

Maui County Government and key stakeholders from Hawaii visited IRIDeS and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake Tsunami Affected Areas (2024/5/20-23)

Theme : Disaster countermeasures, town planning, international collaboration

Venue : IRIDeS, tsunami affected areas in Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures, and Tokyo

In August 2023, a wildfire rapidly spread across the island of Maui in the State of Hawaii, USA. The wildfire is considered to be the deadliest disaster in the history of Hawaii and the 5th deadliest wildfire disaster in the US. Funded by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and led by the US-Japan Council, a delegation from Hawaii visited Japan in order to learn how Japanese communities rebuilt and recovered from recent disasters, especially in the Tohoku Region. The Hawaii delegation included the Mayor of Maui County, Richard Bissen, the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii Maui College, and several Hawaii based organizations and businesses.

On May 20th, members of IRIDeS faculty, Deputy Director Yuichi Ono (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office), Associate Prof. (Specially Appointed) David N. Nguyen (Tsunami Engineering Lab.), Associate Prof. Kanako Iuchi (Regional Resilience Planning Lab), and Associate Prof. Liz Maly (International Research Collaboration Office) provided presentations on Tohoku Disaster recovery to the visitors from Maui. In addition, representatives from Sendai City, Weather News, Pacific Consultants, and Fukuda Sangyo of Higashi-Matsushima, also provided information. The delegation from Hawaii later conducted fieldtrips to tsunami affected cities in Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures.

On the fourth day, a workshop was held in Tokyo, which also was attended by the US Embassy and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The workshop centered upon group discussions on identifying community needs during the reconstruction process, and which activities to prioritize. The workshop ended with a discussion on future collaborations between Hawaii and Japan. Representing Tohoku University David N. Nguyen was involved in the management of this workshop.



Workshop at IRIDeS



Group photo
(members from Hawaii, IRIDeS, and Sendai City)



Workshop in Tokyo