

Forward

On Saturday January 25th, 2014, the Institute of Human Sciences(IHS) held the “Translational studies for inclusive society” (“TransIS”) Project Kick-Off-Conference, which was also the 2014 annual conference of the Institute. The TransIS project is being conducted from 2013 to 2015 to construct a basis for the study of practical applied support (translational support studies) for an inclusive society. It is supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology with its program for the Strategic Research Foundation at Private Universities. This report, recording the presentations at the conference, aims to make the ideas and the ambitions there available to the public.

The conference had three purposes. First, it was held to mark the TransIS. It is an institute-wide project of the IHS, which has emphasized cross-disciplinary research on topics related to human beings and their environment.

The second purpose was to further develop our research activities by sharing within the institute, and among participating researchers in particular, the future direction of our strategic research and by facilitating an exchange of ideas. With this kind of development in mind, we invited Professor Haluk Soydan, an internationally renowned scholar at the School of Social Work, University of Southern California, to give a keynote address on evidence based social work practice.

The third purpose of the conference was to share the results of new research in the field of human sciences being conducted by the Institute of Human Sciences and link them to the development of research in the future. In addition to participants in the institute-wide project mentioned above, recipients of the Exploratory Research Program, which was newly implemented in 2013, also gave their preliminary findings at the poster session. It is hoped that the new ideas and the challenging initiatives shown there will develop further going forward.

In light of the above the conference was conducted with a three-part structure. In the first part, the poster session, fourteen papers were given by researchers

taking part in the TransIS project and researchers awarded grants of the 2013 Exploratory Research Program, and lively discussions were held.

In the second part, Professor Haluk Soydan delivered a keynote address entitled “Evidence-based Practice in Human Services”. The content presented by Professor Haluk Soydan, who has spent many years studying the issue of evidence in the field of human services, was of great significance to our TransIS project, which concerns translational research, linking scientific research to practical results, and its methodology.

In the third part, a panel discussion, “Creating the New Vision of Translational Studies for Inclusive Society”, was held with the project leader and team leaders. The content of these second and third parts is included in this report. While this content is for the most part taken directly from the conference, a few minor additions and corrections have been made. Regarding other points, please see the notes on the individual texts.

We hope the discussions presented here will be of use to everyone with an interest in translational studies on human support and inclusive societies.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to everyone who participated in the conference. I would particularly acknowledge Professor Haluk Soydan, coming all the way from California, for his stimulating keynote address. I would like to appreciate the effort of Professor Mitsuyuki Inaba, the leader of the TransIS project, to successfully moderate the panel discussion. I would also like to thank Shinobu Namba, Shiro Katayama, and Junko Ogino from the Institute of Human Sciences Administrative Office for their hard work in running the conference and editing this report.

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