

Multicultural Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop and Treasure Hunt (DRRT) (2024/6/2)

Theme: Disaster Education, Disaster Risk Reduction, Bosai
Place: Sendai Multicultural Center and Katahira Area

On June 2, together with Mr. Masahiro Horino and Mr. Ryo Okazaki of the Sendai Tourism, Convention and International Association (SenTIA) and Sunhee Lee of the Tohoku University Center for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), IRIDeS faculty members organized an international Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop and Treasure Hunt (DRRT) that was held at the Sendai Multicultural Center and the Katahira area. Following last year's workshop, this event marked the second multicultural disaster preparedness workshop for foreign residents in Sendai co-organized by IRIDeS. In total 50 people joined the event, including Foreign Resident Disaster Prevention Leaders, interpretation volunteers and 27 regular participants from 13 countries. In addition Risa Yanagiya from Sendai City and Kadan Otemachi Neighborhood Association and IRIDeS faculty members Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura and Assistant Professor Ryo Saito, Associate Professors Elizabeth Maly and Julia Gerster, and Prof. Takeshi Sato engaged in the overall organization, leading of the groups and disaster preparedness related explanations and demonstrations during the event. Divided in six teams, the participants solved quizzes that they found at various locations in the Katahira Area. Each correct answer would send them to the next location, where they learned about Sendai, various types of evacuation facilities or other useful information on disaster preparedness. At Katahira Shimin Center, Prof. Sato explained about emergency goods stocked at evacuation facilities and the participants could try producing electricity with power generators. After all groups reached the goal at Katahira campus, everyone listened to wrap-up presentations on how to prepare for and react during certain disasters, and the services provided by Sendai City for foreign residents in case of emergencies. Finally, the participants joined group discussions, asked questions regarding disaster preparedness and reflected on the treasure hunt. Although many participants had wished for better weather during the treasure hunt, in the post-workshop questionnaire most replied that they feel better prepared for disasters and received a lot of useful information, such as how to pack an emergency bag or where to turn to during a disaster. More events are planned to be held in the future.

Text and pictures:

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Explanations on the treasure hunt.



Two teams trying to solve a quiz to find the next location.



Prepared for rainy weather!



Prof. Sato explaining emergency stocks and how to use a power generator.



Impressions of the final group discussion.