Research exchange meeting, site visit at University of Washington Seattle (2018/9/23-26)

Themes: Disaster Recovery Planning, Pre-disaster Planning, Coastal Relocation, International Collaboration
Place: University of Washington (Seattle, USA, Coastal communities in Washington State)

On the 22th to 25th of September, 2018, Associate Professor Kanako Iuchi (Human and Social Response Research Division) and Assistant Professor Elizabeth Maly (Human and Social Response Research Division) from IRIDeS, along with Prof. Taro Ichiko from Tokyo Metropolitan University, participated in various activities with counterparts at the University of Washington (UW), in Seattle, Washington.

Field visits of communities in coastal Washington, at risk of tsunami in the case of a massive earthquake predicted for the Cascadia subduction zone included: Tokeland and Westport, where an evacuation tower is planned; Ocosta, the first community to build an elementary school which can be used for evacuation building, and Tahola, where a Native American tribe is planning relocation to high land areas.

Japanese faculty shared experiences about community planning for disaster preparation and recovery from Japan at a community event at Ocosta, following by a lively discussion with local residents about what could be their next steps in preparing for future earthquake/tsunami.

In Seattle, the researchers shared Japanese experiences with recovery planning at the research meeting of the inter-disciplinary M9 Meeting at the University of Washington, followed by a discussion with members of this research group. On the following day, the researchers from Japan joined the urban planning class, with local planning officials, and gave presentations for the students followed by discussion.

Text/Photos: Elizabeth Maly (Human and Social Response Research Division)