

## The Needs for Disaster Digital Archives, World Bosai Forum (November 28, 2017)

Subject: The roles of international digital archives in disaster mitigation  
Location: Sendai International Center

The Archive Unit of IRIDeS (i.e., Michinoku Shinrokuden) held a public session on “**The Needs of Digital Disaster Archives**” at the World Bosai Forum on disaster risk reduction (November 26-28, 2017). Organized by Dr. Akihiro Shibayama and Dr. Sébastien P. Boret (Michinoku Shinrokuden, Archive Unit, IRIDeS, Tohoku University), this session brought together international and interdisciplinary experts from the USA, Europe, and Asia. The presenters included Dr. Ryo Morimoto (Japan Digital Disaster Archive, Harvard University), Dr. Muzailin Afan (Digital Archives of Tsunami in Aceh, Syiah Kuala University), David. H. Slater (Voices from Tohoku, Sophia University), Prof. Toshikata Yamao (Kumamoto Earthquake Archives, Kumamoto University), Ms Sachiko Inoue (Great East Japan Earthquake Archive, National Diet Library). Together they drew from their respective experience to define the need for and the need of digital disaster archives.

After an opening address by Dr Akihiro Shibayama, the participants discussed the making and the use of digital archives in the context of disaster prevention. Each presenter began by introducing the particular activities and the framework in which they were developed. They also engaged with the idea that the primary role of archives is not only to gather, manage and secure data but also to support the creation of knowledge and their usage (research, education, and application) for disaster prevention. Furthermore, they discussed the success and setbacks they faced while attempting to increase the exploitation of disaster digital archives. Finally, the presenters focused on the future needs of archives by teachers, researchers, and professionals engaged in disaster prevention. They argued that 1) sustainability, 2) usability, and 3) necessity of their archives will depend on their capacity to form an international network of disaster digital archives.



Closing discussion chaired by Sébastien P. Boret



Group photo (left to right):  
Akihiro Shibayama, Julia Gerster, Ryo Morimoto, Sachiko Inoue, Sébastien P. Boret, Muzailin Affan, David H. Slater, and Toshikata Yamao.

Report by Shuichi Kawashima, Akihiro Shibayama, Daisuke Saito,  
Yuichi Ebina and Sébastien P. Boret (Archive Unit, IRIDeS)