

Japan Society for Welfare Learning Support–IRIDeS Joint Seminar (16 October 2026)

Theme: Bridging Disaster Research and Social Welfare: Evacuation Support, Reasonable Accommodation and Inclusive DRR

Venue: International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University

URL: <https://jselas.or.jp/> (Society website)

On 16 October 2026, the Japan Society for Welfare Learning Support and the Inclusive DRR Lab at the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, held a joint seminar at IRIDeS. Bringing together specialists in welfare and disaster research, the event featured presentations and discussions on support for persons with disabilities, evacuation shelter management, disaster-related legislation, reasonable accommodation, and challenges in inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR).

The Society President, Prof. Sakamoto Masatoshi, chaired the seminar. The event opened with remarks by Prof. Keiko Kitagawa, President of the Japan Society for Welfare Learning Support (Visiting Professor, Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Lab), and Prof. Sébastien Boret (Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Lab).

Research Presentations and Special Lectures

Yoshito Yasuda (Hanazono University)

“Support for Children with Severe Disabilities: Communication among Professionals”

Yuta Ueo (Fukuoka City Government; Social Worker)

“The Reality of Disaster Evacuation Shelters as Seen through Operational Support”

Keiko Kitagawa (Professor Emerita, Saga University)

“Challenges in Sustaining Support for People Requiring Assistance: From the Process of Establishing Disaster Legislation”

Hiromu Kurahashi (Yamato University)

“Reasonable Accommodation during Disasters: A Perspective from Social Welfare Law and Institutions”

Sébastien Boret (Tohoku University)

“Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction from the Perspective of Evacuation Shelters: Challenges and Possibilities”

Hyejeong Park (Tohoku University)

“Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Super-Aging Society”

The presentations were followed by a plenary discussion on “Disasters and Welfare: Perspectives from Disaster-Affected Areas.” Masatoshi Sakamoto, Chair of the Society, delivered the closing remarks.

Outcomes and Future Prospects

Although the group was relatively small, the presentations offered a striking range of perspectives, concrete examples, and research questions. The seminar provided an opportunity for interdisciplinary learning and highlighted the importance of connecting expertise in social welfare with findings from disaster research.

The contributions were complementary and suggested promising possibilities for future joint research and a collective publication. The exchange was both intellectually stimulating and valuable for the participants, and we hope it will lead to continued dialogue and collaboration on welfare and inclusive DRR.

Report prepared by: Sébastien Boret (IRIDeS, Tohoku University)
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Participants in the joint seminar at IRIDeS