

## **UCL-IRDR visited Japan for collaborative research and education with IRIDeS (2024/4/16-20)**

Theme : The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

Place : Sendai City and Minami-Sanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture and Noto Peninsula, Kanazawa Prefecture

Associate Professor Punam Yadav (Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction, UCL) and Dr. Stephen Roberts (Institute for Global Health, UCL) visited Japan under a support from the Tohoku University-University College London (UCL) Matching Fund under a project title “Significance of Women’s Leadership for DRR: a case of Northern Japan post 2011 Tsunami” from the 16 to the 20 April 2024 together with Associate Professor Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab) and Dr. Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office).

On the 16 April 2024, they visited several areas affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, meet with women leader in each evacuation shelters in Noto Peninsula as well as local government staff in Noto town to investigate the current difficulties and needs in the evacuation shelters as well as future challenge on recovery and reconstruction. On the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024, they visited IRIDeS to discuss on the ongoing Double Degree on disaster science and other possible collaborative research with IRIDeS’s director (Prof. Shinichi Kuriyama), Prof. Fumihiko Imamura (Tsunami Engineering Lab) and Prof. Shinichi Egawa (International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine Lab).

On April 18, 2024, representatives visited the Tohoku University Center for Gender Equality Promotion and met with Dr. Lee to discuss gender equality initiatives between UCL and Tohoku University. On April 19 and 20, the delegation traveled to Minami-Sanriku Town, where they conducted an interview with Ms. Keiko Abe, a hotel owner. Her company has been actively supporting local businesses and community members. Additionally, her company has established 'Inochino Mori', an educational program aimed at enhancing students' understanding of the relationship between nature and disasters in this region. During this visit, we discovered the importance of leadership through a gender lens, informed by lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Furthermore, there was a meeting with Dr. Seyama from Saitama University to discuss employment and gender inequality in Japan’s academic environment.

We hope that the collaboration between UCL and IRIDeS will enhance understanding of best practices and future challenges related to women’s leadership in disaster risk reduction. This cooperation is also expected to significantly contribute to the potential and capacity for developing young researchers in the future.

More information

2024 Tohoku University-University College London Matching Fund

<https://web.tohoku.ac.jp/ged/11688?lang=en>

UCL Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/risk-disaster-reduction/ucl-irdr>

UCL Institute for Global Health

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global-health/institute-global-health>

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

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Visit to a local evacuation center in  
Shunranno-sato



A meeting at IRIDeS



A meeting at Tohoku University Center for  
Gender Equality Promotion



Visiting at Minami-Sanriku Inochino-mori