

Participation at the 10th Academic Conference of the Society for Disaster Shelter and Refuge Life (2025/2/22-23)

Theme: Disability, disaster evacuation, shelters

Venue: Osaka Metropolitan University

URL: <https://dsrl.jp/> (Japanese)

Associate Professor Sébastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office) and Assistant Professor Hyejeong Park (International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine Lab) were invited by Professor Keiko Kitagawa, a founding member of the society and emeritus professor at Saga University, to present at the 10th Conference of the Society for Disaster Shelter and Refuge Life in Osaka, Japan.

The Society for Disaster Shelter and Refuge Life aims to improve the safety of disaster victims by verifying and researching evacuation life during disasters through the exchange and cooperation of its members, who are practitioners and researchers of evacuation shelters and evacuation life. The theme of their 10th conference was “Thirty years since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake: Now is the time to make TKB48 the standard for evacuation shelters”. Many reports discussed the TKB (Toilet-Kitchen-Bed) conditions in the recent Noto Peninsula Earthquake (1/1/2024).

During a panel reporting on the conditions of people with disabilities during disasters in Japan, Assoc. Prof. Boret and Asst. Prof. Park presented “Support for people with disabilities in times of disaster: Voices from the Noto Peninsula in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake”. Their presentation received little interest from both the organisers and the audience, with particular interest in the need for a new framework for refuge for people with disabilities. Prof. Kitagawa continued the discussion with a talk on “Disasters and People with Disabilities: Issues in providing support during disasters in an ultra-aged society”.

To conclude their discussion, Prof. Kitagawa invited Assoc. Prof. Boret and Asst. Prof. Park to join the Society and agreed that it was urgent to develop a joint project on the theme of disability and disaster in Japan and overseas.



Assoc. Prof. Sébastien P. Boret



Asst. Prof. Hyejeong Park



Prof. Keiko Kitagawa

Text and photos: Sébastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office)
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