

Harvard-Kahoku Shimpo Visit (2019/6/20)

Theme: Disaster Prevention and Education
 Locations: Sendai, Iwanuma, Yuriage (Natori)

We are glad to report the visit of Mr Devon Gunter from Harvard University. Mr Gunter is a third-year student in the field of psychology. He has a keen interest in Japanese culture and has been studying Japanese for the last three years. He was accompanied by the members of the disaster prevention and education department at Kahoku Shimpo, Mr Jun Suzuki (director), Mr Yoshiki Suto (deputy director), and Mr Akihiro Hojo (chief). They met Prof Fumihiko Imamura, director of IRIDeS, and Dr Sébastien P. Boret of the International Research Promotion Office for an introduction to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and the progress of disaster science at Tohoku University.

The following week, Mr Gunter visited the coastline of Yuriage area in Natori and the Millennium Hope Hills in Iwanuma. Guided by Dr Boret and Mr Houjou, he learned about the devastation, reconstruction and the future of these two areas. He seemed particularly moved by the storytelling (kataribe) of Mrs Yuko Tanno of the Memorial Center of Yuriage. He also showed a great interest in the multi-layered defence system (digs, forest, hills, and roads) used by Iwanuma City to protect its citizens from future tsunamis and other inundations. Finally, Mr Gunter was introduced to the culture of memorial monuments preserving the memories and lessons of significant disasters in Japan.



Mr Gunter at Irides with Prof Imamura, Dr Boret and Mr Suzuki. He also received a furoshiki designed by IRIDeS.



Mr Gunter, Mr Houjou & Dr Boret visiting Yuriage's observatory and a memorial stone of the 1933 Sanriku Earthquake.