

Using Harvard's Digital Archive of Japan's 2011 Disasters: Student Collaboration and Exchange (2016/09/22)

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

IRIDeS members, Director Fumihiko Imamura, Dr. Akihiro Shibayama and Dr. Sébastien Penmellen Boret (Disaster Information, Management and Public Collaboration Division) accompanied by three students visited the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University, where they were welcomed by Prof Andrew Gordon, Prof Ted Bestor, Dr. Gavin Whitelaw (executive director) and Dr. Ryo Morimoto.

The first objective of this visit was a meeting between the faculty staff of both parties to discuss the current and future collaborations. For IRIDeS, Dr. Shibayama provided a report on the activities of Michinoku Shinrokuden and its ties with other disaster archives on the Great East Japan Disaster and Kumamoto Earthquake. On the part of Harvard, Prof Andrew Gordon introduced the newly application programming interface (API) of Japan Disaster Digital Archives of Harvard University. The reports from both parties provided grounds for all members to discuss how Tohoku and Harvard University may strengthen their collaborative in order to extend their respective archives to other disasters such as Kumamoto earthquake digital archive.

The afternoon class consisted in a series of presentations by students of both Tohoku and Harvard Universities, including three graduate students of the Leading Graduate School and Global Safety Program (Miwako Kitamura, Ye Maoxin, Yu Wang) and nine undergraduate and graduate students of Japanese Studies at Harvard University. All students prepared their presentations using Harvard's disaster digital archives. As such, their presentation was an opportunity to discuss the advantages and remaining challenges when using the digital archives of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Waku system developed at Harvard University. Beyond the archives themselves, their presentations discussed a wide range of pressing issues relating to Japan disasters including PTSD, women, children, the Fukushima nuclear power plant, festivals for revitalization, and the tax credit system known as Furusato Nousei.



Tohoku-Harvard Student Presentation Session and Group Picture at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University.

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