

The 10th OAPS Certificate Awarding Ceremony

Student Sharing Session (1)

Facilitator: Professor Wing-Heun IP

Summary:

Professor Wing-Heun IP started the sharing session by stating that the three papers by the students were very interesting and their topics were the most interesting ones from his past experience in being the facilitator for the sharing session. Prof. Ip stated that the three topics represented the spirit of the great city of Hong Kong and CityU. He called it 「時代精神」 as how to make discovery/to discover yourself under the current social situation.

He then introduced the topics to be presented by each student: CHAN Pak Hong, Gabriel: his study was about bilingualism, a topic in a multi-cultural society like Hong Kong; WONG Cheuk Fan, Frankie: his topic was about green carbon investment, environment, ecology and China's efforts and determination to overcome the pollution problem; and Nazanin BAGHERZADEH: Prof. Ip commented that her topic was timely and interesting in the sense that she was going to talk about her study on the family reunion of North and South Korea. In his mind, he was interested in another side which was East and West Germany unification and after family reunion, he thought there would be more troubles because family problems are not easy to solve. Prof. Ip commented that family problems and unification would only work if you have reconciliation, like what we have in Hong Kong today.

Sharing by students:

CHAN Pak Hong, Gabriel (Department of Applied Social Sciences)

Paper title: Contribution of Executive Processing to Reading Comprehension: Bilinguals in Hong Kong

Gabriel appreciated the opportunity to share his study at the ceremony. His study was about the contribution of bilingualism to reading comprehension. He found that the topic was fascinating as currently we have a multicultural society with different people coming from different parts of the world, we definitely have indicated with multicultural ability, so he tried to investigate further into natural bilingualism. He managed to conduct the study with several questionnaires and experiments conducted in computer and through software. The result was promising and significantly reviewed that there is difference between the cognitive performance and the reading comprehension.

What he learnt from the project was that he have to consult everyone he met, including professors, his supervisor, and every help he can get because the project was too complicated for him, especially involving exploration of software. He appreciated a lot for the assistance from the Computer Department and Dr Julian Lai who helped him in developing experimental design and discussed with him about experiments which helped him to develop his own research ability, which constituted him today as a research assistant at CityU.

In response to Prof. Ip's question whether a person is smarter if he can speaks more than one language, Gabriel replied that it only reflected one has much more cognitive flexibility by expressing in reading comprehension. So, if one learn more languages, with different language in hand or use different languages, it indicated that they certainly know more or learn more, especially reflecting by their cognitive performance.

WONG Cheuk Fan, Frankie (Department of Information Systems)

Paper title: Business growth strategies for green carbon investment

Frankie talked about the topic of his project on Green Carbon Industry (GCI). Their project required to do a preliminary research before they have a 6-days field trip at their client's company at Shenzhen, China. Afterwards, they summarized all findings for the topic and finalized the paper.

In the carbon trading industry, carbon is a unit of stock to determine how to make money. China is one of the largest carbon dioxide emission countries in the world since 2013, the China government implemented the carbon emission trading scheme using a market-based approach to control carbon emission. Seven cities launched the scheme in 2013. Their company is the first GCI in Shenzhen and is also the pioneer in the market. In the carbon trading market, the carbon quota is provided by the China government and for each company, they have to use their carbon quota for the emission. If the quota exceeds, they need to buy extra quota from the others. However, if they spend little of the quota, they can sell it to other company for revenue. This is how the carbon industry can gain some new businesses.

For their client, it was still exploring what was working for them. In their preliminary assumption, they assumed that their client was already in some business scale. However, the company still not clear what their current problems were because they were still finding the way as the regulatory requirements change year by year. It is unpredictable by the government. So, their project group helped the company to find out what product was good for the development of carbon industry. Later, they knew that their client wanted to compare the products between current China market and international market, so they provided a summary and developed a 3-phases model. The company is now in the first stage because they are still looking for their core products to develop their core competent. Some companies in Shenzhen operated longer years than GCI and already entered into Stage 2. Stage 3 will be about financing issue and that mean they can generate some carbon related financial products and can trade with others within the market. If a company exceed the emission quota, normally they will get penalty from the China government and the fine will be more than the money for buying the carbon credits.

At the end of the project, they provided that model to let their client to know their current position and how they could further grow their business. Apart from enhancing their current products, they can also provide assessment and advisory service on the government policy which is feasible for the market. They hoped that what they bought to GCI could set up as a good example for the China market and helped the China government to launch the national carbon emission policy in 2015.

Prof. Ip asked Frankie if he think his study could make a difference. Frankie said yes as China is currently the largest carbon emission country. If carbon emission could not be controlled, the pollution would get more serious because China is still on the development stage. If nothing is to be done, this would cause other unpredictable problems to the next generation.

Nazanin BAGHERZADEH (Department of Asian and International Studies)

Paper title: Inter-Korean family reunions

Nazanin introduced her paper as a policy paper and it was not quite the traditional academic research paper. The topic of her paper was inter-Korean family reunion. What she looked up was the programme that ran in the past between North and South Korea to unite families that were divided by the DMZ. Most of the families were being separated, such as by conscription or extended families going to visit them, or separated by the end of the Korean War, sometimes even before. For sixty plus years, these families have been separated. When she said families, it didn't mean immediate families, but with the cases of brothers and sisters, parents and children, and also extended families like cousins, etc.

What she wanted to look at was how, in particular the South Korean approach making policy to encourage these reunions. They have occurred in the past but currently there have been some issues that canceled by the side of the North. This is a timely issue because of the sad reality that many of these people or family members on the other side of the DMZ are dying and it is really important to look at the issues. One of the ideas of her research was for the South Korea to understand that the North sees it as a political issue while the South sees it as a humanitarian issue and the South does not really help with these cases where they mixed family reunion and speeches about nuclear issues. For example, in Germany earlier this year that President Park mentioned in the same sentence about the nuclear issues and family reunion. She advocated a separation of the issues. Another idea she advocated was for South Korea to be proactive even if they cannot come to an agreement with the North, and to explore other avenues whether they be video reunion, exchange letters, even if the contact cannot be made in the North, the South Korean government should take the initiative to have these recorded and archived. So even when unification does happen, even if it is generation down the line that these family connections are preserved, and perhaps it can help the reconciliation process.

Prof. Ip was impressed by Nazanin's study. He was also impressed by CityU by allowing a research in such a delicate topic. This is a global issue and could have effects on our daily life. Prof. Ip stated that we can draw a parallel comparison to the situation in Taiwan, Hong Kong and other places. When asked why she came to Hong Kong and studied at CityU, Nazanin said that she came from the US and she specially chose CityU as the only university she applied for her PhD. It was because she loved the Department of Asian and International Studies and Hong Kong is a great place to study the two Koreas because there are a lot of related activities to both of them happening here, such as talks, files, and photo exhibition. It is great to be in this environment where people are interested and exploring the issues and many people have been to South Korea and they have South Korean friends. When she talked about the topic, they would say that this is the topic they knew and are cases of their friends. Nazanin thanked for the encouragement of her supervisor Dr. William Bradley for taking such a delicate topic.