



# Research Office Newsletter

Message from the Director of the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies

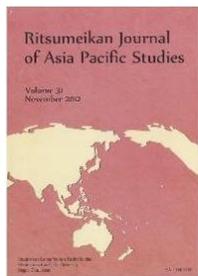


Dear all,

By way of introduction, my name is Tatsufumi Yamagata. I have been the director of the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies since April 2019. As a faculty member of the College of Asia Pacific Studies (APS), I currently teach the courses "Introduction to Development Studies" and "Development Economics". Having lived in Bangladesh for a year in 2000, I am particularly interested in examining issues related to Bangladesh's economy, such as the role of Bangladesh's apparel industry in reducing poverty. I also conduct research on international cooperation, disability and development, as well as health and development.



For those of you who don't know, the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies is also known as RCAPS. Professor Michael Cortez of the College of International Management (APM) is the Deputy Director. The RCAPS Secretariat is located in the APU Research Office. The main role of RCAPS is to provide platforms through which the research outcomes of APU faculty members may be publicized. One of the ways this is done is through the annual Asia Pacific Conference (AP Conference). This conference encourages discussions centered on worldwide issues and phenomena while maintaining a focus on the Asia Pacific region. Last year's AP conference, entitled "Governance in the Asia Pacific: Politics, Economics, Business and Environment", was held on November 30 (Saturday) and December 1 (Sunday) 2019. There were approximately 350 attendees, including the APU faculty members, students and alumni that presented. Researchers and students from the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Taiwan, etc. visited Japan specifically for this conference. For those of you who are keen to participate in the upcoming AP Conference, the tentative conference title is "Asia Pacific and Beyond: A Pursuit for Inclusion and Innovation" and is scheduled to be held on November 14-15 (Sat-Sun), 2020. We look forward to seeing all of you there!



Ritsumeikan Journal of Asia Pacific Studies (RCAPS Journal)

Another means through which RCAPS publicizes the research outcomes of APU faculty members is the publication of academic journals. APU currently publishes two journals via RCAPS: The *Ritsumeikan Journal of Asia Pacific Studies* and the *APU Journal of Language Research*. The former is also known as the RCAPS Journal, for which I am Chief Editor and Professor Cortez is Managing Editor. The latter is edited by an editorial board established within APU's Center for Language Education (CLE). With the shared aim of improving the quality of research within APU and Ritsumeikan University, both journals mainly feature the academic work of faculty members in the said universities. However, papers previously presented at past AP Conferences may also be accepted for publication in the RCAPS Journal even if the presenters are affiliated with other universities. Going forward, both journals will be available online via the electronic journal platform J-Stage, which is operated by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

APU Journal of Language Research (APLJ)



Last but not least, RCAPS also organizes research-related seminars; namely the Current Research Seminar and Onigiri Seminar. The former is primarily targeted at APU faculty members while the latter provides opportunities for APU faculty members to invite guest speakers from other universities and research institutions to present their research at APU. These guest speakers are entitled to receive honoraria and will be reimbursed for their travel expenses. Light snacks and drinks will also be provided at the Onigiri Seminar. Should you be interested in the above, please contact the RCAPS staff at rcaps@apu.ac.jp.

Should future opportunities arise, I hope to share more information about RCAPS with you. As the director of RCAPS, I strongly urge all APU faculty members to make use of the aforementioned platforms to showcase your research outcomes. We look forward to hearing from all of you!

Yours truly,  
Tatsufumi Yamagata  
Director of the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies



Current Research Seminar conducted by Professor Marian Beise-Zee in January 2019

## The 17th Asia Pacific Conference



Professor Renato Cruz De Castro from De La Salle University delivered the keynote speech for the 17th AP Conference

The 17<sup>th</sup> AP Conference began with the Keynote Speech by Professor Renato Cruz De Castro of International Studies Department, De La Salle University. This year's theme was "Governance in the Asia Pacific: Politics, Economics, Business and Environment." The presenters were from 60 institutions worldwide and 39 APU faculty members presented among the 44\* panels.

(\*Including two panels by the Center for Inclusive Leadership (CIL), which has been established upon receiving funding from the Private University Research Branding Program under MEXT.)



GSA student, Astha Chadha, received the Best Paper Award for this year's conference.

This year, graduate students were offered an opportunity to be considered for a Best Paper Award. The awardee was Ms. Astha Chadha of the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies (GSA) program, who is under the guidance of Professor Hidetaka Yoshimatsu. Her paper entitled "India's foreign policy towards Japan: Strategic partnership amid regional transformations" will be featured in the upcoming volume of the RCAPS Journal, which is to be published in March 2020.

As mentioned overleaf, the 18<sup>th</sup> AP Conference will be held on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15, 2020. The tentative theme is: "Asia Pacific and Beyond: A Pursuit for Inclusion and Innovation." The upcoming schedule is as follows:

### <Schedule>

- March 25, 2020 Call for Presenters at the Faculty Meeting (deadline: May 31)
- June 2020 Screening
- Mid-July, 2020 Notification of Acceptance

## RCAPS Seminars

Four research seminars were held by the Ritsumeikan Center for Asia Pacific Studies (RCAPS) throughout the AY2019 Fall Semester. Faculty members, staff and students participated in the seminars.

**Seminar Title:** Wildlife Tourism in the Asia-Pacific  
**Seminar Chair:** Associate Professor Thomas E. Jones  
**Speaker:** Dr. Ronda Green (Chair, Wildlife Tourism Australia)

**Seminar Title:** Static and Dynamic Duality and Dynamic Factor Demand Model in Korea Industry  
**Seminar Chair:** Professor Kim Sangho  
**Speaker:** Dr. Kim Hyunho (Associate Professor, Chonnam National University)

**Seminar Title:** Integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation: filling the financial gap toward a resilient society  
**Seminar Chair:** Assistant Professor Oscar A. Gomez  
**Speaker:** Dr. Mikio Ishiwatari (Senior Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency)

**Seminar Title:** Reconstruction of the alliance between the US and Japan during economic growth in post-conflict  
**Seminar Chair:** Professor Seiichi Fujii  
**Speaker:** Dr. Nasrine Azimi (Senior Advisor, United Nations Institute for Training and Research)



Dr. Nasrine Azimi



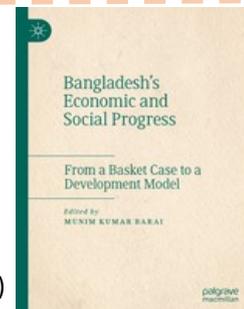
Dr. Mikio Ishiwatari

## Publications

Professor Munim Kumar Barai

**"Bangladesh's Economic and Social Progress: From a Basket Case to a Development Model"**

(Published by Palgrave Macmillan)



Faculty members who wish to publicize their publications in the future should contact the APU Research Office Publicity Team at [ropa@apu.ac.jp](mailto:ropa@apu.ac.jp).

For more details on each of the above RCAPS seminars, please check out the following QR code:



To get more updates on research at APU, be sure to check out the Research Office Facebook Page!