

Promoting Academic Exchange and Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration with Uzbekistan (April 13 and June 1, 2026)

Theme: International Collaboration, Central Asian Studies, Interdisciplinary Research, Disaster Resilience
Venue: Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

On 13 April 2026, **Tohoku University and the National University of Uzbekistan** jointly hosted an international academic exchange conference in conjunction with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions.

The conference brought together vice-presidents, alongside faculty members and students from both universities to present and discuss research on a wide range of topics, including education, culture, disasters, environmental change, and community resilience. Participants explored common challenges and opportunities shared by Japan and Central Asia, while identifying new avenues for future collaboration.

Representing the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), **Professor Sébastien Boret (Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Lab)** introduced the institute's history, mission, and contributions to disaster science, with particular emphasis on interdisciplinary and internationally collaborative research. He also presented a promising avenue for future cooperation through a research initiative entitled ***“Remembering Environmental Change and Slow-Onset Disasters in Uzbekistan and Central Asia.”*** Drawing on perspectives from anthropology, memory studies, and environmental social sciences, the project examines how communities remember and respond to long-term environmental transformations and slow-onset disasters, particularly in the Aral Sea region.

On 1 June 2026, building on the discussions initiated during the April exchange, the Graduate School of Education organized a workshop entitled **“Expanding Interdisciplinary Research from Central Asia”**. The event gathered researchers from diverse fields, including literature, education, agriculture, astronomy, climate change, migration studies, and disaster science, to explore future collaborative research opportunities in Central Asia. **Assistant Professor Yuta Hara (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office)** participated in the workshop. He presented his research on local knowledge and resilience to slow-onset disasters, highlighting the importance of community-based knowledge in adapting to long-term environmental change, including in the Aral Sea region.

Together, these events strengthened academic ties between Tohoku University and the National University of Uzbekistan and contributed to the development of an interdisciplinary international research network focused on Central Asia. They also laid important groundwork for **future joint research projects and upcoming international conferences in Uzbekistan**, while opening new opportunities for collaboration in disaster science, environmental studies, cultural heritage, and community resilience.



Group Photo of Participants from Tohoku University and the National University of Uzbekistan

**東北大学×ウズベキスタン国立大学
 国際学術交流会**

ウズベキスタン国立大学との連携とその将来展望
 —中央アジアと日本の学術交流拡大を目指して—

- ◆日時：2026年4月13日（月）13:00-18:00
- ◆会場：東北大学大学院教育学研究科 大会議室（11階）
 （川内南キャンパス C14 文科系総合研究棟）
- ◆対面開催・英語使用 | 一般公開・参加無料 | 要事前申込
- ◆参加申込 URL: <https://forms.gle/gjTlw5WwXVGG/z8>

12:30 開場 13:00 開会（組合写真 志室 ありむとむて）
 開会挨拶 出口 篤弘（東北大学 副学長）（予定）
 来賓挨拶 Tolmatov Shohrol Amanovich
 （Vice-rector for academic affairs, National University of Uzbekistan）
 基調講演 小嶋 秀樹（東北大学 大学院教育学研究科系 教授）

13:40-15:50 セッション1：中央アジアとの国際学術連携の機運と展望（各 20分）
 Bakiev Khabibulla Makhommatovich
 (Dean of Foreign Philology Faculty, National University of Uzbekistan)
 藤山 麻美子（東北大学 研究推進・支援機構 リサーチ・マネジメントセンター 特任教授）
 眞真 寛二（東北大学 理学部科学フロンティア研究所 教授）
 科ノム・ベムメンシム 佐ひつサシム（東北大学 公衆衛生学国際研究所 准教授）
 Ermanov Davron Rakhmatilovich
 (Senior lecturer of Department of Foreign language and literature, National University of Uzbekistan)

16:00-17:30 セッション2：研究実態に基づく学術交流と対話（各 15分）
 ※両大学の大学院生・学生もどが、それぞれの研究テーマについて発表します

主催 東北大学大学院教育学研究科
 共催 外国語学教育学部, National University of Uzbekistan
 Foreign Philology Faculty, National University of Uzbekistan
 東北大学理学部科学フロンティア研究所 東北大学公衆衛生学国際研究所
 協賛 東北大学リサーチ・マネジメントセンター



Local food of Uzbekistan



Presentation by Professor Boret