

## **AIWEST-DR 2023: Special Session on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (Hosted by IRIDeS) (2023/10/12)**

Theme: 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, disaster risk reduction, international conference

Venue : Faculty of Psychology, Gadjah Mada University (Yogyakarta, Indonesia) and online

URL : <https://aiwestdr.psikologi.ugm.ac.id/>

"The 15th Aceh International Workshop and Expo on Sustainable Tsunami Disaster Recovery (AIWEST-DR 2023) took place in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from October 11 to 13, 2023. Fifteen members from our institute, including Professor Shinichi Kuriyama, the director (Disaster Public Health Lab), and Vice Director Professor Yuichi Ono (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office), attended. On October 12, 2023, our institute organized a special session titled 'Leaving No One Behind: Disasters, Vulnerability, and Social Inclusion in Japan, Indonesia, and Their Partners.' It focused on inclusive disaster risk reduction, with a particular emphasis on people with disabilities.

In this session, we were honored to host guest speakers Ms. Momoko Takahashi, who is with disability requiring medical care, and Ms. Miwako Takahashi, her mother and caregiver. They shared their personal experiences during the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami, shedding light on the challenges they faced in disaster isolation, including limited access to essential supplies like food and water. These insights deepened our understanding of people with disabilities and improved our disaster preparedness knowledge.

The importance of providing special consideration for people with disabilities throughout disaster prevention, response, and recovery was underscored. The discussions also included insights from Indonesia about disasters and people with disabilities.

Additionally, Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office), Assoc. Prof. Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office), Asst. Prof. Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab), Asst. Prof. Ryo Saito (Cognitive Sciences Lab), Asst. Prof. Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies), and Assoc. Prof. David Nguyen (Tsunami Engineering Lab) contributed to a wide range of discussions on inclusive disaster risk reduction.

During the opinion/experience exchange between the Takahashi family and people with disabilities from Indonesia, there was an opportunity to discuss the situation of mothers and children with disabilities in Indonesia. This exchange also included interactions among people with disabilities through art of Ms. Momoko Takahashi. Among the discussions, topics such as the challenges faced by mothers who provide care to people with disabilities, including sleep deprivation and feelings of loneliness, were raised. It became evident that there are common challenges related to caregiving and the roles of families and mothers in both Japan and Indonesia.

Through these valuable opportunities, new insights into the challenges faced by people with disabilities from an international perspective were gained. This has expanded the possibilities for future collaborations in disaster research and projects involving people with disabilities requiring medical care.

Text and Photos : Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)  
Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab)  
Yuta Hara (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office)  
Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office)  
Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office)  
Yuichi Ono (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office)  
Shinnchi Kuriyama (Disaster Public Health Lab)  
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Share their experiences during the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami in the special session, offering valuable insights into disability challenges during disasters.



A touching interaction between an Indonesian child with disability, Ms. Takahashi Momoko, and their family



Indonesian people with disabilities sharing their disaster experiences and engaging in meaningful discussions



Art exchange between Indonesian child with disability, Ms. Takahashi Momoko, and their families