmers in Akita"

From students:

2. Where are the target countries?
3. What is the exact meaning of "SAVE"? Which fields? and how?

Mr. Matsubuchi answered:

1. Various rice farmers exist in Akita, it is not easy to say who the rice farmers are in Akita.

- ② To save starvation in Africa to food recycles.

From students:

1. How to collect food.
2. Food waste control or prevention



Prof. Nagahama answered:

1. Why does food waste exist? What are the reasons?

- ③ How to raise the food sufficiency ratio in Japan- especially oils and fats or wheat.

From students:

1. What is the best way to raise the Japanese food sufficiency ratio?
2. What are the advantages of its methods?

Mr. Matsubushi answered:

1. Think about food security.
2. Which process of food products is the best way to reduce the food waste? Pick one step of food processing.

Mr. Oyama answered:

1. Ask the food producer?

Prof. Nagahama answered:

1. Think about Japanese eating habits.



(2) Group 2:

- ① If I establish the NPO Corporation, I can save the starving countries by using rice.

From Students:

1. What is "SAVE" mean?

2. Which countries are starving nations?
3. Why NPO corporation?

② What should we do to raise the food sufficiency ratio in Japan?

From students:

1. Which crops?
2. Certify what crops are grown in Akita
3. Think about food security

Mr. Akiba answered:

1. Is 100% food sufficiency in Japan the perfect model?

Students:

1. No. It is impossible to keep eating habits.
2. Loose the balance of export and import
3. Become an unbalance diet

Prof. Nagahama answered:

1. What is the definition of food self-sufficiency rate?

③ How to use the technologies of rice farming or irrigation effectively to save the starving countries.

From students:

1. To compare the climate and environment of crops in Akita and the starving countries.
2. Why are these crops raised in Akita? Research the climate and environment of Akita.
3. Are there any advantages for Akita?

Dr. Akiba answered:

1. Ask JICA people.

Mr. Oyama answered:

1. Develop the economies in both Akita and the starving countries.

Mr. Matsubuchi answered:

1. The high amounts of rice are welcomed in starving countries.

Prof. Nagahama answered:

1. Does everybody want to eat rice bland, Akita- Komachi?
2. Get rid of your prejudices that agricultural technology in Akita is superior.

(3) Panel Discussion: Panelists and students

① Mr. Oyama:

1. Food waste problems relate with other global issues.
2. Water shortage in Australia is a severe problem.
3. It is very interesting in the relation of food shortage and the health problems.



② Mr. Matsubuchi

1. Balance of food security and self sufficiency ratio.
2. Is it true that food crisis and famine happens in the future or not?
3. Does Akita only have the rice bland, Akita-Komachi? It might be a dead end.
4. Japanese mainly eat rice, but the number of bread eaters is increasing.
5. There are some examples to practice food recycling and reusing within Akita Pref.

③ Prof. Nagahama

1. Food security such as mass production or genetic modification.
2. Sustainability of food production, such as machinery, natural resources, or desertification.
3. There are both strong points and weak points in agriculture in Akita or world. Japanese or Akita is not always advanced in the world.



From students:

Group 1:

1. Do people buy expensive water in Australia?
2. Why do Chinese or Indian investors invest in Africa? Not in Asia?
3. How many people eat rice mainly in the world? Do people accept rice as part of their diet?
4. How about establishing the Akita food day.

Group 2:

1. Which is the best way to save hungry countries: by supporting their agricultural system in their country or by providing food directly?
2. How much food wastes is in the food restaurant industry?

Comments:

Dr. Akiba took over well as the facilitator of this panel discussion. He tried to bring out the students' opinions or ideas. They realized the importance of the theme subjects.

Feedbacks

Class A boy: This panel discussion was a good guide for the study of world issues.

Class D boy: It is important to get rid of my prejudices that agricultural technology of Akita or Japan is superior. We should not have stereotyped ideas.



Class D girl: To do my research, I need to know the process of research steps.

Class E girl: I believed that the research should conclude the good results, but it is not. Bad results are also acceptable. If my hypothesis is wrong after researching, I should have a confidence to keep studying for my theme.

Class G girl: I learned that research should clarify the goal and approach. I chose my approach from the book and internet, but interviews, questioners, or experiments are also strategies for research. I got some good ideas for the SGH project after this panel discussion.