

2025 Multicultural Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop and Treasure Hunt (DRRT) (2025/6/14)

Theme: Disaster Education, Disaster Risk Reduction, Bosai

Place: Tohoku University, Espace and Katahira Area

On June 14, 2025, together with Horino Masahiro, Ryo Okazaki and Asami Chida of the Sendai Tourism, Convention and International Association (SenTIA) and Senior Lecturer Sunhee Lee of the Tohoku University Center for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), IRIDeS faculty members organized the third international Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop and Treasure Hunt (DRRT) that was held at Tohoku University's Espace and the Katahira area. Risa Yanagiya from Sendai City and Kadan Otemachi Neighborhood Association and IRIDeS faculty members Assistant Professor Ryo Saito (Cognitive Sciences Lab), Associate Professors Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office) and Julia Gerster (Disaster Memory Studies Lab), and Prof. Takeshi Sato (Disaster Education Research and Implementation Lab), Specially Appointed Associate Professors Miwako Kitamura and Mika Sakai of the Tohoku University Startup Incubation Center engaged in the overall organization, leading of the groups and disaster preparedness related explanations and demonstrations during the event. 49 people joined the event, including Foreign Resident Disaster Prevention Leaders, interpretation volunteers and regular participants from 21 countries. Among them were also 17 Japanese participants, who joined to learn about multicultural disaster preparedness.

The day began with an introduction to natural hazards and protective measures in Japan, and particularly in Sendai, by Assoc. Prof. Gerster. This was followed by a presentation on support services for international residents by Mr. Okazaki from SenTIA, and an explanation of the treasure hunt activity by Assoc. Prof. Maly. Participants were divided into teams and set off to solve quizzes located at various spots around the Katahira area. Each correct answer led them to the next location, where they learned about Sendai's disaster history, different types of evacuation facilities, and other useful information related to disaster preparedness. Like in the past year, one of the highlights was the Katahira Shimin Center, where Professor Sato introduced emergency supplies stocked at evacuation sites. Participants also had the opportunity to generate electricity using manual power generators and take a look at the stockpiles. After all teams reached the final checkpoint at the Katahira Campus, the event concluded with group discussions on how participants can pack their own emergency bags. The event was featured in a short report aired by NHK on June 26.

Images: Organization Team

Text: Julia Gerster (Disaster Memory Studies Lab)

Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office)

Takeshi Sato (Disaster Education Research and Implementation Lab)

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The Team leaders introduce themselves



The participants listen to the presentations



Team Blue solving the quizzes



Prof. Sato explains stockpiles and power generators



Happy despite the rain



Searching for the next quiz

