Lesson Study in South Africa:
How is Lesson Study Promoted in South Africa?

Since 1999, Naruto University of Education, through a partnership with Hiroshima University, has participated in the Mpumalanga Secondary Science Initiative (MSSI) in South Africa, a project sponsored by JICA. The goals of this project are to improve the teaching skills of current teachers, reform classes by creating a system of in-service teacher training at the school level and to improve students’ understanding of science and mathematics.

1. MSSI Overview
1.1 Implemented by
   Mpumalanga Department of Education
1.2 Supported by
   Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the University of Pretoria, Hiroshima University, and Naruto University of Education
1.3 Target population
   Current mathematics and science teachers in secondary schools (540 schools) in Mpumalanga Province
1.4 Development Approach
   (a) Foster a sense of ownership/partnership, (b) emphasize experience-based models of teaching, (c) make improvements through evaluations (baseline surveys, monitoring evaluations).
1.5 Implementation
   (a) Mathematics teacher training (Hiroshima University, Naruto University of Education), (b) workshop development (Mpumalanga Province), (c) development of in-school training and creation of a lesson study framework, (d) creation and use of a study guide to improve classes.
2. Implementation of Lesson Study

2.1 Positioning of Lesson Study
MSSI is structured as shown in Figure 1. Lesson Study does not refer just to in-school training, but to a process by which mathematics teachers at several schools in the same community work together to research teaching materials, develop teaching plans (lesson plans) and practice study lessons. Participants in training programs organized by the local education authorities (school administrators) who had trained at Hiroshima University by JICA support these activities.

2.2 Guidebook Use
The guidebook (Fig. 2), based on the training in Japan, carefully lays out approaches to Lesson Study that can be used for workshops, in-school training sessions, and within many school collaboration. It also describes the order in which components are to be undertaken in an easy-to-understand manner.

2.3 Revitalization of Lesson Study
It is gradually becoming common for study meetings to be held after lessons are developed, based on the approaches and methods described above. Vigorous discussions take place in a relaxed atmosphere.
Fig. 1 The MSSI system
Fig. 2 Lesson Study guidebook for workshops

Fig. 3 Mathematics Lesson Study meeting