

Using the Digital Archive of Japan's 2011 Disasters in the Classroom: Collaboration between Tohoku University and Harvard University (September 23-26, 2015)

Subject: Seminar and collaborations between Tohoku and Harvard
 Location: Reischauer Institute, Harvard University.

Furthering the collaborative efforts between Tohoku University and Harvard University, Dr. Akihiro Shibayama and Dr. Sébastien Penmellen Boret (Disaster Information, Management and Public Collaboration Division) of IRIDeS accompanied by 8 students from the Global Safety Program of Tohoku University visited the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University. During their first day in Cambridge, Dr. Shibayama and Dr. Boret were welcomed at the office of the Reischauer by Prof. Andrew Gordon (former director and founder of the 3/11 archives), Prof. Theodor Bestor (serving director) and Mr. Ryo Morimoto (post-doctoral fellow) in order to discuss their current development programs and future joint-activities, such as the future visit of Harvard students at Tohoku University next year.

The highlight of this official visit was a public seminar on “Using the Digital Archive of Japan’s 2011 Disasters in the Classroom”. During this event, seven students, graduates from the G-Safety program and undergraduates taking the “KISO” seminars of Tohoku University, presented the results of their research using the Digital Archives of Japan’s 2011 Disasters developed by the Reischauer Institute of Harvard University. During a well-attended seminar, graduate and undergraduate students most successfully discussed some of the current debates that surrounds the 2011 Japan’s disaster in Japan: memorial monuments, disaster remains, religious participation in disaster response, and the risk management and reduction using digital social networks. Prof. Andrew Gordon, who together with Dr. Boret moderated the discussion time, congratulated the students for the quality of their presentation and their valuable feedback on the usability of Harvard’s Digital Archives. To conclude, Dr. Shibayama and Prof. Bestor agreed on the importance of renewing this experience and through this, improve the practical exploitation of digital archives of the 3/11 disasters at Harvard University and Tohoku University.



Introduction to the seminar by Prof. A. Gordon (on his right Dr. Shibayama, on his left Dr. Boret)



Undergraduate students presenting their research on evacuation programs and disaster risk reduction.



Reception with the faculty members of both universities and students from Tohoku at the Faculty Club, Harvard University

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