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Report for science dialogue at Tokyo Metropolitan  
High School of Science and Technology, 2017, April 22th

On 22 April, I gave a lecture to 20 students at Tokyo Metropolitan High School of Science and Technology on my research topic, university reforms in France and Japan. After introducing myself, I gave some basic information about my home country, presenting part of French history and its legal heritage. I also introduced my hometown while displaying few pictures.

I told the students that laws of every nation are rooted in indigenous cultures and histories, and I explained how important it is to know how they evolved from their origins. To illustrate, I spotlighted three milestones in the evolution of law: the Code of Hammurabi, Napoleonic Code, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Then, the process of legal globalization in the modern era segued my lecture to Japan.

After mentioning my background and research experience in both France and the United States, I introduced my current analysis of the Japanese legal system as it crisscrosses European and American legal cultures. I talked to students about the legal education reform in Japan, its unique hybrid legal environment, and the recent system of graduate law schools which have been established in 2004.

I explained that the coexistence between those two models of legal education in Japan is highly informative for comparative legal thinkers. It also reveals the complexity of legal education reforms and the conflicting perspectives occurring between reformers and legal establishment. I gave a specific focus on the bar examination which is highly selective in Japan.

After my presentation, I had several questions from the students who asked me recommendations about their future career. I told the students that it takes much effort and dedication to do research but that the rewards are definitely worth it. I also recommended the students to consider studying abroad after graduating from high school, which is useful for mind-opening and growing experience.