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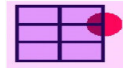
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The British Association for  
Teaching Japanese as a foreign language

## Foreign Graduate Employment in Japanese Companies – Implications for Japanese Studies Teaching & Research

6-7 November 2017  
SOAS University of London

Organized by:

Harald Conrad (School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield)  
Hendrik Meyer-Ohle (Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore)  
Sato Haruko (Osaka School of International Policy, Osaka University)  
Helen Macnaughtan (Japan Research Centre, SOAS University of London)

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The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation  
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Japanese companies are important employers of university graduates with knowledge on Japan and Japanese language skills. Yet, much of this employment has happened in overseas subsidiaries and often graduates have seen limited career opportunities. Recently, Japanese companies have begun to hire graduates for employment in Japan itself and have also reemphasized the need to localize their overseas subsidiaries. These trends coincide with universities having become more interested in the employability of their graduates. This conference aims to assess these developments and explore how Japanese studies and language teaching as well as research should respond. The conference brings together international representatives of Japanese studies and language departments, Japanese company executives, employment agents, as well as Japanese studies students and graduates to address the following questions:

- How has the employment of foreign employees in Japanese companies changed since the 2000s?
- What kind of skills are Japanese companies looking for when employing foreign graduates?
- What have been their experiences with foreign graduates, what lessons have been learned, and what changes to company practices have been made?
- What are Japanese Studies departments currently doing to prepare their graduates for employment in Japanese companies and how can or should the new trend be accommodated?
- How can language and studies curricula be improved to facilitate the successful employment of graduates?
- What kind of extra-curricular activities, such as work placements or career advice sessions, are currently being offered and how can they be improved?
- How should foreign graduate employment in Japan be researched in the future to develop a more nuanced understanding of changes over time?

## Day 1 (6<sup>th</sup> November 2017): Khalili Lecture Theatre

### Opening & Welcome

13:00-13:15 Harald CONRAD, School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield  
Helen MACNAUGHTAN, Japan Research Centre, SOAS University of London  
TAKATORI Mana, Director-General, Japan Foundation London

### Panel 1: **The Employment of Foreign Graduate Employees in Japanese Companies (Academic Perspectives)**

13:15-14:45 Introduction and Chair: SATOH Haruko, Osaka School of International Policy, Osaka University

Diversity and Inclusion in the Japanese Firm – Lessons from the Case of Foreign Fresh University Graduates Employed in Headquarters (Harald CONRAD, University of Sheffield & Hendrik MEYER-OHLE, National University of Singapore)

Motivations and Ambitions of Young Foreign Oversees Students Seeking Employment in Japan (KOHARA Miki, Osaka University)

Panel Discussion

14:45-15:15 Coffee Break and Networking

### Panel 2: **The Employment of Foreign Graduate Employees in Japanese Companies (Practitioner Perspectives)**

15:15-16:45 Short presentations/statements: representatives of companies, employment agents and former graduates

Chair: Sarah PARSONS, Senior Teaching Fellow at SOAS, MD of East West Interface

Ian ROBINSON, EMEA Corporate HR Manager, Toshiba of Europe Ltd.

Traian IVANOV, Director, Japanese Human Capital Team, Deloitte LLP

Jayson O'REILLY, Advertising & Marketing Executive, Nikkei Europe Ltd.

MASUZAKI Chikako, Career Consultant, TOP CAREER, Fourth Valley Concierge Corporation

HASHIMOTO Junko, Senior Manager, Access Appointments Consultancy Ltd.

Harry MARTIN, Senior Consultant, Centre People Appointments

HIROTSUNA Shoko, Director, Business Paradigm Ltd.

Amy DAFNIS, PA/Research Assistant, Japan Association of Marine Safety, London Office

16:45-18:00 Q&A and Panel Discussion

18:00-19:00 Drink Reception

## Day 2 (7<sup>th</sup> November 2017)

### SOAS Alumni Lecture Theatre

#### Opening & Welcome

#### Panel 3: Taking Stock and Going Forward: Japanese Studies and Language Teaching Compared

09:30-10:45 Part I: Teaching for Employment - Examples and Visions of Japanese Studies and Language Teaching

Chair: OEDA Yuka, University of Leeds

Izumi WALKER, National University of Singapore  
Hendrik MEYER-OHLE, National University of Singapore

Helen MACNAUGHTAN, SOAS, University of London  
Alan CUMMINGS, SOAS, University of London

MORIMOTO Kazuki, University of Leeds  
Irena HAYTER, University of Leeds

10:45-11:15 Coffee Break and Networking

11:15-12:30 Part II: Teaching for Employment - Examples and Visions of Japanese Studies and Language Teaching

Chair: SATOH Haruko, University of Osaka

Tamara KAMERER, University of Vienna  
Bernhard SEIDL, University of Vienna

Christopher HOOD, Cardiff University  
KUDARA Masakazu, Cardiff University

Marcella M. MARIOTTI, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

HAGIWARA Junko, University of Oxford

### Brunei Gallery Suite

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

### Room B202

13:30-14:45 Part III: Teaching for Employment - Examples and Visions of Japanese Studies and Language Teaching

Chair: Christopher HOOD, Cardiff University

Harald CONRAD, University of Sheffield  
NAGAI Miyuki, University of Sheffield

YAMAGUCHI Nozomi, University of Manchester  
HOMEI Aya, University of Manchester

Andreas NIEHAUS, University of Ghent  
Mieke HORCKMANS, University of Ghent

14:45-15:00 Coffee Break and Networking

15:00-16:30 Final Roundtable