

**Resoconto riunione del
COMITATO STRATEGICO
7 febbraio 2024**

Il Comitato Strategico del Corso di laurea in Global Governance dell'Università di Roma Tor Vergata si è riunito 7 febbraio 2024 alle ore 17.00 in modalità telematica su piattaforma ZOOM.

Greetings by the Chairman

Daniele Nardis - Guest - New President of the Alumni Association

Giorgio Bartolomucci - Guest - The 2024 Diplomacy Festival and GG

Fernando Giancotti - Member of the Strategic Committee and Teacher at GG - Teaching the AI revolution in GG

Nori Morita - Member of the Strategic Committee and Teacher at Waseda University - Global Governance and Asia

Federico Fiori Nastro - Guest - The psychological challenges of young University students

Gustavo Piga: The new president of the alumni association will give us a 5-minute speech. He is the first diplomat of Global Governance.

Daniele: I work at the diplomatic office of the Holy See, in the organization of apostolic journeys of pope Francis. I am here to speak about the alumni association, we have a tough plan for the next two years. We set up a board made of people I trust a lot. The board is composed of 4 Italians and 3 foreigners including me, 2 males and 5 females. Our idea is to bring back the association to be an important actor for global governance, we failed in being effective to reach the alumni and fulfil our mission. The main objective is to build instruments to regain trust from the students and alumni. We are reaching 500 people; we are growing, and we are beginning to confront ourselves with a larger public.

Andrea: it is useful to have people spread across the world because it can be used to host meetings in other countries, take it as a suggestion Daniele.

Daniele: thank you for the suggestion is a beautiful and concrete idea that we will surely take into consideration. We are an alumni association we need to keep in mind that our focus is on former students more than current students. We need to develop initiatives and opportunities for former students around the world that are looking for a job or masters.

Amb. Massolo: It would be nice if you could present us, sooner or later, a plan of action. Not only to make a little bit of offer in a set of interesting ideas but also because we can be of some help.

Gustavo Piga: they will present it in the next strategic committee once the board has set in place. Thank you, Daniele. I proceed if you agree with listening to Professor Nori Morita now in Thailand, but professor in Waseda university and I have asked him to give us a sense of how Japan and Asia are looking at the current geopolitical scenario. This could be useful for the course of global governance.

Nori Morita: I'd like to start with Israel and Palestine conflict. When the UN adopted the resolution demanding immediate humanitarian cease fire on October 27 2023 USA and Israel opposed it while Japan which is currently serving as a non-permanent member of the security council abstained alongside the UK. Japan voted for the second cease-fire. The abstention clearly shows how Japan was influenced by the US foreign policy. 12 Palestinians employees of the UNRWA were suspected of being part of the Hamas attack, following this countries like USA, France Germany the UK, Italy suspended their funding for the agency, prompting Japan to followed suit. This evidences how Japan foreign policies is determined by what the USA does. Japan voted against a treaty of the prohibition of nuclear weapon, mainly because of the USA nuclear umbrella. This is ironic because of the Japan history with nuclear weapons.

Policy against global warming, Japan is approaching to combat climate change. Only 20% of Japan energy was coming from clean energy resources.

Article 9 of Japan constitution states: Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

The USA has put pressure on Japanese governments in recent years in keeping peace and security in the pacific causing a shift in Japan defences policy

Japanese refugee policies

Japan gender equality is shameful, it finds himself in the bottom 20 countries in gender equality.

Gustavo Piga: ambassador, do we have a problem in global governance with Asia being underrepresented?

Amb. Massolo: unfortunately, we are in a world in which the meaning of governance still needs to be defined. I must say that is really difficult to speak about a governance.

Andrea: for what regards demographic, Japan is very similar to Italy, low birth rate. We know simply increasing the birth rate to reverse this process is not enough. I was wondering what is the debate in Japan, the public opinion accepts migration?

Nori Morita: government is very reluctant to foster immigrations. But there is a need to open the labour market to other nations

Enzo: I want to ask how is the Japan-China policy, how is it affecting the relationship with China?

Nori Morita: China is the biggest trade partner for the Japanese but it's also a political risks. It all depends on the political situation and at the moment here Taiwan is a big issue. Japan is taking very into consideration whether to still work in China and trade with it.

Giorgio Bartolomucci: what is the reaction of the Japanese public opinion towards nuclear?

For what regards the diplomacy festival the next October there is going to be the fifteenth edition, we are very happy to say that the collaboration with global governance has always

been very successful. I hope the students share the same feeling of happiness and joy to have the opportunity to meet with the diplomatic body in Rome.

Gustavo Piga: second year students stop classes for 10 days and they go around Rome to take part in the diplomacy festival in the “Centro degli studi americani” and in the embassies.

Giorgio Bartolomucci: The title of this editions is looking for kratos, kratos is power, as the ambassador was saying before, governance is difficult to be identified but governance is also power, so where is power?

Ambassador Massolo: it’s a mutually enriching experience, Giorgio said it all, it’s about the various manifestations through which power can reveal itself. It’s also about building awareness.

Nori Morita (answers Giorgio’s question): the public opinion on nuclear and nuclear deriving energy is totally divided in the middle, with 2011 (Fukushima) all Japanese nuclear power station stopped operating and now 4 are operating. The government is changing its policies, going from wanting to dismantle all nuclear centres to implement it and construct new nuclear power generators. there was an earthquake near one of the non-operating generators, so there could have been another disaster.

Gustavo Piga: increasing rate of anxiety in young generations and this leads to psychological problems, where does the university pose itself in order to help the students. Federico Fiorinastro from the psychiatric department can talk to us about his problems not only in Rome but of the students of all Italy and also about what are the solutions.

Federico Fiorinastro: prevalence of psychological distress in young people in our country. It’s an issue that needs immediate intervention, in 2019 my team and I established the “Sportello studenti”, which gives psychological support free and open for all students of Tor Vergata this because there was an emerging need for psychological help. The covid 19, isolation has further deteriorated the psychological conditions of students. They show difficulty in the managing of emotions especially anger, sadness etc. resulting in a loss of vitality. During the last year a survey showed that more than 90% of students reported a critical psychological condition. The most alarming statistic is the incident of suicide, for sure you read all the newspaper this awful news about the increase of suicide in young people, right now suicide represents the second reason of death for people from 15 to 29. We need you to promote a new promotion of mental well-being.

Andrea: regarding the suicide rate, did you observe a substantial increase after the pandemic? and we observed after the pandemic a very strong number of students enrolling and then non to taking exams, one of the reasons is the anxiety of taking the exam, did you saw it too?

Federico Fiorinastro: We did not see an increase in suicide rates, but we saw that the age of admission in the ER is younger than before, also self harming and aggressive behaviour. For what regards the academic career of course this mental weakness influences the academic performance. What is important is that an aspect of the student’s life that is being impacted after feeling distress is the academic performance.

Silvia: have you also managed anxieties for the ecosystems?

Federico: not as much as I would expect

Ilaria: usually people that are anxious can find answers in what they study, my feeling is that now people find more question than answers.

Federico: that is true young people enter universities convinced in their study path but then feel lost for their future once they start the academic journey.

Gustavo Piga: hopefully the country will do more investments in this for us to support our students. Fernando Giancotti is about to start his course again, what is in the planning for this year especially for the attention to AI development.

Fernando Giancotti: my course is called “Group interaction and leadership”, this year as usual we go through the stratex: strategic thinking exercise, 1 week of work and there the 4 dimensions are integrated and self-observed by the students. Teamwork self-awareness. We have a new team member that needs a lot of leadership. Generative AI. Of course, focused on the awareness on the risks and bias. The students will have to use this tool to generate a decision-making model, how to augment strategic thinking through AI. There will be a law book which will be account for the human machine interaction, human before, then use the machine and then assess. This is the plan; we will see what will happen.

The AI needs to be led by us and not vice versa.

Gustavo Piga: thanks to our professors, global governance is always at the top of things, last year there was a crisis period in which they wanted to ban AI from the university most. The fear of the new but starting in the UK with a bunch universities talking about how to put ai in a way to govern it properly.

Amb. Massolo: I think that it is a further prove that our methodology of putting together different point of views while taking complex decisions is highly demanded. We are increasingly in need of people skilled in taking decisions or submit, to people that need to take decisions, viable options. What we have is the embodiment from the point of view of the teachers to what we want to convey to the students