

Blurring Boundaries between Higher Education and Vocational Education: The cases of Japan and Vietnam

*Professor **Takao Kamibeppu**, Fukuyama City University, Japan*

Abstract:

There is an interesting world-wide phenomenon that the boundary between higher education and vocational education (TVET) is getting blurred under societal and economic changes. In Japan, universities have been increasingly emphasizing skills development along with the tradition of liberal education, while post-secondary vocational schools are moving towards offering bachelor and master's degrees. There are many factors behind this move: e.g., lower birth rate, shrinking and ageing population, increasing demand for workers with specific skills. Similarly, universities in Vietnam began offering vocational courses within their curriculum trying to meet the demands from industry to increase graduates' employability. This is pushed by the recognition of skills shortage and gap between human resources and industry in Vietnam, whose economy is being globally integrated.

This presentation will analyze why the above phenomena occur in the two countries as case studies and discuss the roles of higher education and vocational education in sustainable development and livelihood.