

EU-JAPAN Forum and fieldsite visit on Research and Innovation Communication in Support of Disaster Societal Resilience and Risk Governance (3-4 March 2025)

Theme: natural hazards, disaster risks, complexity, building resilience, interdisciplinarity
Venue: DPRI, Kyoto University

On March 3-4, 2025, Professor Michio Ubaura (Spatial Design Strategies Lab), Associate Professor Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office) and Assistant Professor Hyejeong Park (International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine Lab) participated in the EU-JAPAN Forum on Research and Innovation Communication in Support of Disaster Societal Resilience and Risk Governance. Organised by Crisis Management Innovation Europe, this event aimed to introduce European disaster scholars and their projects to disaster experts in Japan and further collaboration between both parties within the 'Horizon Europe' framework funded by the European Commission.

Horizon Europe: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

As part of the second session on 'Return of Experience: Technologies and risk management methodologies in support of disaster risk reduction, Prof Ubaura presented his latest research on 'Applying the experience of recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake to the recovery process from the Noto Peninsula Earthquake.' Prof Ubarua participated in a productive panel discussion with colleagues from Greece, Germany, France, and the Netherlands, with whom they could debate technology's benefits and limits during community reconstruction.

On the second day, Assoc Prof Boret gave a keynote lecture on 'The Science of Disaster Vulnerabilities and Inclusion at Tohoku University and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.' After introducing IRIDeS, he shared the progress needed in researching socio-economic vulnerabilities, especially in the field of people with disabilities, research he carries out with Assist Prof Park. During fruitful discussions, they received feedback for advancing resilience and disability research and were offered opportunities for EU-Japan collaboration.

The organiser of the forum, Mr. Philippe Quevaulliers and some members of the forum, Emmanuel Garnier (CEA LSCE, France; Visiting Professor at Tohoku University), Rosa Tamborrino (Politecnico Torino, Italy), and Funda Atun (University of Twente, The Netherlands) visited Sendai and IRIDes, including Prof Fumihiko Imamura of the Tsunami Engineering Lab, during their participation to the World Bosai Forum 2025. Together, they visited the affected areas and places of remembrance of Ishinomaki, furthering their discussion for future collaborations.

Report by: Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office),
Hyejeong Park (International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine Lab),
Michio Ubaura (Spatial Design Strategies Lab) and
Fumihiko Imamura (Tsunami Engineering Lab).

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Assoc Prof Boret Keynote on vulnerabilities



Disaster Governance with Prof. Garnier



Tour of Ishinomaki's disaster areas



Visiting Prof Imamura and the Tsunami Lab