

PERSPECTIVES IN ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE FOR POST GRADUATE STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS IN OSAKA UNIVERSITY

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We are in face of increasingly broad as well as diverse environmental risks such as health risk by hazardous chemicals in products and soil pollution, energy risk associated with electric power supply, and accidental risk by advanced technology. We hardly cope with those risks by conventional specific knowledge. It is reported that many firms in the U.S. are inclined to employ risk managers with professional certification and to strengthen environmental risk management (ERM).

In contrast, while both private and public sectors in Japan began to become aware of a need for ERM, ERM professionals are still limited in number and not well-organized, which results in poor staffing of environmental risk managers at most organizations.

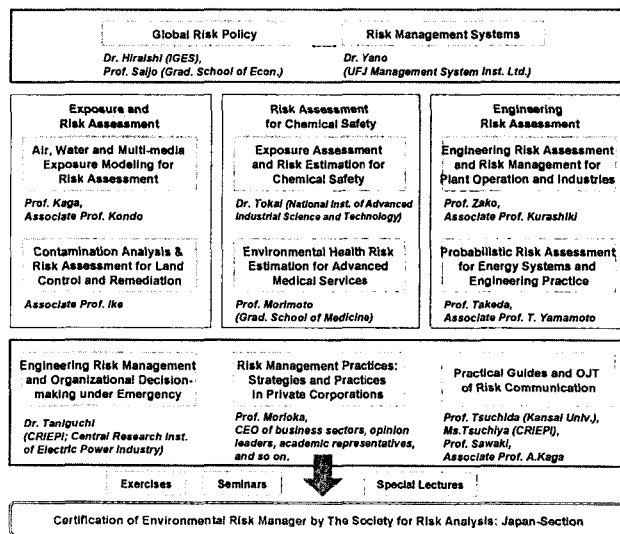
From Oct. 2004, Dept. of Environmental Engineering started "Environmental Risk Management Training Program" (Program Representative: Tohru Morioka, Prof.) as a new post graduate course. The program is funded by MEXT < <http://www.mext.go.jp/> > from October 2004 to March 2009.

The objectives of this program are as follows: 1) to improve the education on environmental risk management in the post-graduate course, 2) to help students acquire professional and practical knowledge and skills for ERM through lectures and exercises, and 3) to raise the human resources capable of planning, doing, and assessing the responses to environmental risks in the real world. The program plans to supply governments and business executives with more than 30 practical risk managers of post graduate level in the next three years and 50 managers

in five years.

The lectures and exercises will be provided by nationwide leading experts with rich practical experiences. Besides lectures, students will learn risk assessment and estimation methods through hands-on training exercises, E-learning and OJT at firms.

For example, course offerings of the second semester 2004 are “Global Risk Policy”, “Risk Management Systems”, “Engineering Risk Management and Organizational Decision-making under Emergency”, “Risk Management Practices: Strategies and Practices in Private Corporations”, and “Practical Guides and OJT of Risk Communication”.



Course offerings and instructors