

Enhancing IRIDeS International Partnerships: Tohoku University Day at Cambridge, and visits to UCL and Oxford University (2014/12/7-11)

Theme: Collaborative research and international collaboration
 Location: London, Cambridge and Oxford

Following the success of the “Tohoku University Day in UCL” (University College London) in November 2013, a sister event was held in Cambridge in December 2014. The team, led by Prof. Fumihiko Imamura, the director of IRIDeS, was composed of Dr. Anawat Suppasri, Dr. Yuichi Ebina, Dr. Sébastien Penmellen Boret, Dr. Yasuhito Jibiki, Ms. Mari Yasuda and Mr. Yo Fukutani.

On December 7th, the members of IRIDeS began its trip with a meeting with IRIDeS former postdoctoral research fellow, Dr. Ingrid Chavet. Together, they discussed future collaborations such as the development of global tsunami fragility curves based on different structural and coastal data from the 2011 Japan tsunami. Before heading to Cambridge the following morning, Team IRIDeS visited their UCL long-term partners at IRDR (Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction): Prof. Peter Sammonds (IRDR director), Dr. Rosanna Smith, Dr. Ilan Kelman and Dr. Joanna Faure Walker who all attended the Tohoku Forum of Creativity held at IRIDeS in November 2014. The main themes were future exchanges of students and faculty members, data analyzing of the joint survey in Tohoku region and activities during the UN conference in Sendai March 2015.

After heading north of London, the research group visited the office of Cambridge Architectural Research (CAR) where its director Dr. Steven Platt welcomed them and his colleagues Prof. Emeritus Robin Spence and Dr. Luca Leone. During this half-day session, the representatives of each group presented and discussed their fields of research including integrated sciences and projects on disaster risk reduction including engineering, history and social science. This exercise proved that both institutions shared similar interests and were willing on future collaboration regarding earthquake and tsunami hazard assessment model, comparative reconstruction after recent disasters and the important role of humanities and social sciences for the provision of comprehensive understanding of risk, social reconstruction in post-disaster societies.



IRIDeS visited to CAR

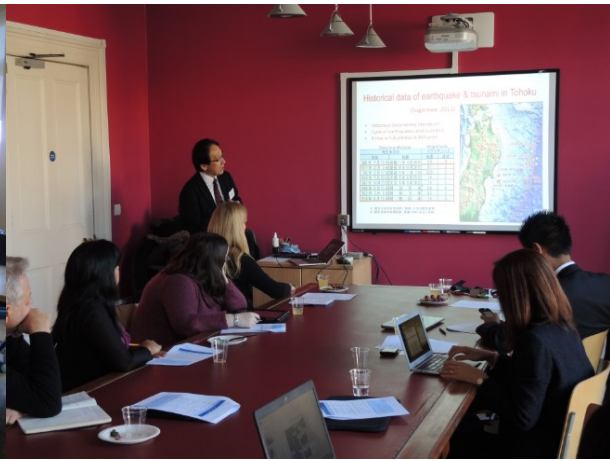


Tohoku @ Cambridge - Dr. Suppasri

On the 9th December, Team IRIDeS joined Tohoku University’s president, vice-president, director of Advanced Institute for Materials Research, coordinator of Multi-Dimensional Material Science Leaders Program, the representative from Inter-Graduate school on Science for Global Safety, at the “Tohoku University day in Cambridge”. Cambridge’s pro-vice Chancellor Prof. Jeremy Sanders, Prof Lindsay Greer and Mr. Allen Swales welcomed the representatives of Tohoku University. Preceding the signature of the agreement between Cambridge and Tohoku, Dr. Anawat Suppasri provided a general overview of the research activities conducted at IRIDeS while Dr Yasuhito Jibiki introduced the global safety program. One of the important issues raised during the following discussions is the increasing of academic impact of research papers co-authored by Cambridge and Tohoku scholars. Both universities agreed in every way about the necessity for future education and research collaborations.



Nuclear Safety @ Cambridge Engineer



Lessons from Tohoku – Prof. Imamura

On the 10th December, the members of IRIDeS participated in parallel sessions on the subjects of material and disaster research held by the Department of Engineering. In the morning, IRIDeS visited Department of Engineering, Dr. Tony Roulstone and Dr. Eugene Shwageraus. We discussed about nuclear safety issue as lessons from the Fukushima accident and responses and recommendations in nuclear power plants in UK. In the afternoon, the Department of Architecture invited the members of IRIDeS to a workshop on global safety and disaster science. The representatives of Cambridge including Dr. Emily So, Prof. Duncan McFarlane from Institute for Manufacturing, Prof. Jean-Philippe Avouac from Department of Earth Sciences and Dr. Amy Donovan from Department of Geography.



Poster session @ Cambridge Architecture



Visit at the Nissan Institute @ Oxford

During their final day in England, the members of IRIDeS visited the University of Oxford. Their first meeting took place at the Pitt-Rivers Museum (Ethnological Museum) where they discussed “Surviving Tsunami”, an exhibition on the Rikuzentakata Disaster Document Digitilization Project held by Dr. Philip Grover (for more information prm.ox.ac.uk/rd3.html). Their second visit took place at the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies and Saint Antony’s College where they were welcomed by Prof. Takehiko Kariya. During an informal exchange, Prof. Kariya, Prof. Imamura and Dr. Boret entertained the idea of developing future ties between the two institutes. To conclude, Prof. Imamura and Dr. Boret visited the Oxford University Office for a preliminary meeting on the potential development of formal ties between the universities of Oxford and Tohoku.

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