From September 29, 2019 until October 23, a group of academics and professionals in Disaster preparedness related positions from seven different countries took part in a special program to learn about disaster preparedness in Tohoku organized by JOCA (JAPNA OVERSEAS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION) Tohoku. As part of the program Associate Professor Akihiro Shibayama and Assistant Professor Julia Gerster of IRIDeS held a presentation about the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, its characteristics and recovery efforts at IRIDeS on October 3, 2019. The following discussions focused on different accommodation types and support measures for the survivors and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. After visiting various municipalities affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, on October 21 the participants presented Action Plans in which they talked about how they plan to implement lessons learned in Japan in their respective countries and within the range of their current positions. For this occasion, Shibayama and Gerster were asked to comment on the plans as advisors.