

Shishu-Kan student produces international symposium on Russia's energy resource development and sustainability (22 October 2016)

The International Symposium on Energy Resources and Sustainability in Russia, held on 22 October at Higashi Ichijokan, began with remarks by Shishu-Kan Professor Dimitar Savov Ialnazov, followed by Mr Dai Yamawaki describing the event's background and objectives.

Session one explored "Energy Resources in Russia: In a Domestic Context". Dr Jonathan Oldfield, Reader in Russian Environmental Studies at the School of Geography, Earth, and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, spoke on "Russia's Move Towards Sustainability", presenting a comprehensive analysis of discussions on climate change and other sustainability-related topics.

Kenji Shinohara, senior analyst at INPEX Corporation, then presented on "Rosneft -- A Gigantic State Company in a Transition Period", focusing on the oil company's behavioral characteristics and growth prospects.

The session's final presentation was delivered by Mr Yamawaki. Entitled "Efficient use of energy resources and its hindrances in Russia", his talk highlighted the country's failure to meet international standards for efficiency and other aspects of energy resource utilization.

Session two examined "Energy Resources in Russia: In an International Context", with the first talk by Misako Takahashi, director of the Economic Security Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, exploring the potential impact of weak oil prices on the Russian economy and on the energy security of other countries.

The next presentation, "Economic Development of the Arctic Regions of Russia, Based on Oil and Gas Production", by Professor Shinichiro Tabata, director of the Hokkaido University Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, reported on hydrocarbon development in Russia's potentially resource-rich arctic regions, and its implications for the country's economic growth and impact on local communities.

Finally, two graduate students -- Anna Melkina from Moscow State Institute of International Relations and Daiki Nakaoka from Kyoto Sangyo University -- together presented on multilateral energy policies in Eurasia.

Each session concluded with two discussants offering commentary and taking part in a Q&A period (Session 1: Professor Ialnazov and Yugo Tanaka, a Shishu-Kan master's student; Session 2: Associate Professor Victor Gorshkov of Kaichi International University and Amane Kobayashi, a member of the inaugural class of Keio University's Global Environmental System Leaders Program and doctoral student at the Keio Graduate School of Media and Governance).

The speakers and discussants then took part in a roundtable session on “Energy Resources and Sustainability in Russia: Where is Russia Headed?”, moderated by Mr Yamawaki. The discussion covered a broad range of Russia-related topics, including the possibility of energy resource development under economic sanctions, post-COP21 environmental issues and policy trends, prospects for energy cooperation with Japan, and requirements for sustainable development. The highly animated session continued well past the scheduled time.

The event came to a close with remarks by Professor Satoshi Mizobata, deputy-director of the KU Institute of Economic Research and director of the Japanese Association for Russian and East European Studies, sharing his thoughts on the multisector symposium's theoretical and empirical significance as well as potential contributions to area studies and social policymaking.

Moe Fujita, a Shishu-Kan master's student who served as the mistress of ceremonies, then led the crowd to a separate venue for a networking reception, where many of the attendees enjoyed the opportunity to continue their discussion of the topics raised during the Symposium.



Professor Ialnazov greeting the attendees



Session 1



Mr Tanaka (right) in a Q&A session



Session 2



Ms Fujita acting as the mistress of ceremonies



Networking reception