An Introduction to the Special Topic Forum on University-Affiliated Incubators and Startups

TADAHIKO KAWAI
Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba

This Special Topic Forum concerns the 13th Annual Conference of the IASM held online for the first time ever on October 24, 2020 managed by the secretariat placed at the Aoyama Gakuin University. Its main theme was “University-affiliated incubators and startups: Strategy, Structure and Entrepreneurial Education. The forum consists of the two parts.

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM RELATED PAPERS

The first part involves four papers which concern the Global Symposium held as the core program of the Conference: “How to develop global creative and innovative leaders and organizations through the integration of universities, governmental organizations, and private sectors during the time of pandemic isolation.”

The first paper titled “Dilemma Reconciliation between Global Integration and Pandemic Isolation” was prepared for this Special Topic Forum by the chairperson of the Global Symposium as well as the Chairperson of IASM, Norihito Furuya, Professor at the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

He states that the Covid-19 pandemic presents human society with a series of dilemmas and that in order to create best solutions, the reconciliation approaches need to be shared among all people concerned. And he asserts that his partners, Kozai Group scholars and Trompenaars & his group members, have developed paradox solutions to help define best practices that can be shared across countries to make progress. According to him, the key of those solutions is the reconciliation methodology which could be considered as the art of combining and reconciling completely opposite values and norms.

The second through fourth paper are presented by the three keynote speakers at the Special Topic Forum.

The first one titled “The Challenge of Developing Global Leaders while Adapting to Global Environmental Jolts” was written by Allan Bird, the President of The Kozai Group, Inc.

The second one titled as “A Case Study in Adaptation of Applied Education for Business Executives” was written by Mark E. Mendenhall, J. Burton Frierson Chair of Excellence in Business Leadership of W. Rollins College of Business, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.

The third one titled “Business Education as an Applied Science: Lesson from Other Academic Disciplines” was prepared by Michael J. Stevens, a Distinguished Presidential Professor of John B. Goddard School of Business & Economics, Weber State University, Ogden, UT (USA).

Contents of these three papers are introduced in Furuya’s paper stated above.

FURUYA PAPER

The second part of this Special Topic Forum concerns the main theme of the Annual Conference in that it involves the paper which deals with the university affiliated incubators and startups. It is N. Furuya’s another paper titled “A Case Study in Developing Creative and Innovative Cluster Model through the Integration of Universities, Governmental Organizations, and Private Sectors in Japan.”

In order to find innovative and creative ways to increase its economic performance, thereby getting rid of stagnation over the past several decades, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) started the plan to develop industrial clusters in 2001, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) started the plan to develop intellectual knowledge clusters in 2002. However, according to Furuya, these two types of cluster creation projects were forced to end without satisfactory results. In contrast, in the United States,
universities and their affiliated people are considered as key resource drivers to start up new venture businesses for innovations.

Then he theoretically reviews the projects of industrial and knowledge clusters which were initiated and budgeted by METT and MEXT respectively in order to identify existing issues and to indicate a constructive proposal for leading to the creation of successful industrial and knowledge cluster models in Japan.

**Tadahiko Kawai** is a Professor, Emeritus at the University of Tsukuba. He received his MBA from Tokyo University and Ph. D. from the University of California at Berkeley. His research focuses on dynamic theory of strategies, the theory of dynamic managerial capabilities (DMC), leadership of top and middle management, and business and society relationship including corporate social responsibility and corporate governance.

E-mail: mjkrota8@vega.ocn.ne.jp