

# **Proposing a New Phase of Liberal Arts Course Enhanced with Active Learning for PBL in the Social Constructivism Paradigm: Advanced Communication Based on Empathy & Trust Building**

Tosh Yamamoto<sup>1\*</sup>, Wen-Chi Vivian Wu<sup>2</sup>, Anthony Y. H. Liao<sup>3</sup>, Masanori Tagami<sup>4</sup>

1 The Center for Teaching and Learning, Kansai University

2 Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, Asia University

3 Dept. of M-Commerce and Multimedia Applications, Asia University

4 Fundamental Education, Otomon Gakuin University

This poster presentation proposes a new phase of liberal arts in the higher education fortified with active learning for the project/problem-based learning (henceforth, PBL), incorporating all aspects of Future Work Skills 2020 defined by Institute for the Future(henceforth, IFTF) combined with the negotiation and conflict management model by Dr. Roger Fisher of Harvard University in the social constructive paradigm. In the school model where the mission of education is set by the needs of the society and the school bears the role of producing quality graduates to contribute to the future society, acquiring the future work skills defined by IFTF is essential. However, the traditional or current educational paradigm focuses on developing the individual's competencies instead of the future society as a whole. It is claimed that the educational paradigm be the social constructive one, where stakeholders work in unison with situational leadership in practice. In there the proposed paradigm will nurture students' advanced communication skills to work in teams and will contribute to the liberal arts education to have students ready for the society upon graduation.

This presentation will give a progress report of such endeavor in the past three years with the target of university faculty and students, alumni, and societal members in Japan as well as university faculty and students in Taiwan with demonstrations.

**Key Words:** Active Learning, PBL, Social Constructivism, Future Skills, Negotiation, Conflict, Empathy, Trust