



Final Report

**THE 2018 THIRTEENTH NORTHEAST ASIA ECONOMIC FORUM
YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM**

OCTOBER 2018

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The 2018 Thirteenth Northeast Asia Economic Forum Young Leaders Program

Overview

The 13th Young Leaders Program organized by Northeast Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF) and University of Hawai'i, College of Social Sciences was held during July 24 – August 10, 2018. The Program was hosted by Tohoku University with the support from the Freeman Foundation (which started 13 years ago at its inception), and contributions from China Asia Pacific Institute, Korea Asia Pacific Institute, and other cooperating institutions in Northeast Asia.

Because of the importance of the internationally recognized Sendai Framework for disaster due to the 2011 Fukushima tsunami, the 2018 Young Leaders Program was preceded this year by joining the activities of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities - Multi-Hazards (APRU-MH) Summer School, for two days.

Program Goals and Outline

The main goals of YLP are to:

1. Enhance knowledge of the social, economic and political institutions of the individual countries in Northeast Asia and North America.
2. Encourage young leaders to consider a wide range of perspectives on regional and multi-lateral economic cooperation.
3. Prepare YLP fellows to work collaboratively and internationally.
4. Provide them with practical education in policymaking through opportunities of direct dialogue with policymakers and other experts.
5. Foster a sense of community among young leaders.
6. Promote a better understanding among individuals, countries and cultures in Northeast Asia and the United States.

Number of Countries Represented and Qualifications of YLP participants

There were 31 participants from countries of Northeast Asia: China (8), Japan (2), Korea (4), Mongolia (3), Russia (5), USA (8), and a Kenyan PhD student from Tohoku University. Forty-two percent of them are female. The detailed qualifications are tabulated in Appendix 1.

The participants were young professionals, junior faculty members, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in economics, business, law, sociology, political science, environmental sciences, or related disciplines. In the recent past, most of the participants were either PhD students matriculating or who had completed their graduate degrees at major prominent universities. For example, a couple of Rhodes Scholars from Oxford University in the UK were participants.

The summary of Agenda and activities included the following:

- Opening of the 13th YLP.

- Introduction to Tohoku University by Dean Nobuhiko Terui of Graduate School of Economics and Management, Tohoku University.
- Program Introduction by Sen. Stanley Chang, State Senator, State of Hawaii, Former YLP Fellow; Brice Park, Global Supply Manager, Apple Japan; Former YLP Fellow.
- Introduction of YLP Fellows by Partners: For better understanding of each other and promoting acquaintance.
- Sign-up for Area & Thematic Presentations.
- Preparation for Area & Thematic Presentations.
- Participants are divided into six groups to introduce member countries Northeast Asia Economic Forum: China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Russia and the USA with an understanding that a participant cannot be in a group introducing his own country. This way participants are encouraged to learn about another country in the region in an objective way, thereby reducing the nationalistic tendencies and lowering state sovereignty walls and thus called “area presentation”.

Beginning July 27th through August 8th, there were organized sessions for invited faculty presentations, area and thematic presentations, and individual presentations.

1. Tourism Cooperation in Asia-Pacific: Opportunities & Challenges for Northeast Asia by Sen. Stanley Chang, State Senator, State of Hawaii, Former YLP Fellow
2. Demographic Perspective of Northeast Asia by Stuart Gietel-Basten, Associate Professor, Division of Social Science, Division of Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
3. Environmental Challenges for Northeast Asia Asuka Jusen, Professor, Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University
4. Industrial Development in Developing Economy under the International Economic Integration: The Case of Iron and Steel Industry in Viet Nam
Nozomu Kawabata, Professor, Graduate School of Economics and Management, Tohoku University
5. Role of Accounting in Northeast Asia Economic Cooperation
Wonkee Pae, Secretary General, API Korea; Professor, Hongik University
6. The Future of Northeast Asia Economic Community - Issues and Lessons from EU
Glyn Ford, Director, Track2Asia, European Union
7. Comparison of the Economic Development of North Korea and South Korea
Hyunghwan Joo, Former Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea
8. Session 9: Energy and Environment
Stephen Cowper, Former Governor of Alaska
Nori Tarui, Associate Professor of Economics, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Terry Surlles, Senior Advisor, California Institute for Energy and Environment, UC/Berkeley followed by a discussion by Kenji Sumida, Former President, East-West Center; Secretary General, North American Committee, Northeast Asia Economic Forum

- Pavel Minakir, Academician and Director, Economic Research Institute, Far East Branch, Russia Academy of Sciences
9. Northeast Asia Economic Community and Functional Economic Cooperation
Sergei Sevastianov, Director, Asia Pacific International Institutions and Multilateral Co-operation Studies Center, School of Regional and International Studies, Far Eastern Federal University
 10. Physical Connectivity and Marine Transportation Networks Inoue Satoshi, Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan
 11. Policymakers Meeting with YLP Fellows
Stephen Cowper, Former Governor of Alaska
Hong Jae Hyung, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Republic of Korea
Glyn Ford, Director, Track2Asia, European Union
Pavel Minakir, Academician and Director, Economic Research Institute, Far East Branch, Russia Academy of Sciences
Hyunghwan Joo, Former Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea
 12. Area Presentations by the YLP participants: China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Russia, and USA
 13. Thematic Presentations by the YLP participants:
 - a. Cross-Border Trade in Northeast Asia
 - b. Infrastructure Development for Physical Connectivity in Northeast Asia
 - c. Demography and Population Movement (Tourism) in Northeast Asia
 - d. Energy and Environment in Northeast Asia
 - e. The Northeast Asia Economic Community
 14. Individual Presentations by the YLP participants:
 - a. A Temporal and Spatial Analysis of China's Infrastructure Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts
Xi Hu, LWP Post-doctoral Fellow, Harvard University
 - b. High-Speed Rail, Regional Economic Performance, and Economic Structure: Evidence from 18 Cities along China's Beijing-Guangzhou High-Speed Railway
Wentao Zhou, PhD student in Economics, University of Wisconsin – Madison
 - c. And other nine topics relevant to Northeast Asia
 15. Participation in the 27th Annual Conference of Northeast Asia Economic Forum

Program Evaluation

The anonymous 3-page, 11-item evaluation was administered as the final activity of the YLP. Their responses indicated a very high level of overall satisfaction and appreciation with about 92% saying that the program either met or exceeded their expectations. Almost all participants said that the administration of the program was sufficiently responsive to their interests and needs while only one participant said otherwise.

When asked which part of the program is the strong in which they gained the most, they mentioned most of the YLP components as follows:

- Area presentations

- Lectures by invited experts/speakers
- IRIDeS Summer School and Field Trip
- Individual presentations
- Policymakers' meeting with YLP participants
- NEAEF Conference
- Group interactions/discussions
- Mutual introduction of participants

A sample of their unedited comments is provided below:

- *“The team is very strong and considerate, under the leadership of Dr. Cho. The preparation work is well designed, organized, and carried out. The system and mechanism of managing the whole projects are effective. My interest and need are well met.”*
- *“It was excellent! I have been to few conferences abroad and I can say from my previous experience that the YLP was the best in terms of logistics. Thank you.”*
- *“I’m glad there are so many experts from different fields. I’m grateful and it’s my honor to join in this program. And at the end of YLP, we, young people, can have interview with policymakers. This is the most impressive part of the program.”*
- *“The strongest part of the program for me was the group presentations. I developed further my team working skills and group management abilities. I also engaged myself in topics completely new to me.”*
- *“The coordination by the program administrators was superb. The program was also accommodating especially with time for comments and discussions. Everyone had time to communicate their interests.”*

NEAEF Conference Evaluation

Most of the YLP Fellows indicated that the NEAEF conference met their expectations. The conference presenters provided the YLP Fellows a broad perspective on regional cooperation.

In conclusion, the 2018, 13th Young Leaders Program has received highly positive response across all aspects covered by the evaluation and resulted in an outstanding success.

Appendix 1: List of 2018 Young Leaders Program Fellows

Appendix 2: Cover of the Agenda for the Thirteenth Young Leaders Program

Appendix 1: List of 2018 Young Leaders Program Fellows

		Last Name	First Name	Country	Education	University	Position	Current Affiliation	Role (and financing)	Sex
1	Dr.	Hu	Xi	China	(Completed) PhD Environmental Economics	University of Oxford	LWP Post-doctoral Fellow	Harvard University	Fellow (fully funded)	F
2	Ms.	Chen	Zheqin	China	(Ongoing) Masters student in Economics	Tohoku University	MA student in Economics	Tohoku University	Tohoku University Fellow (self-funded)	F
3	Ms.	Jiang	Fangfei	China	(Ongoing) PhD Candidate in World Economy	National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (NIIS, CASS)	Assistant Research Fellow / Foreign Affairs Officer	Institute of Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	Fellow (fully funded)	F
4	Mr.	Liu	Muzhen	China	(Ongoing) Masters student in Economics	Tohoku University	Masters student	Tohoku University	Tohoku University Fellow (self-funded)	M
5	Dr.	Miao	Ji	China	(Completed) PhD in International Studies	Waseda University	Assistant Professor / Research Fellow	Center for China-Japan-Korea Trilateral Cooperation, China Foreign Affairs University	Fellow (fully funded)	M
6	Ms.	Wang	Hechong	China	(Completed) MA International Financial Markets	Central University of Finance and Economics/ University of Southampton	Senior Associate	PICC Investment Holding Company Limited	Fellow (fully funded)	F
7	Ms.	Wu	Tiange	China	(Ongoing) Masters in Finance	Nankai University	Master student	Nankai University	Fellow (fully funded)	F
8	Mr.	Zhou	Wentao	China	(Ongoing) Ph.D. in Economics	University of Wisconsin, Madison	Ph.D. student	University of Wisconsin - Madison	Fellow (fully funded)	M
9	Mr.	Shimosakai	Yoshinori	Japan	(Completed) Master of Business Administration	Tohoku University	PhD student	Tohoku University	Fellow (Self-paying)	M
10	Ms.	Yanagi	Kyoko	Japan	(Completed) Exchange Program, Berlin School of Economics and Law	Berlin School of Economics and Law; Kobe University	Research Associate	Japan Electric Power Information Center, Inc.	Fellow (Self-paying)	F
11	Mr.	Siele	Kipkorir Weldon	Kenya	(Ongoing) Masters student in Economics	Tohoku University	Masters student	Tohoku University	Tohoku University Fellow (self-funded)	M
12	Mr.	Choy	Weonbin	Korea	(Completed) Public Administration, English Translation and Interpretation	Hankuk University of Foreign Language	Assistant Director	Ministry of Strategy and Finance	Fellow (fully funded)	M
13	Ms.	Lee	Hyorim	Korea	(Ongoing) Master of Business Administration	Kyoto University	Masters student	Kyoto University	Fellow (fully funded)	F

		Last Name	First Name	Country	Education	University	Position	Current Affiliation	Role (and financing)	Sex
14	Mr.	Lee	Jongseo	Korea	(Ongoing) Bachelor of Arts in Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought	Amherst College	Intern	API Korea Intern	Intern	M
15	Mr.	Park	Sungwoong	Korea	(Completed) Masters in Business Administration	Kyoto University	Global Supply Manager	Apple	YLP Alumni	M
16	Mr.	Batjargal	Bayartsengel	Mongolia	(Completed) MA International Relations	University of Westminster, London	Lecturer	Department of International Relations, National University of Mongolia	Fellow (fully funded)	M
17	Ms.	Damdinsuren	Ariunaa	Mongolia	(Completed) LLM in Civil and Commercial Law	Peking University	Research Fellow	Institute of International Affairs, Mongolian Academy of Sciences	Fellow (fully funded)	F
18	Ms.	Ganzorig	Enkhzul	Mongolia	(Completed) Bachelor of Laws	The National University of Mongolia	Project Manager	Mongol Global LLC	Fellow (fully funded)	F
19	Dr.	Lamasheva	Iuliia	Russia	(Completed) PhD in Political Science and PhD in International Economics	Khabarovsk State Academy of Economics and Law; Niigata University	Assistant Professor	Pacific National University	Fellow (fully funded)	F
20	Mr.	Mukhin	Nikolai	Russia	(Ongoing) Post-graduate student in Politics and Public Administration	The University of Hong Kong	PhD student	The University of Hong Kong	Fellow (fully funded)	M
21	Ms.	Petrova	Olga	Russia	(Completed) MA, Disasters, Adaptation, and Development	King's College London	Manager	Higher School of Economics, National Research University (Moscow, Russia)	Fellow (fully funded)	F
22	Ms.	Tolstoguzova	Evgeniya	Russia	(Completed) Master of Foreign Affairs	Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation	Chief Specialist of International Projects Center	Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency	Fellow (fully funded)	F
23	Mr.	Tomilov	Mikhail	Russia	(Ongoing) Post-graduate student in economics	Economic Research Institute, the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Khabarovsk, Russia	Post-graduate student	Economic Research Institute, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences	Fellow (fully funded)	M
24	Mr.	Abraham	Benjamin	USA	(Ongoing) PhD in Public Policy	Oxford University	PhD Student	Oxford University	YLP Alumni	M
25	Sen.	Chang	Stanley	USA	(Completed) Juris Doctor	Harvard University	State Senator	State of Hawaii	YLP Alumni	M

		Last Name	First Name	Country	Education	University	Position	Current Affiliation	Role (and financing)	Sex
26	Mr.	Ferrier	Kyle	USA	(Completed) MSc International Political Economy	London School of Economics	Director of Academic Affairs and Research	Korea Economic Institute of America (KEI)	Fellow (fully funded)	M
27	Mr.	Giles	Thomas	USA	(Ongoing) PhD in Economics	Florida International University	PhD student	Florida International University	Fellow (fully funded)	M
28	Ms.	Goodwin	April	USA	(Ongoing) PhD candidate in Education Policy Studies	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Academic Affairs Program Officer	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Fellow (fully funded)	F
29	Mr.	Seltzer	Nicholas	USA	(Ongoing) M.A., Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies	Middlebury Institute of International Studies	Masters student	Middlebury Institute of International Studies	Fellow (fully funded)	M
30	Mr.	Thulin	Walter	USA	(Ongoing) Bachelor of Arts in History	Yale University	Undergraduate student	Yale University	Fellow (Intern - fully funded)	M
31	Ms.	Yennie	Wrenn	USA	(Ongoing) Ph.D in International Relations	Stockholm University	Research Fellow	Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NIIP)	Fellow (fully funded)	F

THE 13TH YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM (YLP)

July 24 - August 11, 2018

Organized by
Northeast Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF)
University of Hawai'i, College of Social Sciences

Hosted by
Tohoku University
Graduate School of Economics and Management
IRIDeS (International Research Institute of Disaster Science)
Center for Northeast Asia Studies

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China Asia Pacific Institute
Korea Asia Pacific Institute
KB Kookmin Bank
