

1st AKNZ-Congress Care in Civil Protection – Future Perspectives and Concepts (2017/11/29 - 12/1)

Topics: Civil Protection in Catastrophy

Venue: Rheinhotel Vier Jahrzeit (Bad Breisig, Germany)

The 1st AKNZ-Congress Care in Civil Protection – Future Perspectives and Concepts held in Bad Breisig, Germany invited Prof. Egawa of IRIDeS as a special lecturer. This congress aims to promote interdisciplinary and multi-organizational understanding and implementation of the practice of civil protection and disaster risk management.

Germany encountered 2002 Flood disaster, 2004 victims by Indian Ocean Tsunami, and 2015-16 Refugee crisis. The Government of Germany organized the Department of Civil Protection and its research institute (AKNZ) to cope with catastrophic events. This congress was very successful to promote mutual inter-disciplinary and inter-organizational understanding and collaboration.

The delegates are from federal and local governments, various humanitarian agencies and volunteer organizations. Breakout sessions on evacuation, logistics, competencies, interfaces between organizations, psychosocial support, intervention concept and actual implementation. The co-chairs of each breakout groups summarized the discussion in the plenary session. The delegates shared good practices and gaps that the government, humanitarian agencies and volunteer organizations are facing. All the conversation was in German, but simultaneous translators helped sufficiently.

Prof. Egawa joined the breakout sessions actively. Prof. Egawa insisted that in order to make the support realistic, it is important to respect the dignity and culture of affected people and let them make their own decision and self-caring as much as possible. Also he insisted the improvement of accessibility for everybody including people with disability. He commented on the importance of efficient utilizing the ability of affected people rather than considering the disability of affected people.

Prof. Egawa lectured on the last day. He showed the actual trend of displaced people in Great East Japan Earthquake from March 11, 2011 up to now. He showed the spatial and temporal transition of the radioactively contaminated area in Japan, too. Prof. Egawa mentioned the damage to the health of people with the back ground of Japan's disaster risk reduction and aging community and the change of medical needs in disaster. Prof. Egawa provided the concept of Build Back Better based on the Japan's coping history with disasters. He also provided the structure of Priorities and Global Targets in the Sendai Framework according to Prof. Takeya's guidance. Simultaneous translation helped both sides for the mutual understanding.

Another special lecture was about the recent earthquake disaster in central Italy. The Government of Italy has the Department of Civil Protection to cope with calamity. The delegates shared the importance of disaster risk reduction prior to disaster and the common features in the aftermath. Implementation of Sendai Framework is imperative.

Report by Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science Division)

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Many delegates from federal and local governments, humanitarian agencies and volunteer organizations



Prof. Egawa talking on the Great East Japan Earthquake, Sendai Framework and Disaster Risk.



Prof. Egawa joined the breakout session with the help of simultaneous translators.