

3.11 Exhibit and Memorandum of Understanding with the Pacific Tsunami Museum (2022/4/12)

Theme: MOU, International Exchange, Museum, Exhibition, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Storytelling, Cultural Memory, Education

Place: Pacific Tsunami Museum, Hilo Hawai'i

On April 12, 2022 a collaborative agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between IRIDeS and the Pacific Tsunami Museum (PTM), with the signing ceremony held in the PTM in Hilo, Hawaii. The MOU was signed by Marlene Murray, the President and CEO of the PTM, and IRIDeS director Prof. Fumihiko Imamura. PTM Co-founder Dr. Walter Dudley was also in attendance for the signing ceremony, along with IRIDeS faculty, Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office) and Assist. Prof. Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies). Director Prof. Imamura joined the ceremony remotely online, along with Assoc. Prof. Akihiro Shimayama (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies) and Ms. Yukie Suzuki of the IRIDeS PR Office.

Over the past several years, IRIDeS and the PTM have collaborated in various projects to share the lessons of disaster risk reduction, including the organization of and participation in symposiums and workshops on the role of museums and archives in disaster education. Most recently, this visit to Hilo by IRIDeS faculty coincided with the opening of the new exhibit on the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake at the PTM, which was designed in collaboration with the IRIDeS faculty Profs. Maly, Gester, and Shibayama, as well as through the support of many collaborators in Japan. Building on these previous projects and joint activities, the MOU is the next step for strengthening international collaboration in risk reduction education through museums. Currently under discussion, future initiatives for collaboration include the digitization of the PTM's archive of oral histories and other records, the analysis of these archive contents, joint development of contents including disaster storytelling for local guided tours. Through our strong partnership, the exchange of information for DRR knowledge and experience between Hawaii and Japan will also continue through workshops and other events to raise awareness of disaster risk.

Report: Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office) ,
Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies)

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The MOU signing ceremony was held in hybrid form with faculty joining in Hawai'i and Japan



Prof. Imamura and Shibyama joined online



Greetings from
 Director Prof. Fumihiko Imamura



PTM President and CEO Marlene Murray
 Signing MOU



Left to right: Prof. Julia Gerster, Prof. Elizabeth Maly, PTM director Marlene Murray, and PTM co-founder Walter Dudley, with the signed MOU in front of the new 3.11 exhibit at the PTM