

IRIDeS faculty members visited UCL to strengthen research and academic collaboration (2025/3/18-21)

Theme: International collaboration

Venue: University College London (UCL), United Kingdom

From March 18th to 21st, 2025, Prof. Shinichi Egawa (International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine Lab), Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab) and Dr. Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office) represented three main research disciplines of IRIDeS: science/engineering, social science, and medical science. They visited several departments and institutions of one of the UK's top universities, University College London (UCL), to strengthen research and academic collaboration on various interdisciplinary topics related to disaster science.

On the 18th of March, IRIDeS members visited our main counterpart, the Risk and Disaster Reduction (RDR) Department, in the morning with the department's head, Prof. Joanna Walker, to discuss overall matters related to institutional collaboration. In the afternoon, Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri delivered his invited talk on the topic related to cascading impacts and new tsunami research progress of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake for the UNESCO CHAIR-Educational Activities webinar, which is organized by UCL EPICentre (Earthquake and People Interaction Centre). In the evening, Dr. Miwako Kitamura was a panelist for "RDR monthly event on Gender, disaster and the Sendai Framework: A decade of progress," which explored achievements since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 with a particular focus on progress in gender and disaster risk reduction.

On March 19th, in the morning, IRIDeS members visited RDR's bachelor students, who will conduct an internship in the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake-affected areas in June 2025. This activity has been supported by the Project for Strengthening Global Expansion of Universities since 2022. In the afternoon, IRIDeS members brainstormed on future health and disaster medicine collaborations with Prof. Ilan Kelmen RDR and the Institute of Global Health (IGH). The spiral evolution of the disaster medical system in Japan can be a good topic for future collaboration.

On March 20th, in the morning, IRIDeS members visited Prof. Maria Kett, who is a director of the MSc in Humanitarian Policy and Practice, Faculty of Population Health Science, for potential collaboration of student exchange and other academic collaborations. Prof. Kett has worked as a nurse in humanitarian response and indicated the diverse and multidisciplinary approach to the health and humanitarian aspects of disaster risk reduction. In the afternoon, IRIDeS members met with the UCL Global Engagement Office and RDR academic members on several matters related to the double Ph.D. degree in disaster science with Tohoku University.

On March 21st, IRIDeS members visited Assoc. Prof. Gianluca Pescaroli, RDR, who is leading the EU and UKRI-funded AGnostic risk management for high Impact Low probability Events (AGILE) Horizon Europe Project that IRIDeS is also one of the consortium members to discuss the current progress activities. Furthermore, Dr. Kitamura delivered a lecture alongside Professor Tatsuki for the 'Gender and Conflict' module of the UCL RDR Master program. The lecture focused on disaster risk reduction for persons with disabilities through a gender lens.

This visit is supported by the TU-UCL Matching Fund under the project title "Initiation of Double PhD Programme between UCL and Tohoku University in Disaster Science." IRIDeS members also used this visit for a number of meetings regarding several ongoing research projects supported by the Matching Fund, such as liquefactions caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake, Women's Leadership for DRR, and Cultural heritage and social innovation in Japan.

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UCL Risk and Disaster Reduction department: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/risk-disaster-reduction/>
 TU-UCL Matching Fund 2024: <https://web.tohoku.ac.jp/ged/11688?lang=en>
 TU-UCL Matching Fund 2025: <https://web.tohoku.ac.jp/ged/13213?lang=en>
 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS): Project for Strengthening Global Expansion of Universities: <https://www.jspss.go.jp/english/e-tenkairyoku/kekka.html>



Visiting RDR with Prof. Joanna Walker



Invited talk for UNESCO webinar with Prof. Tiziana Rossetto



Panel discussion of RDR monthly event



RDR students who will conduct internship



Meeting on the newly launch MSc program



Meeting at Global Engagement Office

Text and photos : Shinichi Egawa (International Cooperation for Disaster Medicine Lab),
 Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab) and
 Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)