The 7ᵗʰ Career Development Workshop for Young Students and Professionals

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1. Introduction

On June 23, 2012, the 7th Development Workshop for Young Students and Professionals has held on the campus of Tokyo Denki University. This workshop was planned by IEEE Tokyo GOLD (Graduate Of Last Decade) Affinity Group and IEEE Japan Council WIE (Woman in Engineering) Affinity Group and held under the auspices of Student Branches of Keio University, Meiji University, Tokyo University of Science, Tokyo Denki University and Tokyo Institute of Technology.

2. Abstract

2.1. Object

This workshop was for the Undergraduate students, and Graduate students in Master course and Doctor course expected to play a big role in society. The object is to have participants to change their self-consciousness and think about their future plan through the group discussion.

2.2. Content

We invited 8 facilitators to lead discussions from research institutions or academic institutions. In 8 groups (A-H) including each facilitator, we discussed a specific theme shown in the list below. The themes were settled based on the facilitators' ideas. Supporting student staffs also joined each group to encourage the discussion and register it. At the end of the program, each group presented the content of the discussion and conclusion.

Also, we invited an internship student to this workshop and had her speak about her experience for the first time in our workshop.

2.3. Program

The program of this workshop is following.

Chairperson: Akira Nakamura (IEEE Tokyo University of Science Student Branch)
Host: Shosaku Motohara (IEEE Tokyo Denki University Student Branch)

13:00 – 13:30 Reception
13:30 – 13:35 Opening Greeting
    Akinori Ueno
(IEEE Tokyo Denki University Student Brach)
13:35 – 13:55 Presentation of a foreign internship student

Tatiana Endrjukaite

13:55 – 14:20 Introduction of facilitators
14:20 – 14:25 Break
14:25 – 15:55 Discuss in each group
15:55 – 16:05 Summarize the discussion
16:05 – 16:15 Break
16:15 – 16:50 Presentation
16:50 – 17:00 Closing Greeting

Group	Facilitator	Theme of discussion
A	Yasuhiko Iwanabe（HITACHI Lab.）	Results required of researchers in a company
B	Naoko Kosugi（NTT com science Lab.）	What we need to collaborate with foreigners and people in different fields
C	Sho Shimizu（Fujitsu Lab.）	Companionship in activity of communities out of university and company
D	Hidetoshi Takeshita（元 NEC）	What to do during being a student to have a full company life
E	Atsushi Tomiki（JAXA）	Researcher's life in filed of engineering
F	Kouki Nakamura（Canon）	Working in a different filed from what you studied in universities
G	Makiko Nagao（TOPPAN）	What we can do, and are required in companies
H	Shizue Hagiwara（BOSCH）	What Japanese people need to perform a important role in a foreign company

Seiichi Takeuchi (Tokyo Denki University, IEEE Tokyo Gold Advisor)
17:30 – 19:30 Party

3. Workshop

The number of participants in the workshop including staffs was 61.

- Students 42 (27 IEEE members)
- others 10 (9 IEEE members)
- facilitator 8

And the photos in the workshop are attached in later page.

■ Presentation of a foreign internship student

Before the discussion, we had Ms. Tatiana Endrjukaite, an internship student from Latvia, speak about "Studying in Europe and Life in Latvia". The speech was about her home country, internship programs in Europe, and her own internship experience. In the question time, we had many questions such as the reason why she chose Japan to have internship program.

■ Group A

Group A discussed "Results required of researchers in a company" with 6 members including Mr. Iwanabe as a facilitator.

First, as 2 of 3 members were graduate students, we talked about the difference of a research between in a university and in a company. Mr. Iwasnabe, facilitator of *Group A,* told the biggest difference is that a work in a company is based on working in a team while the one in a university is based on working by himself. And also he pointed that it is important in a company to show the results with a simple expression such as a numerical value and common phrase. We discussed about the necessary skills to achieve these, and concluded that having a communication skill, a broad knowledge and awareness of *"you have to do it"* is essential.

Thus, we brainstormed about "what to do to get a skill to bear a fruit in a company", the theme developed from the original. We found that it needs learning the method or to join a casual community such as smoking area for a communication skill, exchanging with other fields or learning necessary information for a broad knowledge, and keeping a motivation, challenge and fearlessness of failure for awareness of *"you have to do it"*. Though we could not reach one conclusion, it was a very beneficial discussion for us hoping to be researchers and engineers.

(*Group A* supporting staff: Takehiro Sato (Keio Uni.))

■ Group B

Group B discussed "What we needs to collaborate with foreigners and people in different fields". We had Ms. Kosugi from NTT communication Science Laboratories as a facilitator.

At first, she introduced us examples of collaboration with people in different fields like [1] the development with a Chinese local company and [2] music therapy, the research combining the different regions. Then we discussed about problems that may occur in the scene of work and found misunderstanding because of cultural difference for [1] and the difficulty to share the basic knowledge and to understand each field for [2].

We concluded that it is important to keep it in mind not to leave things you don't understand well and not to decide that you can understand easily when you work with the foreigners and people in different fields. Therefore, in the case of collaboration with them, communication skill is a key and it is necessary to make a circumstance to ask questions without hesitation.

(*Group B* support staff: Takahiro Gotoh (Meiji Uni.))

■ Group C

Group C discussed "Companionship in activity of communities out of university and company" with 6 members including Mr. Shimizu as a facilitator. First of all, we had some of us who do activities out of university or company, to speak why they started, what for and why they do it.

On the basis of their words, we talked about whether we should find a community outside, and how relationship we should make. Then, we reached the idea that stocking in a same place makes ideas absorbed in one thought and we can learn what we lack and what we need thorough the activities. Then, we talked about the relationship in them, and concluded that the participants not only gain from government but also notice things they can get by giving and connect their future career.

(*Group C* support staff: Shosaku Motohara (Tokyo Denki Uni.))

■ Group D

Group D discussed "What to do during being a student to have a full company life" with 6 members including Mr. Takeshita as a facilitator. We listed two keywords, "full company life" and "what to do during being a student" and discussed them. First, we collected our ideas about the former and classified

them. Then after we had Mr. Takeshita advise it, we summarized our ideas. Based on this idea, we discussed in the same way about the other keyword.

We concluded that "a full company life" requires the balance between health, evaluation for work, motivation, human relations and private life and that to achieve these, controlling self-condition and schedule, individuality to make an action by himself, knowledge and skill are required to be learnt during being a student.

(*Group D* supporting staff: Shougo Hasegawa
(Tokyo Denki Uni.))

■ Group E

We discussed "where is technology? ", "what for is it?" and "a role, decision making and responsibility of engineers". During the debate, we expressed our opinions by writing on post-notes respectively.

As a result, we gathered an idea. Technology belongs to people, people establish organization, and obtain experience and knowledge. Then, by thinking based on knowledge and experience they gained, people acquire a new technology. The new technology originates in people and people make organization. Thus, it forms a circle of people (technology), organization, experience and knowledge, thinking, and people (technology). Also, organization, experience, knowledge and thinking cover education, and the force to move the circle is money. Technology is for living and engineers have to be responsible for the new technology. We concluded that education is significant in life.

(*Group E* supporting staff: Akira Nakamura
(Tokyo Uni. of Science))

■ Group F

In *Group F,* we discussed "working in a different field from what you studied in universities". As all the members in this group belong to laboratories in each university, we talked about our motives when we entered them. The main points to choose laboratories for students are whether it answers their purposes and the environment of laboratory itself. As we think that choice of company is extension of choice of laboratory, it became clear that we want to have a job meaning socially special. Therefore, it was clarified that to choose a company, the three points – social meaning, work environment, own skill – are important to be satisfied. That means working in a different field is to become a talented person who can create a new value through a new challenge, which is very positive.

(*Group F* supporting staff: Takefumi Yamada
(Tokyo Science Uni.))

■ Group G

We, *Group G,* discussed "what we can do and are required in companies" with Ms. Nagao from Toppan Printing Co.

First, we enumerated our ideas respectively about the theme and made groups by the meaning of words and the order of priority. We listed being humble and suggestion of fresh ideas for "what we can do", and being talented person, communication, cooperation, flexibility and aggressiveness for "what we are required".

On the way to the conclusion, we thought the goal is to have a talent desired by the company as each keyword has a connection. We concluded that what we are required by companies includes what we can do.

Thus, we can tell that we, students and young researchers, have to grow to make what we can do to what companies requires for us.

(*Group G* supporting staff: Yasunori Yamakawa
(Meiji Uni.))

■ Group H

We, *Group H*, discussed "what Japanese people need to perform an important role in a foreign company" with Ms. Hagiwara from Bosch.

Before we started, we had time to introduce someone sitting beside. The purpose is to have a responsibility on discussion by introducing someone else.

The discussion was very meaningful because it was easier to imagine about working in a foreign company by having Ms. Hagiwara working in the foreign company and Ms. Endrjukaite from Latvia to talk about the different culture and companies. We talked about the order of "image of Japanese people", "image of foreign companies" and "summary".

We concluded that independence and cooperation are essences to work in a foreign company and it is also important to know the colleagues well. English is at least needed which is a main tool for communication. That means whether the company is foreign or Japanese, language is an important tool.
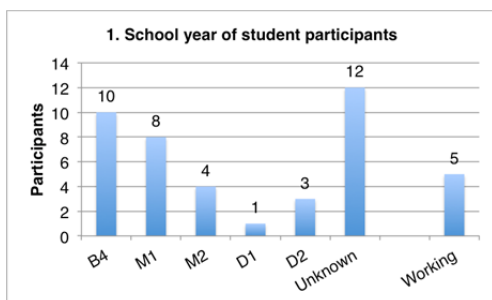
(Group H supporting staff: Tomoya Akiyama
(Meiji Uni.))

4. Questionnaire

After the workshop, we asked participants to answer the questionnaire.

4.1. Answer

75% of participants, 43 people, answered for the questionnaire (38 students and 5 others). The organization of students is shown below.

1. School year of student participants

4.2. About workshop

We had participants to evaluate this workshop about contents, usefulness and length of time on a scale of one to five and tell the reasons. The five scales for each question are below.

1. Contents: very good, good, fair, bad, very bad
2. Usefulness: very useful, useful, normal, useless, very useless
3. Length: very short, short, enough, long, very long

The answers for each questions is shown below. We could have favorable reviews from 95 % of people about the contents and usefulness. Especially the rate who answered "very good" "very useful" is grown greatly （38%→56% ， 41%→53% respectively）. The concrete reasons are

- We had a substantial argument so that I could experience how it is when the discussion grows heated. (M1)
- Exchange with people from other communities brought me a great chance to know the different ideas. (Student)
- I could know an opposite idea. It was beneficial that I felt such different ideas. (B4)
- Students need to expand their view through the relationship with adults. (Others)

Also we had such answers shown below.

- It was a valuable experience to have a discussion in a group before job hunting. (M1)
- It was a nice chance to learn the way to conclusion and how difficult to argue. I would like to make a good use of this for job hunting. (Student)

It is supposed that this workshop works for the students who are doing job hunting.

About the length of time, the rate of "enough" decreased （76%→49%） and "short" increased much （15%→35%） comparing the previous workshop. The reasons are
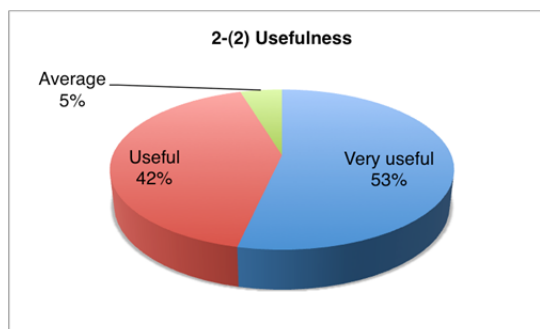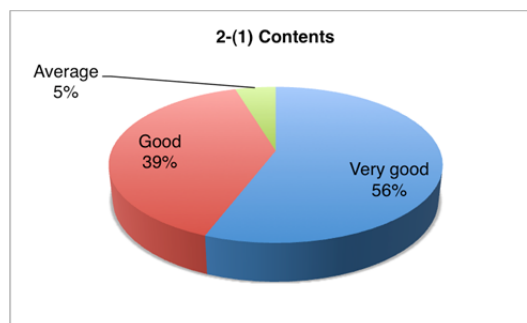
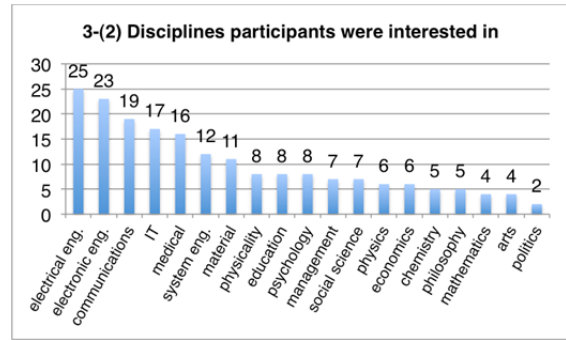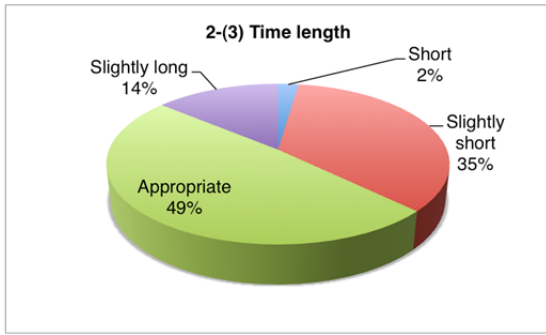- As the discussion grew heated, the time was not enough to summarize our opinions and the time for

presentations for each group became smaller. (M1)
- It was better if we had more time for summary. (M1)
- Almost everything was behind schedule. You could limit the time for presentations. (B4)

We had many opinions about the contents of discussion and presentations. Based on these answers, we will improve some such as having longer time for summary and supporting staffs to lead discussions caring the remaining time in the next workshop.

We also had other opinions in the free space.

- It was so nice to have a facilitator to talk a precious speech. (B4)
- It was a good experience for me because I rarely had a discussion. (M1)
- I could learn so much through the discussion with someone I don't see often. I hope students from more various universities can join. (Student)
- It was an unusual experience because we rarely discuss recording by writing on imitation Japanese vellum in my university. (B4)
- The presentation was difficult. (M1)
- It was better to classify the participants into groups and adjust the number at first.
- I was thirsty. I wanted something to drink. (B4)

2-(1) Contents

2-(2) Usefulness

2-(3) Time length

3-(2) Disciplines participants were interested in

4.3.　Next workshop

　　We also asked what kind of events and fields hereafter they expect for our congress to have with multi-choices on questionnaire. The choices are
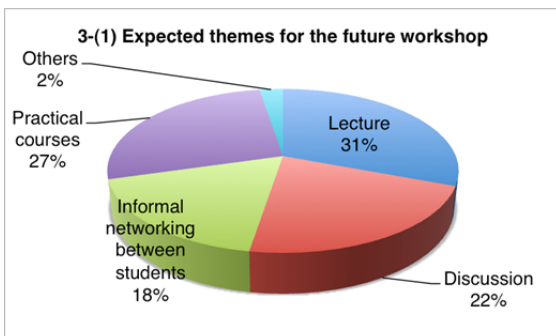(1) Events
　- Lecture meeting
　- Discussion
　- Informal party with other students
　- Lecture about skills
(2) Fields
　Electricity / Electron / Information / System / Correspondence / Material / Physical properties / Physics / Chemistry / Mathematics / Education / Medical Science / Management / Economics / Politics / Sociology / Philosophy / Psychology / Art

　　The total results are following. About (1) the events they expects, the rate of "lecture meeting" was the highest (31%), and "lecture for skills", "discussion" and "informal party with other students" followed in order. They expect researchers from companies more than from Academic institutions as a speaker for lecture meeting. And the presentation was expected as a lecture about skills. As "other events", barbeque and factory tour are listed.

　　About (2) the fields they are interested in, they chose the engineering fields that IEEE relates more such as "Electricity" "Electron" "Correspondence" and "Information". The number of people interested in "Medical Science" was relatively big.

5.　Summary

　　This 7th Career Development Workshop was so meaningful that we had 8 groups to have discussion, the same biggest number of groups ever, and invited an internship student from abroad as an attempt. As a result, we had favorable reception from participants while we had some problems in control of time schedule. We would like to offer workshops with high quality and want many students and young researchers to use this event as an opportunity to think about their future careers. The next 8th workshop is scheduled in October 2012.

　　We appreciate to Mr. Iwanabe, Ms. Kosugi, Mr.Shimizu, Mr. Takeshita, Mr. Nakamura, Ms. Nagao and Ms. Hagiwara who participated in this workshop during precious weekend. And also we had great benefited from Ms. Endrjukaite by her speech about the internship experience.

3-(1) Expected themes for the future workshop

Workshop photos

Workshop hall

Opening Greeting
Prof. Ueno (IEEE Tokyo Denki Uni.
Student Branch Counselor)

Tatiana Endrjukaite's speech

Group Discussion

Summary

Presentation