MOD - TRANSMISSION OF TACIT SKILLS
IN EAST ASIAN GRADUATE SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Qualitative Interview
Question Guide for Taiwanese Graduate Students

(*To be recorded using a Digital Voice Recorder)

Respondent ID: _____   Country: _____

Name of Respondent: _____   Email: _____

Nationality: _____   Gender: _____

Department: _____   University: _____

Year level:

      □ Freshman graduate student

      □ Sophomore graduate student

      □ Junior graduate student

      □ Senior graduate student

Interviewer: _____   Date of Interview: _____

Time Started: _____

Time Finished: _____

INTERVIEWER: Good morning. My name is _____, a professor at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas, USA. /Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, USA. I am here to interview you on topics pertaining to your graduate education, training, mentoring experience, research practice and activities. I would like to get your permission to record this interview using a digital voice recorder. Rest assured that all information you provide will be treated confidentially. In the transcription of this interview, no identifying information will be stored or used in the analysis, publication or presentation results. Once transcription has been validated, audiotapes and/or storage media will be erased.

(**Note for Interviewer**: Before starting, please make sure that respondent had signed an informed consent form, which should have been accomplished during the quantitative face-to-face interview).

TOPICAL AND GUIDE QUESTIONS:

Item 0: NAME, AFFILIATION, AND INTRODUCTION
Please state your name, position, and affiliation.
[[NOTE TO THE INTERVIEWER: This item is important as it will allow us to link the digital file stored in the digital voice recorder to the actual qualitative questionnaire]]

Item 1: MOTIVATION TO PURSUE GRADUATE STUDIES
What made you decide to pursue graduate studies?
[[PROBE: How did you decide which department or which university to pursue your graduate studies? Who were the people who influenced -- directly or indirectly -- you to pursue graduate studies?]]

Item 2: YOUR LAB
Please tell me how this lab works, such as meetings, supervisions, personal relationships, and so on.
[[PROBE: Please describe what you do in this laboratory. How often do you hold meetings? Please describe to me how the meetings are run. Do you supervise anyone? If so, who? Please describe how your adviser supervises you, other graduate students, and other research staff]]

Item 3: LIKES ABOUT THE LAB
What do you like about this laboratory? Why?
[[PROBE: Please explain. What would you say are the strengths of this laboratory?]]

Item 4: DISLIKES ABOUT THE LAB
If any, what do you dislike about this laboratory? Why?
[[PROBE: Please explain. What would you say are the weaknesses of this laboratory?]]

Item 5: YOUR ADVISER
Please tell me about your adviser? What aspects of your adviser's style work well for you? What aspects of your adviser's style do not work for you?
[[PROBE: What do you like and dislike about your adviser? Please elaborate if you do not mind]]

Item 6: RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY
What does it mean to be a productive graduate student in your laboratory? How about in your field of study?
[[PROBE: How is research productivity measured? What incentives are there for graduate students to be productive?]]

Item 7: SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION
Please tell me about the people you collaborate with. What makes them good collaborators?
[[PROBE: what are the traits of a good collaborator? Is it the norm in your field to collaborate? What are advantages and disadvantages of collaborations?]]

Item 8: LAB SKILLS
How did you learn the laboratory skills and research techniques needed to do your research?
[[PROBE: Who would be the most instrumental person/s in developing your research skills and competencies? Formal/informal learning experiences]]

Item 9: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
What kinds of information and communication technologies (e.g. email, Internet, cellular phones, and other technologies) are useful to your research? Please describe their uses?
[[PROBE: How do these digital technologies impact on learning new skills and techniques, networking, and collaborating with other researchers in the fields? How do these technologies change the way you do your research?]]

Item 10: ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO SHARE WITH ME
Is there anything else you would want to share with me as regards your experiences as a graduate student and a future scientist?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

[[NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: Please make sure to close and save the digital recording for this session, and take note of the following pieces of information as stored in your recorder.]]

Digital voice recorder no.:   _____
Folder: _____
File No.:   _____