



The 33rd Annual Meeting of Japan Creativity Society: Japan Revival and Creativity: Care and Design

On October 8–9 2011 (Saturday and Sunday), the 33rd annual congress of the Japan Creativity Society(JCS) was held at the Kamada Campus, Tokyo University of Technology. The conference was the first meeting of the JCS after the March 11 and aftermath incidents. The theme of the two-day program was: Japan's Revival and Creativity.

The first day program began with the keynote address by Ai-Girl Tan, Nanyang Technological University Singapore: Creativity for constructive growth – A synthesized paradigm for positivity and care after Japan 311 incidents. The organizer of the society M. Oku, Tokyo University of Technology chaired and moderated the 1.40 hour keynote session. Prior to the keynote, the president of the society presented his short welcome address. Slides and translated text of the keynote addresses in Japanese were made available to the audience. The keynote address was delivered into two parts; each about 40 minutes; with a ten minute break and a ten minute question and answer. The keynote address was published in English (Tan, 2011a) and in Japanese (translated by Akio Kikuchi & M. Oku; Tan, 2011b).

In the first half of her keynote speech, Tan shared paradigms, forms and theories of creativity, and proposed a synthesized paradigm of creativity for Japan after the 311 and aftermath incidents. The synthesized paradigm broadens the contemporary conceptions of creativity in the mainstream psychology by building on we-paradigm of creativity in the cultural context. It denotes the significance of care, love, compassion, hope, positivity, and strengths in novel and appropriate behavior of mankind in good and difficult time. She proposed some principles for creativity for common good: Reflecting on creative invention for the common good, making comprehensive and interconnected inquiry, recognizing the common good, understanding creation behind creativity, and reconstructing realities and meanings in life. Constructive creativity is for common good, resilience, and growth.

In the second half of her keynote address Tan referred to theory of care to elaborate processes of recovery and reconstructing life with human creativity in time of difficulty. Creativity is a joint-personal, socio-cultural and community's commitment and competence to suggest and carry out novel and ethical ideas,

processes, performances, and actions for personal well-being, collaborative innovation, social harmony, and world peace. The speaker elaborated the synthesized paradigms of creativity with reference to my observations on recent happenings in Japan, the March 11 (or 311) earthquake-tsunami and its aftermath incidents. In facing unavoidable chains of event, the speaker envisioned constructive growth as the ultimate outcome of creativity.

A symposium on “Toward Japan’s Revival: A creative synthesis of care and design” was chaired by M. Oku and attended by colleagues from different institutes in Japan (Shimamori, Y. Nagai, A. Itoh, T. Komatsu, Shibuya and Kanno). They shared their views of care (hospital care, Shimamori), design (education, Shibuya; life, Nagai) and curriculum on care and design (Itoh, Komatsu, and Kanno). The symposium was chaired and moderated by M. Oku. Speakers of the symposium were requested to reflect upon the relationship between care and design in the everyday university or colleague curriculum, research, and life after March 11 incidents. The audience who were members of the society attended the annual meeting and dinner of the evening.

On the second day, a total of 24 papers were read in six sessions; each session with four papers. Three papers were read by participants from Singapore and the United States. The conference ended successfully in the afternoon. Both participants and attendees acknowledged success of the conference.

References

- Tan, A. G. (2011a). Creativity for constructive growth: A synthesized paradigm for positivity and care after Japan 311 incidents. In M. Oku (Ed.), *Proceedings of Japan Creativity Society (33rd Annual conference: Japan’s revival and creativity)* (pp. 1–13). Tokyo: Tokyo University of Technology.
- Tan, A. G. (2011b). 創造性のパラダイム変換: 311以後の世界から (translated by A. Kikuchi & M. Oku). In M. Oku (Ed.), *Proceedings of Japan Creativity Society (33rd Annual conference: Japan’s revival and creativity)* (pp. 14–27). Tokyo: Tokyo University of Technology.

Reported by Ai-Girl Tan, 2011