

International Disaster and Recovery Workshop held at IRIDeS (2024/2/26)

Theme: Natural Hazards, Compound Disasters, Nuclear Disaster, Recovery, Memory, Student Workshop
Venue: IRIDeS. Aobayama campus of Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan)

On February 26th, an International Disaster and Recovery Workshop was held at IRIDeS as part of the winter schools of Yamagata University – Leibniz University Hannover on ecosystems and resilience; and Kataribe World Network (KWN)-Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU)-IRIDeS on disaster memory. The workshop aimed to introduce and discuss various facets of disaster management, recovery, and memory. The event was organized by IRIDeS faculty and attended by about 60 people, including students and faculty of Yamagata University, Leibniz University Hannover, LMU Munich, National University of Singapore, Yamaguchi University, and representatives from the Kataribe World Network.

A screening of the documentary "The Great Tsunami in Japan" on the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami in Japan, was followed by manifold presentations of IRIDeS faculty on aspects of the disaster's impact and recovery. Assoc. Prof. Maly Elizabeth (International Research Collaboration Office) started with a presentation on housing and community recovery, highlighting the challenges and strategies involved in rebuilding communities post-disaster. Following this, Assoc. Prof. Erick Mas (Disaster Geo-informatics Lab) discussed the development of tsunami disaster mitigation technologies, focusing on real-time response mechanisms essential for effective disaster management. Assoc. Prof. Sebastien Boret's presentation on memorial monuments and disaster memory shed light on the role of commemorative structures in preserving collective and cultural memory and honoring the victims of disasters. Finally, Assoc. Prof. Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies) presented on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster and its long-term implications for recovery efforts. This presentation also served as a preparation for the upcoming field trips of the students and to raise their awareness regarding signs of the disaster to be encountered in Fukushima prefecture, such as radiation measuring posts, vacant land, or newly rebuilt residential areas.

The workshop concluded with a session dedicated to group discussions led by students, focusing on disaster perceptions. This interactive segment encouraged participants from different countries and universities to share their perspectives, experiences, and insights, fostering a collaborative learning environment conducive to knowledge exchange and critical reflection.

Text and Photos: Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies)
Maly Elizabeth (International Research Collaboration Office)
Erick Mas (Disaster Geo-informatics Lab)
Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office)

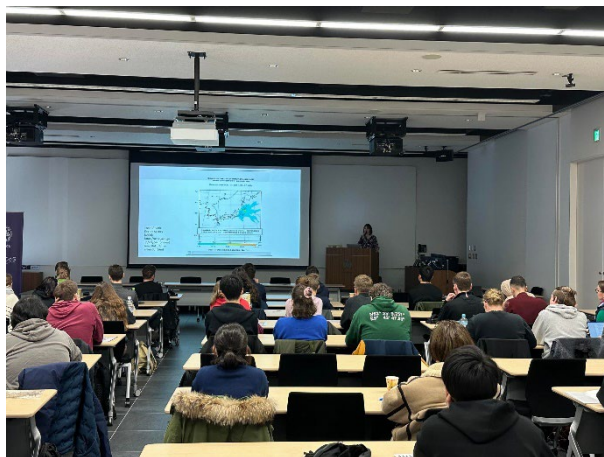
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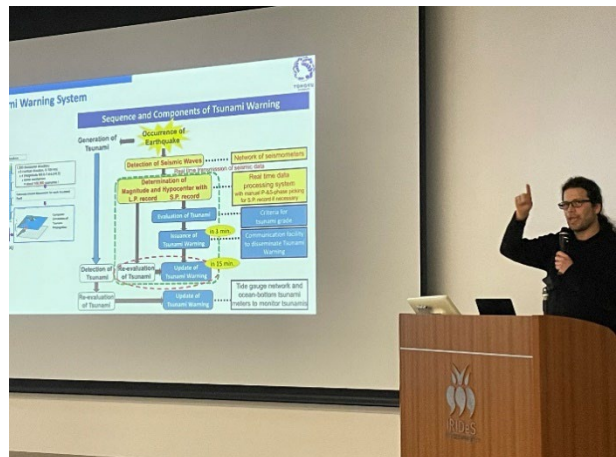
Presentation by Assoc. Prof. Boret



Presentation by Assoc. Prof. Maly



Presentation by Assoc. Prof. Gerster



Presentation by Assoc. Prof. Mas



Group work impressions