## Osaka Gakuin University 2011-2012 Fall Semester

# Japan's Environmental Issues: Facing the World

### Instructor:

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Lesson: Monday, Thursday 12:50-14:20

Office: Main Bldg. Room 613

Office Hours: Monday, Thursday 12:10-12:50

Subject code: 1037

# **Course Description:**

After the *Fukushima* nuclear accident, Japanese people and world citizens have been forced to consider the pros and cons of nuclear energy. This and other issues such as whaling, seabed mining and global warming are also those which Japan has had to urgently deal with and which have heavy impacts on other countries. This course looks at these typical Japanese environmental issues in order to help students understand Japanese and other peoples' views and make up their own minds on these issues.

The class consists of lecture, discussion, video viewing and students' presentation. Above-mentioned four topics, i.e. nuclear energy, whaling, seabed mining and global warming, are picked up and argued. Students are expected to make a presentation and submit a report on their favourite subject among these four topics. Although the fundamental perspective of this course is based on public international law (especially international environmental law), its detailed knowledge is not necessarily required.

### Resources

The instructor will provide hand-outs for each class. Please also refer to this instructor's book:

International Judicial Control of Environmental Protection: Standard Setting, Compliance Control and the Development of International

Environmental Law by the International Judiciary (Kluwer Law International, 2010)

### **Evaluation**

The grade will be given based on the participation to the lecture and discussion (20%), presentation (40%) and 3,000 (or more) words report (40%). Evaluation method may change at the instructor's discretion depending on the class size and other factors

### **Notes:**

# **Course Schedule:**

Week 1: Nuclear energy: introduction and video viewing

Week 2: Nuclear energy: lecture and discussion (1)

Week 3: Nuclear energy: lecture and discussion (2)

Week 4: Whaling: introduction and video viewing

Week 5: Whaling: lecture and discussion (1)

Week 6: Whaling: lecture and discussion (2)

Week 7: Seabed mining: introduction and video viewing

Week 8: Seabed mining: lecture and discussion (1)

Week 9: Seabed mining: lecture and discussion (2)

Week 10: Global warming: introduction and video viewing

Week 11: Global warming: lecture and discussion (1)

Week 12: Global warming: lecture and discussion (2)

Week 13: Students' presentation