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# PANEL 5 INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN JAPAN: EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND PRACTICE

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## **PANEL 5**

### **INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN JAPAN: EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND PRACTICE**

**Panel Chair:** Richard Watson, University of Georgia

**Panel Co-Chair:** Jiro Kokuryo, Keio University

**Panelists:**

<b>Practice:</b>	<b>Kazuya Matsudaira, Pride Inc.</b> <b>Shigeo Mori, Ajinomoto System Techno Corporation</b>
<b>Education:</b>	<b>Ryutaro Manabe, Bunkyo University</b> <b>Haruo Takagi, Keio University</b>
<b>Research:</b>	<b>Osam Sato, Tokyo Keizai University</b> <b>Tetsuya Uchiki, Toyo University</b> <b>Monta Nakajima, Bunkyo University</b>

While interest in the international aspects of IS research is expanding, very little is known about IS in Japan. This panel is an introduction to IS in Japan and describes the present Japanese situation in three parts: practice, education, and research. The panelists come from Japanese universities and IS consulting companies.

#### **PRACTICE**

The IS practitioners on the panel will discuss SUIIT: Strategic Use of Information Technology. Japanese management believes it has to cast off its old KIMONO and start wearing a modern SUIIT. They are forced to make important decisions that have to be instantaneous. Their companies' survival totally depends on the results of these decisions in today's unpredictable economic environment. SUIIT has become the key to successful business in recent Japan. The IS department is required to adapt to both rapid changes in its company and technological advancement. Based on thirty years business experience in over 100 Japanese major companies, the panelists will talk about:

- How Japanese top management (CEOs) are wearing SUIIT instead of wearing KIMONO.
- The methodology used to reengineer business processes.
- Why super big SUIIT projects are still successful when lead by project managers who belong to user departments.
- What is a user-oriented SUIIT project.
- How user analysts act the role of systems analysts.
- The ultimate missions of future IS departments.

#### **EDUCATION**

The education panelists will explain Japanese university education in IS and propose a model curriculum that emphasizes real usage of computers as components of IS as well as human and social aspects. The proposed curriculum aims at filling demands for IS professionals in industry and will be compared to the model curricula proposed by BCS/IFIP, ACM, and DPMA.

#### **RESEARCH**

The research panelists will discuss the state of the art, characteristics, and future directions of Japanese IS research. Japanese MIS research started in 1967, the year that a mission consisting of VIPs in Japanese government and business was

dispatched to the US. IS research is mainly conducted in the management departments of several universities. The scale of IS research is small in contrast to other fields, and it is not regarded as a major field. However, SIG IS in the Information Processing Society of Japan has actively made studies since 1984, and new trends such as establishment of the Japanese Society for Management Information and activation of informal research groups have appeared in 1990s. This section of the panel is based on research that explores broad trends of Japanese IS research using a bibliometric approach.