

Romania University Disaster Symposium (2024/11/24)

Theme : Romania ,International research collaboration activities, tsunami disaster

Place : Online, Timișoara Polytechnic University ,Romania

On 24 November 2024, His Excellency, Ambassador Takashi Katae, accompanied by Visiting Professor Michihiro Chikata (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies), visited Timișoara Polytechnic University (UPT) to participate in the Japanese Autumn Festival Kakehashi. The visit, aimed at fostering academic and cultural exchange between Japan and Romania, included a collaborative event titled "Learning from Disasters for Prevention and Mitigation", co-organised with Tohoku University's International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS). This event explored interdisciplinary approaches to disaster science, recovery, and resilience building.

The programme featured a screening of the documentary "The Great Tsunami in Japan" Reflecting on the 2011 disaster, which vividly depicted the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the efforts of those involved in reconstruction. Professor Fumihiko Imamura (Tsunami Engineering Lab) from IRIDeS delivered an enlightening lecture on the mechanisms of tsunamis, the impact of the earthquake, and the importance of disaster science and reconstruction support.

A cultural perspective was also shared through presentations focusing on "Art and the Memory of Disaster." Research Fellow (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office) introduced efforts to preserve the memory of the Noto Peninsula earthquake and the Great London Fire, while Associate Professor Orika Komatsubara (Graduate School of Arts and Letters) presented on using Kamishibai (traditional Japanese storytelling using drawing) to convey the memories of Minamata's environmental disaster. These presentations highlighted the vital role of art in transmitting disaster memories to future generations.

The event concluded with a Q&A session and a live online connection with faculty members from Tohoku University, who shared reflections and their aspirations for future collaboration.

This symposium reaffirmed the potential for international academic partnerships with Romania, underscoring the value of joint efforts in disaster science and cultural exchange.



Prof. Imamura's presentation



Poster of the event

Text: Miwako Kitamura (International Collaboration office)
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Photos: Chikata Michihiro (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies)