

## Cross-cultural Talk 2020

Date: October 2-3, 2020

Venue: ZOOM virtual meeting room

This year's Cross-cultural Talk was held online to reduce the possible risk of spreading COVID-19. Even though we feared a limited and reduced level of interaction and communication, it turned out we had more participants than we would have in the case of a face-to-face meeting. Students who are currently abroad have joined, as well as former WB faculties who are not currently residing in Nagoya. Also, for many participants schedule adjustment was much easier since there was no need to physically move to different locations. As a result, we in fact had an excellent attendance record and a lot more opportunities for interaction than usual. In total, we had more than 50 participants among which more than half were the students, while the second half consisted of professors and 3 former Well-being program faculties. The organization was further supported by the admin staff of the program.

This year's topic was "The road to Ph.D.: Common and different experiences found in multidisciplinary context". The students felt that they need to share their hardships, doubts and issues they are facing on the road to their Ph.D. degree. Many expressed their worries related to coping with the current situation on an academic, physical and mental level, skill development and career planning. We realized that many of them share similar problems regardless of the field of study. Listing up the problems helped the students suggest ways to cope and overcome the problems. Valuable insights and comments came from the panelists, Prof. Utusmi (GSID), Dr. Adachi (HS) and Dr. Trisia (AGR), Well-being-affiliated professors and former Well-being program faculties. The students also had a chance to hear the lecture of Prof. Oki Sayaka (School of Economics) on the history of sciences and gender dichotomy that existed since the very beginning of the scientific thought. The students in their final year of the WB program presented their works using online posters and flash talks. Three presenters were awarded for the best poster design and best presentation.

