

The Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Symposium: The Future of Disaster Archives of Local Records (2016/01/11)

Theme: Digital Archives:

Place: Irides, Tohoku University

On January 11 2016, the Disaster Archives of Tohoku University and the National Diet Library co-organized “**The Great East Japan Earthquake Archive Symposium: The Future of Disaster Archives of Local Records**” attended by an audience of over 180 participants from all over Japan and overseas. This symposium was the fifth edition of a series on the archives of the Great East Japan Earthquake and a direct follow up of the “Archiving and Memorializing International Workshop” taking place during the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, March 16 2015 (<http://drr.tohoku.ac.jp/en/archives/977>).

The first part of the symposium was a keynote lecture by Mr. Tomy Mulia Hasan, director of the Aceh Tsunami Museum in Indonesia, with Dr. Muzailin Affan (professor at Syiah Kuala). In addition to sharing the experience and achievements of the museum, Mr Hasan with Dr Affan shared the new project *Integrating Disasters Archives into Museum Education and Research: The Digital Archives of Tsunami in Aceh (DATA) at the Aceh Tsunami Museum*; see also the report on the inauguration of the DATA project by Dr. Sebastien Penmellen Boret and Dr. Aiko Sakurai http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/media/files/_u/topic/file/20151225_report.pdf. The second part consisted of lectures on the development of three digital archives of the Great East Japan Disaster (GEJD) digital archives developed by Hachinohe City, Miyagi Prefecture, and Urayasu City. The third part provided reports on the ongoing development of archival activities of disasters in Iwate Prefecture and the collaborative missions of the National Diet Library.

Among the members of the Michinoku Shinrokuden archive project of IRIDeS, Prof. Fumihiko Imamura, Director of IRIDeS, commented on the future challenges of disaster archives such as their use by the general public. Dr. Akihiro Shibayama gave a fascinating lecture on “*The Current State of Disaster Archives of Iwate Prefecture*” reporting on the rapid advancement of disaster archive initiatives in the region. Finally, Dr. Shosuke Sato provided a comprehensive reflection about the “*Approach of the Michinoku Shinrokuden Archives Project and Disaster Science for Disaster Risk Reduction, 5 years After the Disaster*”.

To conclude the symposium, the speakers were invited to share their views on the future of digital archives in Tohoku and respond to the questions of the public. Further comments were received from experts of disaster archives including Prof. Sugimoto (Tsukuba University), Prof Watanabe (Tokyo Metropolitan University) and Dr. Morimoto (Harvard University). In particular, all participants agreed on the need to create sustainable disaster archives by responding first and foremost to the needs of education professionals and the wider community.

Report by: Fumihiko Imamura, Akihiro Shibayama, Aiko Sakurai, Shosuke Sato and Sebastien Boret
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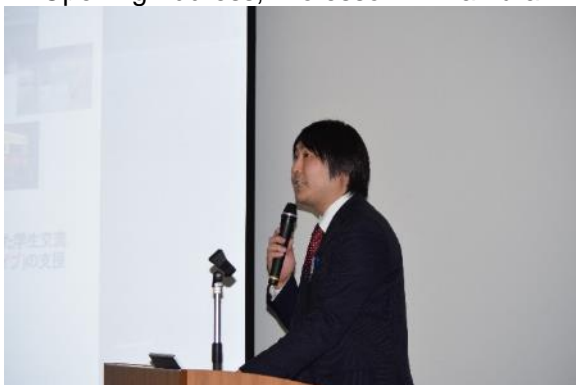
Mr Tomy Mulia Hasan, Director of Aceh Tsunami Museum, presenting two paintings of the museum by a local artist of Aceh, to Prof. Imamura (right) and Dr. Shibayama (left).



Opening Address, Professor F. Imamura



Disaster Archives in Iwate, Dr. A. Shibayama



Disaster Science and Archives, Dr. S. Sato



General Audience