

Faculty of Economics Seminar Committee

Professor Interview

Tetsuya Komagata, Professor: Economic Policy (Economic System Theory)

(Interviewer: 迫本・池田)

"China is a country full of surprises"

Q.What is the research that you specialize in?

I am researching the Chinese economy. In particular, I am interested in how changes in economic policies and institutions affect the actual economy, corporate behavior, and the development of industrial technology. From the perspective of Japan, the Japanese economy is heavily reliant on China, and it has become a partner with whom we have no choice but to get along. Under such circumstances, we must have a clear grasp of what is happening to China and observe carefully. In that case, I think it is necessary to analyze what kind of policies China has taken in the past, what kind of changes in the system has occurred, and how the economy has grown. For this reason, I am conducting research on systems, policies, and the real economy in China. Basically, we are taking an approach from the real economy, and we are actually going to China and constructing logic based on related materials.

Regarding the opportunity to study the Chinese economy, I lived in Indonesia when I was a child and there were many people of Chinese descent living there. There was a time when I was mistaken for a Chinese person and people threw stones at me. I was confused as to why they would throw stones at Chinese people. Furthermore, when I entered Taiwan from Hong Kong on my return from a trip, my books were confiscated because I was suspected of involvement with mainland China. When I came back to Japan, the Chinese press began to circulate frequently, so I started to think about studying China at University, so I joined a seminar on the Chinese economy.

"The Importance of Character Development through Learning"

Q.Please tell us about your educational philosophy.

Professor Sadasuke Amano of Dokkyo University advocates the formation of human beings through learning, and Dokkyo University operates based on that philosophy. I find that philosophy wonderful, and while club activities and athletic associations are important in college, university is a place to study, so I think it is desirable to train oneself through

academics. I want students to focus their lives on character development through academics. Communication and human relationships are becoming very important now, and extracurricular activities are certainly important, but I would like universities to develop the ability to think, express, and respond to changes in the formation of human beings through academics. Also, I want you to concentrate on one thing as much as possible and do your best in the place you are given. It's okay to try different things, but I think you can achieve greatness only when pursuing and focusing on one thing. I think that people who can't work hard in won't be able to do it anywhere. I think that if you try your best in the place where you have been given now, you will be able to see new perspectives.

"I was a normal student when I was a student."

Q. Please tell us about your student days.

When I was an undergraduate, I was thinking about getting a job quite normally. I didn't go there often, but I joined a tennis club and also a student group related to China. In particular, I worked hard when I was a part-time cram school teacher. I didn't study much during the Hiyoshi period, but I started to think about going to Mita to study. So, when I entered a seminar on the Chinese economy and studied, I wanted to study more, and then I went on to graduate school.

"I want you to do your best in the place you are given."

Q What do you look for in a second-year student who wants to apply to the Komagata Seminar?

Well, basically, this is a person who thinks about the activities of the seminar first and devotes himself to this. I want people to work hard to the limit, to think that it was hard to work hard, but in the end, it was fun. In order to do that, we are looking for people who can spend a lot of time at the seminars. Simply said there are a lot of things to do both individually and as a group. As long as you have the willpower to put prioritize this not much other skills are demanded.

"Choose a seminar based on what you want to do!!"

Finally, please give a message to the 2nd year students

Anyway, please be aware that there are not many places where you can form a person through academics. Keio University's Faculty of Economics is a valuable place where you can train yourself through academics, so I would like you to challenge yourself to a seminar with a standard of what you want to do.