

## IRDR-IRIDeS joint survey on the transitional reconstruction period of the 2011 Great East Japan disaster and meeting on collaborative research at IRIDeS (2014/11/2-6)

Theme: The 2011 Great East Japan disaster  
 Location: Sanriku coast, Sendai coast

During 2nd to 5th November 2014, IRIDeS and UCL-IRDR (University College London Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction) undertook a joint field survey among residents currently living in temporary housing within areas affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The main objective of this research is to study the transitional reconstruction phase of recovery following the 2011 disaster, link this to the response immediately following the disaster, and reconstruction plans. Four IRDR members - Prof. Peter Sammonds (Director), Dr. Rosanna Smith (Deputy Director), Prof. David Alexander and Dr. Joanna Faure Walker - attended the field survey together with three IRIDeS members including Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Endowed research division), Assist. Prof. Carine Yi (Regional and urban reconstruction research division) and Assist. Prof. Sebastien Boret (Disaster information, management and public collaboration division). The questionnaires and interviews took place in temporary housing communities in Sendai (2nd Nov), Kesenuma (3rd Nov), Rikuzentakata and Minamisanriku (4th NoAv) and Natori (5th Nov).

Electricity and mobile phone network were found to be a major problem during the 2011 disaster. Another general problem during the transitional period is the inconvenience of the temporary housing that was designed to be lived in for only two years. However, residents in many areas have optimistic views as the permanent residential plans have been communicated to them.

On the 6th November, a meeting on collaborative research was organized, including two more IRDR members with a total of 20 participants from the two institutes. The meeting included discussions around results of ongoing collaborative research projects and sharing information and discussing future collaboration and exchange. From 7th -10th November, IRDR members attended the Tohoku University's Forum of Creativity and the IRIDeS new building opening ceremony.



Interview in temporary housing in Sendai



Survey members and Rikuzentakata city mayor



Visit new residential area on high ground



IRDR-IRIDeS meeting on collaborative research