

ABEST21 Global Knowledge Network
-Online Japan Studies Seminar (JSS)-
“Future in Asia and what coexistence in the age of economic, social and cultural globalization should be like”

-Session 6-

Speaker:

Dr. IWABUCHI Kensuke

Chairman and CEO, Japan Rugby Football Union

The Session Title:

“One Team”

The Session 6 of the Online Japan Studies Seminar was held on December 8, 2021 with Dr. IWABUCHI Kensuke, Chairman and CEO, Japan Rugby Football Union, Japan as the lecture.



The theme of the Session 6 was “One Team”. The main content addressed in the Session was about how the team has been developed to become the first quarter finalist from Asia and to compete in its historical Rugby World Cup as One Team based on his experiences. In 2019, Japan hosted the first Rugby World Cup in Asia. The national team from Japan became the first quarter finalist from Asia since the RWC started in 1987. Japan had only one win out of



24 games in 7 Rugby World Cups that Japan played from 1987 to 2011, until Japan won three games in one Rugby World Cup in 2015 with the famous victory against the tournament favorite, South Africa. After the successful Rugby World Cup in 2015, the Japan national team became one of the symbols of diversity and inclusion. The national team includes players and staff with different cultural backgrounds. Rugby is a unique sport where nationality is not the only requirement for team membership. After the session, they had Q&A session. A student said that the team has tried to make "ONE/unique" identity, not just enforcing to maintain "Japanese" culture. Also, other students asked Dr. IWABUCHI how does the rugby world achieve diversify and Dr. IWABUCHI explained current situation on that matter. At the end of

the session, ABEST21 President Professor Emeritus Dr. ITOH Fumio had a lecture on "Politeness" of Chapter VI of "BUSHIDO-The Sole of Japan-."

The next session "Session 7" of JSS is going to be held on Wednesday, December 15.