

Visiting Disaster Centers in Sweden and Estonia (11-18 February 2026)

Theme: Disaster Science, Research Collaboration

URL: <https://www.cnds.se/>, <https://www.kruk.ee/en/crisis-research-centre/>

Prof. Takako Izumi (International Environment and Disaster Management Research Lab) and Associate Professor Sébastien P. Boret (International Research Collaboration Office) visited two disaster research centers in Sweden and Estonia for further IRIDeS collaborations and understanding of disaster management in Europe.

Their trip began with a visit to **the Center of Natural Hazard and Disaster Science (CNDS)** in Uppsala, Sweden (https://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/media/files/_u/topic/file/20221104_report.pdf). In addition to strategic meetings, Prof. Izumi and Assoc. Prof. Boret participated in the **CNDS 15th Anniversary Symposium**. Their presentations reported on the past and future collaborations between IRIDeS and CNDS partly funded by the MIRAI program. The MIRAI program forms the basis for long-term cooperation, researcher and student mobility, and economic and cultural exchange between 17 Japanese and Swedish universities. Members of this program, IRIDeS and CNDS have exchanged students and researchers during two disaster summer schools held in Sendai and Uppsala in 2024. Prof. Izumi participated in a panel debate on “**Grand Challenges for the Future**” with Ms. Margareta Wahlström of UN Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. To conclude their visit, they also finalised an application for research collaboration on **Investigating local perceptions of earthquake and climate change risks to improve disaster management** – A joint pilot study in Tohoku, Japan.

After Sweden, Prof. Izumi and Assoc. Prof. Boret visited the **Crisis Research Center (KRUUK)** in Tallinn, Estonia. They were welcomed by Ms. Anne-May Nagel and Ms. Hannes Nagel, the center’s co-founders. They explained that their center was established in 2022 in order to popularise and develop crisis management in Estonia. Its members carry out crisis management studies, the results of which are reflected in various reports, scientific journals and popular literature. They also present the crisis management challenges in preparation for crises and post-crisis, focusing on **VUCA environmental crises**. Their main partners include state agencies, local governments, and the private sector. This first meeting was an opportunity to learn from the European experience in disaster management, especially in the context of the Ukrainian War. Before parting, Mr. Nagel and Ms. Nagal expressed their strong desire to **visit IRIDeS in Sendai later in 2025** to learn further from the Japanese expertise and explore the potential for collaboration between Europe and Japan.

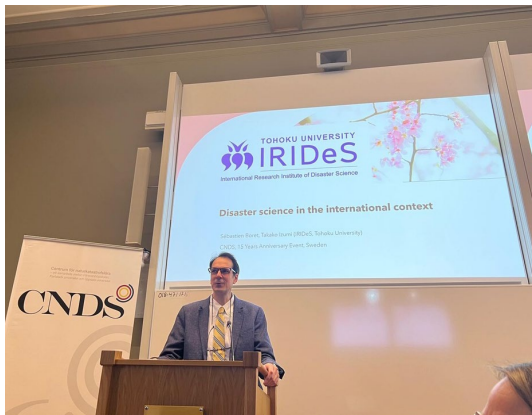
REPORT: BORET P. Sébastien (International Research Collaboration Office) and
IZUMI Takako (International Environment and Disaster Management Research Lab)
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15th CNDS Anniversary,
 Director Steffi Burchardt (left). Panel Debate (left to
 right): Prof. Frederik Bynander, Prof. Takako Izumi,
 and Ms. Margareta Wahlström



The MoU signing between CNDS and IRIDeS



Assoc. Prof. S. Boret introducing CNDS-IRIDeS



Visiting the co-founders of
 the Crisis Research Center in Tallinn,
 Anne-May Nagel (left) and Hannes Nagel (right)