

**RENKEI Intercultural Workshop at Osaka University, Japan**  
**<Renaissance Entrepreneurship: Shaping the future of demographic change>**

**(Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> August – Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016)**

Renaissance entrepreneurialism is the process of developing innovative ways of combining many channels of knowledge, from the arts and sciences, from cultures and histories, and from thoughts and technologies to create a way of resolving the current challenge of demographic change.

Demographic change is affecting every country in the world. In some cases this creates a dynamic opportunity, but in others it presents a difficult economic challenge. This RENKEI workshop will bring together ideas from different cultures and intellectual disciplines to create collaborative solutions that are more creative than those currently being discussed in the political realm. Osaka University is pleased to organize the second RENKEI Intercultural Workshop in Osaka, a historical merchant city in western Japan. Linked with the first workshop held at UCL in London last year, this workshop is designed to provide an environment that enables future leaders to create change in society through entrepreneurship, and to support participants to develop ideas for a social enterprise that tackles the issues inherent in demographic change.

**Date:** Sunday, 21st August – Friday, 2nd September 2016

**Place:** Osaka University, Osaka Innovation Hub (OIH)

**Style of the workshop:**

The workshop will be facilitated in a way to stimulate and encourage creative thinking. The group will be divided into teams. Each team will co-create a proposal for an innovative intervention to improve the health and wellbeing of people of all ages in an era of rapid demographic change. Participants will have the option to design elements of the programme for themselves in real time.

Teams will also visit a range of innovative social enterprise businesses and experience projects that are already making a difference in Japan, and see how they create and implement solutions. Participants will experience and understand the process, and learn what takes to develop an idea into a successful and sustainable social business.

On the final day of the programme, teams will participate in a symposium aimed to understand what works in fostering social entrepreneurs and how to contribute to the wider

process of generating social innovation. A range of organisations, universities and businesses will be invited to the symposium to share learning, exchange ideas, and celebrate and explore the work of RENKEI participants.

Those who participated in the first RENKEI workshop at UCL last year will also join this workshop. They have already organized two teams as below. Every new participant can choose either to join one of these teams or to organize a new team.

**[Team A: Renaissance Home]**

Japan has a rising issue with “zombie housing” - houses that are abandoned by their owners as they go into elder care, die or simply discard their houses and move to more desirable places. It also has issues with widening social gaps, homelessness, and increasing unemployment. This project aims to tackle these problems by utilising abandoned houses and offering opportunities for vulnerable people.

Renaissance homes will offer a solution to two vexing problems, abandoned houses and poverty, and make society a more desirable place to live.

**[Team B: 7Es]**

This project aims to ensure intergenerational fairness through setting up a social enterprise to develop a social networking platform in order to engage people of all ages, genders and races to tackle the Big 7Es, namely Entrepreneurship, Education, Environment, Energy, Eating (Food), Exercise (Preventative Health), and Eliminating Poverty.

7Es’ slogan is: “Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Economy, Sharing Development to Change the World for the Better”

**Who should attend this workshop:**

Students and early-career researchers at the RENKEI member universities who have a strong interest in:

- tackling global issues related to demographic change through dialogues across disciplines, universities, sectors, cultures and countries
- starting up a social enterprise
- acquiring skills and knowledge to be a future leader who can facilitate social innovation

There will be two representatives from each RENKEI university. Participants are welcome from any discipline – a major advantage of the RENKEI workshop is to mix disciplines as well as cultures – and they can be undergraduate students, postgraduate students or early-career researchers.

**Criteria for participating in this programme:**

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be a student or an early-career researcher at one of the 12 participating universities.
- Applicants must be enthusiastic about collaborative and interdisciplinary work, as well as have a keen interest in developing links with industry.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate how their academic interests could contribute to the theme of the workshop.
- Applicants must be able to commit fully to the 2-week programme at Osaka University and must be able to travel to Japan without a problem.
- As the programme will be conducted in English, applicants must be able to communicate in English, although competency in written English is less important.
- Applicants must be able to contribute to disseminating the outcome of the workshop to wider audiences in cooperation with RENKEI member universities and the British Council, which is the secretariat of the RENKEI initiative.

**Optional programme:**

Participants from UK universities can also join an optional programme to study the Japanese language, Japanese affairs, and Japanese culture, which takes place for two days prior to the start of the official programme of the workshop. Please refer to “Programme” below for more information.

**Cost:**

The cost of the workshop is covered through the RENKEI programme. However, travel, accommodation and meal costs are expected to be covered by the participants as specified below. Accommodation in Osaka will be provided for participants at a reasonable cost.

## &lt;Costs to be covered by the RENKEI programme&gt;

- Lunch on weekdays during the programme
- Dinner on Sun 21st Aug and Fri 2nd Sep
- Transportation for a visit to social enterprise

## &lt; Costs to be covered by the participants &gt;

- Transportation between the participants' place of residence and Osaka University
- Accommodation in Osaka (\*)
- Local transportation
- Meals not covered by the programme
- Any other personal expenses

(\*) Two participants of same sexes and different nationalities and universities are expected to share a room as part of the programme. Breakfast is included. There are some bakeries, supermarkets and many restaurants within a 10 minute walk.

#### Accommodation costs / per person (double occupancy)

<Rate>

During the workshop

20th Aug: ¥10,800 / person

21st Aug to 2nd Sep: ¥8,640 x 13 nights = ¥112,320 / person

¥123,120 in total

During the optional programme (17th Aug - 19th Aug)

¥10,800 x 3 nights = ¥32,400 / person

#### Payment methods (for Accommodation):

To be paid to the hotel by cash or credit card at the time of check-in.

#### Programme

Date	Contents
Wed 17 Aug	(Arrival of participants in Optional Programme)
Thu 18 Aug	Optional Programme (Japanese Language, Affairs, and Culture)
Fri 19 Aug	Optional Programme (Japanese Language, Affairs, and Culture)
Sat 20 Aug	(Holiday) (Arrival of participants to Workshop / Free time for pre-activities)
Sun 21 Aug	Welcome & Kick-off Party
Mon 22 Aug Workshop Day 1	(am) Intro and posters / Learning from last year / Becoming future leaders (pm) Team building — Challenge prompts inputs
Tue 23 Aug Workshop Day 2	(am) Creativity boost — Prof Kanematsu on Demographic Change (pm) Root causes and impact mapping
Wed 24 Aug Workshop Day 3	(am) Developing new ideas and opportunities — What is social enterprise? (pm) Half day visit for observation (Kansai area)
Thu 25 Aug Workshop Day 4	(am) Future leaders — Skills and inspiration / Ideas splash (pm) Joint session and preparation for visit & Possible drama pilot session
Fri 26 Aug Social Activities	Visit to social enterprise (full day)
Sat 27 Aug	(Holiday) (Free time for project and optional visits)
Sun 28 Aug	(Holiday)

Mon 29 Aug Workshop Day 5	(am) Feedback from visits Mr Nishimura — Sustaining and scaling entrepreneurship (pm) Flexible (for groups to work on their proposal)
Tue 30 Aug Workshop Day 6	(am) An effective business model / Financial sustainability / What are funders looking for / Designing good governance (pm) Skills swop — Participants deliver workshops: make offers based on their expertise
Wed 31 Aug Workshop Day 7	(am) When the going gets tough? — Dealing with conflict / Setbacks / Emotional resilience / Influencing skills (pm) Project work
Thu 1 Sep Workshop Day 8	(am) Future leaders — Anti-heroes and making a systemic change (pm) Preparation for final session
Fri 2 Sep Farewell Party	Presentations and symposium (at Osaka Innovation Hub) Farewell Party
Sat 3 Sep	Departure

### How to apply:

If you are interested in taking part in this programme, please fill in the application form and send it to [r-renkei@st.ritsumei.ac.jp](mailto:r-renkei@st.ritsumei.ac.jp) by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016**.

### About RENKEI:

RENKEI (Research and Education Network for Knowledge Economy Initiatives) is an international platform consisting of 6 Japanese universities (Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University, Osaka University, Ritsumeikan University, Tohoku University) and 6 UK universities (University of Bristol, University of Leeds, University of Liverpool, Newcastle University, University of Southampton, UCL). It aims to create new forms of university-industry collaboration which benefit each sector as well as society as a whole and to promote the development of innovative solutions to challenges facing knowledge-based economies by bringing together talented individuals from the respective nations.

[www.britishcouncil.or.jp/renkei](http://www.britishcouncil.or.jp/renkei)