

International Symposium

“Everyone a Changemaker: Social Innovation to Change the World”

International Symposium “Everyone a Changemaker: Social Innovation to Change the World” was held on February 6, 2010 at Tokyo Tech Front “Kuramae Hall”, Ookayama, Tokyo.

For this Symposium, we invited three big guests from abroad: Mr. Bill Drayton, “Father of Social Entrepreneurship”, who is the C.E.O. and Founder of Ashoka: Innovators for the Public, was the keynote speaker. Ms. Nana Watanabe, the author of the very popular book “Changemakers”, and Mr. David Green, who is the C.E.O. of Project Impact and one of the most famous Ashoka Fellows, were also guest speakers of this Symposium. (Please refer to PDF files for programs and profiles of the speakers.)

It was the very first time that Mr. Bill Drayton had the opportunity to make a speech in front of general audience in Japan. There were nearly 500 entries for 300 seats previously and the Secretariat accepted about 400 entries of them. On the day of the Symposium, 367 participated. About 40% of the participants were from private companies, 25% were from NPOs and NGOs, another 25% were university (or graduate school) students, and others were researchers, educators, and government officers.

The Symposium had started about 10 minutes behind the schedule, jam-packed. Professor Takashi Watanabe, the host and the organizer of this Symposium, gave the opening speech and brief explanations about Tokyo Tech Social Entrepreneurship Program and the aim of this Symposium. Also, Professor Norihiro Nakai, the Chair of the Department of Social Engineering, and Professor Hiromitsu Muta, the Executive Vice President of Tokyo Tech, greeted guest speakers and audience.



The first program of the Symposium was a speech by Ms. Nana Watanabe. The title of the speech was “Social Entrepreneur: A New Way of Life”. Her speech included episodes about how she came to know the word “social entrepreneurship” and the name of the “Father of Social Entrepreneurship”. Ms. Watanabe is a quiet-spoken person and her speech was not so long, however, her words touched hearts of the audience very impressively.



The second program was the keynote speech of this Symposium. The C.E.O. and Founder of Ashoka: Innovators for the Public, the world famous support network for social entrepreneurs, Mr. Bill Drayton gave a speech entitled “How Will You Do in an Everyone a Changemaker World?” His 45-minute speech included episodes about some of the Ashoka Fellows, Ashoka’s criteria for selection of Ashoka Fellows and encouraging message for young audience to do something to change the world. The whole audience listened very eagerly in absolute silence.



Following Mr. Drayton’s keynote speech, Mr. David Green, C.E.O. of the Project Impact and one of the most famous Ashoka Fellows, made a presentation about his activities. The title of his presentation was “Humanizing Capitalism”. His various activities as a social entrepreneur seemed to need much longer time to introduce, and Part I of the Symposium was closed nearly 30 minutes behind the schedule.



After 15-minute break, the Symposium restarted with the Panel Discussion “Building Society to Cultivate Social Entrepreneurs”. Professor Takashi Watanabe, the moderator of the Panel Discussion, asked some questions to three panelists: Ms. Watanabe, Mr. Drayton and Mr. Green.



Following the Panel Discussion, there was a Qs and As time. Questions from the audience of the Symposium were collected during the break time. Professor Watanabe selected some of those and the participants appointed gave questions to the panelists briefly by themselves.



After the Q&A session, Professor Watanabe gave a closing remarks and the Symposium finished all the programs of the day on time. Three guest speakers were surrounded by dense crowd of people for a very long time after closing the Symposium.