**Rating Session for the Discussion Task Used in the IE Program**

**1 August 2014**

1. Purpose

To assess the IE Discussion task, 6 teachers watched 26 DVDs which recorded 68 students in small groups doing discussions in May (pre-test) and in July (post-test). One purpose was to produce a statistical measure of the task’s effectiveness. Second, Professor Gregory Strong had the teachers discuss improvements to the rating scale and new ways of teaching small group discussion.

1. The Session (9:15AM -1:15PM)

Earlier in the semester, 6 teachers agreed to be part of the research. Professor Gregory Strong videotaped a pre-test and post-test English of all the students. Following this procedure, the 6 teachers met with Professor Gregory Strong and reviewed the rating scale of the IE discussion task. This scale has 3 different categories: Expression (rating how each student’s summarized a newspaper article from the Japan Times online), Questioning (rating how each student prepared 3 questions and used them in the discussion), Nonverbal communication (rating how each student used gestures and eye contact and posture to encourage their partners in the small group to contribute to the discussion). Each category had a possible score of 1-3 points.

1. Names of the teachers in the Session

Armstrong, Hamilton

Bulach, Juergen

Fulhendorf, Arno

Howl, Paul

Ogawa, Ruby

Zhanje, Will T.

1. Results

The 6 teachers and Professor Gregory Strong watched the videotapes and gave each student a score for their pre-test and their post-test. The scores ranged from 3 to a possible 9. These scores will be analyzed by SPSS statistical software to determine the effectiveness of our teaching of discussions. Also, following the rating session, teachers discussed changes to the existing rating scale and teaching methods.