

## **IRIDeS-IRDR co-organized UCL Grand Challenge Workshop and Resilience Symposium (2023/7/22 - 28)**

Theme : International research collaboration activities, Resilience, Disaster risk reduction

Place : Institute of Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London, United Kingdom

URL : <https://www.ucl-japan-youth-challenge.com/programme-2023/>

The UCL Grand Challenge Workshop and the resilience symposium was held and co-organized by IRIDeS and IRDR (UCL's Institute for Disaster Risk and Reduction) at University College London (UCL) on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July respectively under UCL-Japan Youth Challenge 2023 (started from the 22<sup>th</sup> July). The UCL-Japan Youth Challenge, a prestigious annual summer school program which has a tremendous reputation and impact since 2015 allow opportunity for pre-university students from Japan and the UK attend a series of university-style lectures on a wide range of subjects by academics from leading UK universities including University of Cambridge and UCL. In Cambridge, a lecture was given by Sir Rory Bristow KCMG. He served as British Ambassador to Afghanistan during the turmoil there. In addition, meetings were held with researchers in Cambridge who are working in areas such as the brain sciences, robotics and nutrition. Lively discussions ensued regarding academic fields in both Japan and the UK.

UCL engage in UCL Grand Challenge Workshop. Faculty members and students from IRIDeS and IRDR contributed to both events as this year's theme is "resilience". Associate Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab) currently visiting UCL-IRDR and Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office) are one of the organizing committee members for this year.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> July, the resilience symposium started by welcome messages from Prof. Shinichi Kuriyama (IRIDeS's director) and Prof. Joanna Faure Walker (IRDR's head) followed by group presentations from students. The second half of the symposium started by a presentation from Fukushima prefecture followed by presentations from both IRIDeS and IRDR faculty members, Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri, Dr. Lisa Guppy (IRDR), Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura and Prof. David Alexander (IRDR and Tohoku University's Professor (Cross-Appointed)) and closing speech by Prof. Masahiro Yamaguchi (Tohoku University's Vice President for Education Reform and Global Engagement). There were more than a hundred participants attended this resilience symposium.

Text and photos from :  
Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)  
Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)

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UCL Grand Challenge Workshop



Welcome message by Prof. Kuriyama



Presentations by highschool students



Presentation by Prof. Alexander



Closing speech by Prof. Yamaguchi



Group photo of organizing committee members and speakers



Reception's opening speech by UCL's Professor Ohnuma



Reception's opening speech by Prof. Yamaguchi