

Collaboration with the French National Center of Scientific Research (CNRS) on France-Japan Comparative Study of Disaster History, Memory, and Communication (2023/5/22-26)

Theme: Disaster history, memory, and communication

Venue: IRIDeS

Prof. Emmanuel Garnier, leader of the International Research Network “Recovery Trajectories of Societies to Natural Disasters” (RISCDIS), visited IRIDES on May 22-26, 2023. IRIDeS joined RISCDIS last year and is based in the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). Its purpose is to enhance: 1) assessment of disaster risks based on lessons learned from the past: 2) knowledge and situational awareness of disaster-related risks by citizens, empowered to act, thus raising the resilience of societies: 3) efficient cross-sectoral, cross-disciplines, cross-border coordination of the disaster risk management cycle (from prevention, preparedness to mitigation, response, and recovery) from international to local levels: 4) knowledge and coordination regarding standardisation in the area of crisis management and CBRN-E. More information here: <https://irn-riscdis.cnrs.fr/en/project/>

The objective of Prof. Garnier’s visits consisted in designing three primary missions:

- 1) Disaster monument, risk communication, and local knowledge: Prof Garnier, Associate Prof. Sébastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office), and Assistant Prof. Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab) are developing a joint paper on the roles of memorial monuments in risk communication and local knowledge. They visited memorial sites and monuments in Ishinomaki, Natori, and Futaba. They identified several areas which could be used as case studies for a comparative study with a French case of Cyclone Cynthia (2010).
- 2) RISCDIS development and promotion: Prof. Emmanuel Garnier was also introduced to several colleagues in and outside IRIDeS. He visited the Center for Northeast Asian Studies, meeting Prof. Hiroki Takakura and Associate Prof. Alyne Delaney. He attended a seminar by Assistant Prof. Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies) on Food Culture and Community Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake.
- 3) Climate change, Disaster, and History: Prof. Garnier met with Associate Prof. Daisuke Sato (Preservation of Historical and Cultural Heritage Lab) to discuss their respective research on climate history in Europe and Japan. Prof. Garnier presented his research on climate change between the 1500 to 1850s. His work is based on historical evidence in archives and private diaries, which he compares with hard science in a multidisciplinary framework. Prof Garnier and Prof Sato agreed to build to continue a dialogue and eventually build a collaborative paper and project.

In conclusion, the parties agreed to meet in France this autumn to stimulate further discussion and to carry out fieldwork on these three main topics. Prof. Garnier is expected to return to Sendai in December to enhance the activities of RISCDIS in IRIDeS.

Report: Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab)
Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office)
Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies)



Asst. Prof. Hyejeong Park, Prof. Hiroki Takakura, Prof. Emmanuel Garnier, Assoc. Prof. Sébastien Boret, Assist. Prof. Julia Gerster (Left to Right) and students, after Dr. Gerster's talk.



Prof. Garnier, Assis. Prof. Park, Assis. Prof. Gerster and Mr. Honma, a community leader and local historian in Ishinomaki.

6th DRM Colloquium: Understanding Interconnected Disaster Risks With Prof. Dr. Xiomeng Shen: UNU-ViE | UNU-EHS (2023/5/23)

Theme: United Nations University Europe/United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, Disaster Risks, Climate Change, Arts and Science

Venue: IRIDeS Building, Multipurpose Hall

Disaster Humanities and Social Science Division of IRIDeS held the 6th DRM Colloquium on May 23, 2023, inviting Prof. Dr. Xiomeng Shen, United Nations University Vice-Rector in Europe and Director of the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). This event was co-hosted by International Joint Graduate Program in Resilience and Safety Studies (GP-RSS).

The talk was titled “Understanding Interconnected Disaster Risks” and Prof. Dr. Shen revisited ten past disasters renowned for notoriety and unveiled their root causes to show a macro picture of the interconnected systems of risks. She took further steps to show how a “solution package,” an approach with multiple solutions, is valid for alleviating risks when various actors in our society take responsible actions. This talk was derived from the UNU-EHS’s flagship report, which poses questions on the following explanation: “As climate change is here to stay and its impacts are increasingly felt, the challenges for disaster risk reduction will only grow in the future and be intensified by the impacts of loss of nature and vanishing biodiversity. Solutions are already being implemented around the world to address risks, but interconnectivity is not yet placed at the heart of solution design and implementation (UNU-EHS, 2022, pp.6.).

Over 50 students and faculties participated in the event onsite and held lively discussions with Prof. Shen.



Prof. Shen providing insights about inter-connected risks



Engaged participants on the novel theme shared

Report: Kanako Iuchi (Regional Resilience Planning Lab)

International Workshop for Learning Trajectories of Catastrophic Disasters and Building Resilience to Natural Hazards and Risks (2023/5/15-16)

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

On May 15-16, 2023, Professor Michio Ubaura (Spatial Design Strategies Lab), Associate Professor Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office) and Assistant Professor Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab) participated in a workshop titled "International Workshop on Trajectories of Disasters: Building Resilience to Natural Hazards and Risks," held at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University. The workshop aimed to analyze strategies for enhancing disaster resilience in societies facing disaster risks by examining long-term trends and past experiences, to adapt improved strategies to the future. In particular, the workshop purposed to understand better the social, economic, and cultural impacts induced by past disasters, including the reconstruction and recovery processes, to aid in imagining, forecasting, and better preparing for future catastrophic scenarios by looking at disaster history trajectories.

Professor Ubaura, currently visiting professor at DPRI, gave a talk on "Recovery of the physical environment from the Great East Japan Earthquake". Associate Professor Boret presented "Managing Mass Death after the Great East Japan Earthquake" from the perspective of disaster anthropology, and Assistant Professor Park contributed a presentation on risk management and resilience in natural hazard-triggered technological accidents. As a significant outcome of the workshop, an interdisciplinary research group was formed between research institutes in Japan, France, and Canada, including IRIDeS, to actualize and achieve an advanced step toward a disaster-resilient society. The research group comprises prominent researchers with abundant experience and knowledge in disaster risk reduction and recovery in historiography, anthropology, geography, engineering, social science, and social psychology. Focusing on the potential large earthquake and tsunami in the Pacific Ocean, this research group is expected to take further proactive steps, such as applying for collaborative research grants and organizing workshops to understand each research field. Moreover, the research group has discussed a comparative approach that involves studying past large-scale earthquakes and tsunamis and their histories, different disaster cultures, and catastrophic disasters focusing on Shikoku and Tohoku regions in Japan, Southern France, and Eastern Canada.

This interdisciplinary project, encompassing various fields and perspectives, is expected to significantly reduce future disaster risks, mitigate social damage, and enhance coping mechanisms for potential Nankai-trough earthquakes. We hope our interdisciplinary research activities promote further and proactive international collaboration between IRIDeS and research partners.



Assoc. Prof. Boret during the workshop

Report by Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab)
Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office)
Michio Ubaura (Spatial Design Strategy Lab)

i-Rec international conference and workshop in Japan (2023/6/1- 4)

Theme: Disaster Reconstruction, Recovery, The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, International Symposium, Community Resilience

Place: IRIDeS, Sendai City, Futaba Town, Namie Town, Ishinomaki City, Onagawa Town

From June 1 - 4, 2023, i-Rec 2023 “Tensions Between Tradition and Innovation in Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Action, and Reconstruction: Reflecting on Tohoku’s Recovery Twelve Years Later” was held at IRIDeS, including field visits to disaster affected areas. The event was co-organized by i-Rec, the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) of Tohoku University, Kobe University Research Center for Urban Safety and Security (RCUSS), and the Center for Resilient Design (CResD), Kobe University. i-Rec (international network for information and research for reconstruction) is a web-based international network focused on the study of vulnerability, resilience and reconstruction after disasters: <http://www.grif.umontreal.ca/i-Rec.htm>.

i-Rec deals with information exchange between its members in order to contribute knowledge related to building activities in situations of crisis, particularly disasters in developing countries, and holds an international conference every two years. This was the first time that an i-Rec conference was held in Japan, and twelve years after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, this event coincides with beginning of the 2nd decade of recovery and reconstruction. Co-chairs of i-Rec 2023 were: Assoc. Prof. Liz Maly (International Research Collaboration Office), Prof. Tamiyo Kondo of Kobe University, and Assist. Prof. Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies). Over 70 people participated in i-Rec 2023.

Before the academic sessions on June 3 and 4th, participations first joined study visits to disaster-affected areas on June 1 and June 2, to gain a deeper understanding of what happened in the GEJE the process of recovery in the affected areas. Coordinated by Assistant Professor Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies), during the tour of areas affected by the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant on June 1, the group visited the Fukushima Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Museum in Futaba Town, Michi no Eki Namie, and the Remains of Ukedo Elementary School in Namie Town. In addition to learning about the impacts of the nuclear disaster, and the recovery process, from the exhibits and guides, participants also joined a walking tour of Futaba Town and lecture from the representative of F-Atras, a local organization promoting revitalization in the area.

On June 2, the group visited Ishinomaki and Onagawa, tsunami-affected towns in Miyagi Prefecture. In Ishinomaki, participants visited the Kadonowaki Elementary School Ruins, and received a lecture from the Facility Director Richard Halberstadt, as well as seeing the exhibits. In addition, they also visited Ishinomaki Minamihama Tsunami Memorial Park and Miyagi Tsunami Memorial Museum, and received guidance from IRIDeS Visiting Researcher Naomi Chiba (Disaster Humanities and Social Science Division). After stopping in Onagawa to visit the reconstructed shopping arcade, the Onagawa train station, and preserved police box, participants visited the Ogatsu area, and received an explanation about the recovery process from Mr. Akinari Abe. In addition to seeing the levees and housing relocation areas, participants also had the chance to make their own coaster using the traditional Ogatsu slate stone. While many participants were visiting the Tohoku area for the first time, they actively engaged in wide-ranging discussions of the course of the two-day field visits. The fieldwork activities in Fukushima and Miyagi allowed participants to observe and learn from the resilience and innovative rebuilding approaches adopted by local communities, which functioned as a background orientation to the following days academic programs.

The academic conference was held at IRIDeS, on June 3 and June 4. The conference program on the first day focused on the Great East Japan Earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster, and reflections on the ongoing recovery from different points of view. After welcoming remarks, in the morning, Prof. Aya Kubota (Graduate School of Engineering, Architecture and Urban Design Course, Tohoku University) delivered a keynote speech entitled: Searching for Our Autonomy-Looking back on Post Great East Japan Earthquake for Social Transformation on Community

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Recovery after 3.11. Afternoon sessions included several panel discussions on different aspects of recovery after the GEJE. The First Panel Discussion: “Housing and Life Recovery after 3.11” included presentations from Architect Mr. Hiroyuki Teshima, and Lawyer and Sendai Bar Association member Mr. Akihiro Uto, and Assoc. Prof. Haruka Tsukuda (Graduate School of Engineering, Architecture and Building Science, Tohoku University). The 2nd Panel Discussion: “Disaster and Memory,” included presentations from Prof. Osamu Tsukihashi (Department of Architecture, Kobe University, Architects Teehouse, and Lost Homes Project), Assoc. Prof. Masashige Motoe (Spatial Design Strategies Lab / Architecture and Urban Design Course, Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University), and Assist. Prof. Julia Gerster. Drawing from observations from the previous days’ field work, each presentation and panel was followed by extensive discussion, making connections between the situation in Japan, and other disaster-affected countries.

On the last day, June 4, participants presented their academic research papers, in four parallel sessions. In addition to 54 academic papers presented, there was also a special session on gender and disasters “Gender Responsive Resilience and Intersectionality in Policy and Practice (GRRIPP) Roundtable,” which included Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office), and Special Visiting Researcher Naomi Chiba (Disaster Humanities and Social Science Division). Among the academic papers, the following were presented or co-authored by IRIDeS/Tohoku University faculty:

- *Inclusive Disaster Management Planning: Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ+ Communities in Japan*, Miwako Kitamura, Tohoku University; Anna Matsukawa, University of Hyogo; Anawat Suppasri, Tohoku University; Punam Yadav, University College London
- *Putting Down Roots: Gardening, Farming, and Forestry as Post-Disaster Placemaking* Elizabeth Maly, Tohoku University; Tomoko Matsushita, Urban Research Center; Tamiyo Kondo, Kobe University; Yegane Ghezelloo, National Institute of Technology, Akashi College
- *Oral History as a Tool for Understanding Women’s Resiliency in Ishinomaki after the Great East Japan Earthquake*, Naomi Chiba, Tohoku University
- *School memorials as “Lieux de Mémoire” in the cultural and collective memory of the Great East Japan Earthquake*, Julia Gerster, Tohoku University
- *Public awareness of ALPS treated water released from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and social issues*, Tetsuya Nakamura, Kyoei University; Steven Lloyd, Kyoei University; Atsushi Maruyama, Chiba University; Satoru Masuda, Tohoku University
- *Design Process of Ruins of the Great East Japan Earthquake: Nakahama Elementary School*, Masashige Motoe, Tohoku University
- *Exploratory Comparative Study on Land Acquisition for Recovery in Italy, the United States, and Japan* Kensuke Otsuyama, The University of Tokyo; Tomoyuki Mashiko, Tokyo Metropolitan University; Haruka Tsukuda, Tohoku University

Following the conference, papers will be published on the i-rec website, and selected papers will be part of a special journal issue.

As the first to meet in Japan, i-Rec 2023 provided an unique opportunity for international experts in disaster reconstruction and recovery to learn about the ongoing recovery after the GEJE, and also exchange knowledge and information with an international community of younger researchers. Covering diverse topics, including public policy, urban and community planning, and the social impacts of disasters, i-Rec 2023 served as a platform to build stronger international connections between IRIDeS and disaster researchers, community advocates, and other stakeholders to share knowledge and valuable lessons derived from their experiences. As well as encouraging future collaboration, i-Rec 2023 made significant contributions to the global understanding of effective recovery practices.

Text and Photos by: Liz Maly, Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)
Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies)

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Fukushima Memorial Museum



Ukedo E.S.



Walking tour in Futaba



Group photo at local shrine in Futaba



Miyagi Memorial Museum



Guide of Ogatsu

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Keynote speech by Prof. Kubota



discussion with participants



Panel 1 discussion



Panel 2 discussion



Special session on gender and disaster



Group Photo (in front of IRIDeS)

Invited presentations and meetings at universities in South West England (2023/6/12 - 16).

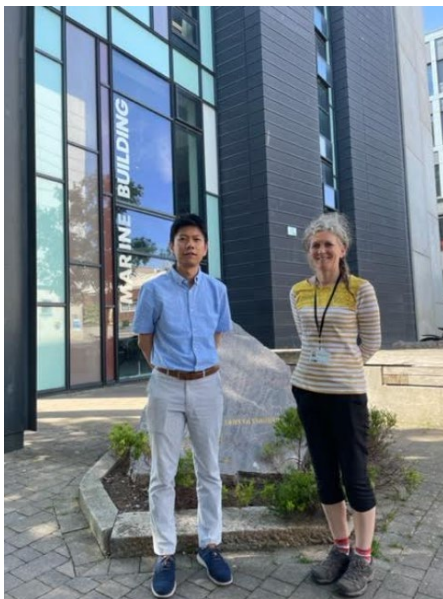
Theme : International research collaboration activities, tsunami engineering

Place : South West England (Plymouth, Bath and Bristol)

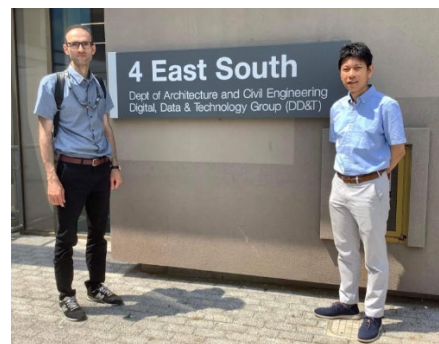
Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab) is visiting University College London (UCL) from April 2023. From 12th – 16th June, he visited few tsunami experts in South West England.

During 13th - 14th June, he visited coastal areas of Plymouth including the affected area of the storm surge in 2014, discussed further collaboration on coastal engineering, comparative study on tsunami reconstruction, exchange of young researcher with Prof. Alison Raby and delivered an invited talk to faculty members and students in Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science at the University of Plymouth. On the 15th June, he had a meeting with Dr. Mohammad Heidarzadeh at University of Bath regarding tsunami generation mechanism and damage assessment. On the 16th June, he delivered an invited talk to faculty members and students in Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science at the University of Bristol and discussed further collaboration with Dr. Raffaele De Risi on tsunami risk assessment.

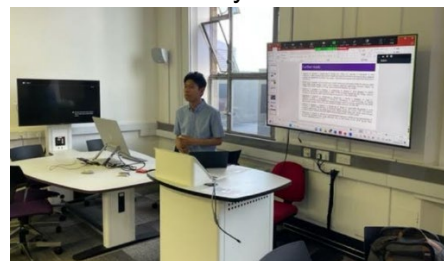
This visit initiated another step forward for strengthening collaboration between IRIDeS and universities in the UK through tsunami engineering related research topics.



With Prof. Alison Raby at University of Plymouth



With Dr. Mohammad Heidarzadeh at University of Bath



Invited presentation at University of Bristol

Text and photos : Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)

Australia-Japan Joint Symposium on Tourism and Disaster Resilience (2023/6/21-22)

Theme: Disaster risk reduction, tourism, recovery, preparedness

Venue: IRIDeS and Higashi-Matsushima

Following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, various tourism development policies have been enacted in order to promote the growth of the tourism industry which could facilitate economic recovery of affected regions. Since then and until the 2020 pandemic, tourism numbers had grown exponentially, as more communities grow increasingly more reliant on the tourism industries. Although the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic saw tourism numbers drop from 2020-2022, it is expected to rebound in 2023 as Japan re-opened for international tourism. The growth of the tourism industry in Japan brings about two challenges. First in regards the host communities that have become tourism destinations, how can tourism contribute to livelihood sustainability in the region, and how could community stakeholders strengthen their resiliency in the face of inherent vulnerabilities tourism may bring due to its risk of external shocks? Secondly, for the tourists, how can the tourism sector prepare for disaster and assist tourists who may be unfamiliar with local hazard risks?

In order to address these issues, this symposium invited academic, industry and government experts from Australia, where much research has been done on tourism and disaster resiliency research due to the country's booming tourism sector and significant exposure to multiple hazards. Joining these experts were academic, industry and government representatives from Japan. This two-day workshop, funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australian-Japan Foundation Grant, consisted of a field trip to Higashi-Matsushima on June 21st, followed by a symposium held on June 22nd.

During the field trip, participants were greeted by the Mayor of Higashi-Matsushima, Mr. ATSUMI Iwao. The city of Higashi-Matsushima provided transportation and interpretation services for our participants as the meeting was followed by a field trip to multiple areas affected by the 2011 disasters. Participants had the opportunity to interact with local businesses to discuss their experiences in the recovery process, which was followed by a field trip to the Nobiru museum to learn about the disaster. Participants also enjoyed the local sea-weed udon.

On the second day, a symposium was held at Tohoku University at the IRIDeS multi-purpose hall. In addition to the twelve speakers from Japan and Australia, were guests from over 22 countries that joined in-person and online. Guests also included representatives from the UNWTO, UNDP, Sendai Airport, among others. The symposium was split into three parts, with the morning session focusing on presentations on Japan, the afternoon session on presentations on Australia, and the final session which focused on the discussion of the two challenges aforementioned challenges.

At the end of the symposium, after two days of knowledge exchange, participants became increasingly interested in continuing collaboration between Australia and Japan and have identified several areas for future research activities.

Report: David N. Nguyen (Tsunami Engineering Lab and Earthquake Induced Tsunami Risk Evaluation Lab (Tokio Marine and Nichido Fire Insurance))

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Australian and Japanese participants visiting a disaster memorial in Higashi-Matsushima City.



Australian and Japanese participants during a lunch meeting, discussing recovery efforts in Higashi-Matsushima, while enjoying the local seaweed udon dish.



Group photo of the participants who attended the symposium in-person at IRIDeS. In addition, there were also participants who joined online.



Associate Professor (Specially Appointed) David N. Nguyen provides an explanation of the Tohoku region's history to participants.

IRIDeS member is currently visiting UCL-IRDR (2023/6/22).

Theme : International research collaboration activities, Disaster risk reduction

Place : Institute of Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London, United Kingdom

Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab) is visiting University College London (UCL) from April 2023 under the 2023 Researcher, Young Leaders Overseas Program supported by Tohoku University. With in these two months, he has been involving with many research and education related activities conducted not only at IRDR but also other UCL's instructions and department. This report summarizes his public academic events over these two months.

On the 10th May, he was invited to be one of panelists of a public seminar "The Future of Forecasts Warnings with Dr. Sally Potter" organized by UCL Warning Research Centre.

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sts/events/2023/may/future-forecasts-and-warnings-dr-sally-potter>

On the 16th May, he gave a keynote presentation at AGITHAR Stakeholder Workshop held in UCL on dissemination strategy for probabilistic tsunami hazard and risk analysis under a title "Recent developments on tsunami risk assessment and consideration on decision-making".

<https://www.agithar.uni-hamburg.de/events/meetings/agithar-stakeholder-london-2023.html>

On the 22th June, he received a great honor from IRDR to be invited as a speaker and one of panelists of IRDR Annual Conference 2023: Risk Without Borders with his presentation title "How building international scientific collaborations can help in tackling disaster risks?" in a session that discussed on scientists beyond borders.

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/risk-disaster-reduction/events/2023/jun/irdr-annual-conference-2023-risk-without-borders>

Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri's visit to UCL represent IRIDeS's contribution in global disaster risk reduction community as well as strengthening collaboration with UCL on this topic.



Keynote presentation (AGITHAR workshop)



Participants of AGITHAR workshop



Speaker and panelist
(IRDR annual conference 2023)



IRDR annual conference 2023

Text and photos : Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)

IRIDeS-IRDR co-organized UCL Grand Challenge Workshop and Resilience Symposium (2023/7/22 - 28)

Theme : International research collaboration activities, Resilience, Disaster risk reduction

Place : Institute of Risk and Disaster Reduction, University College London, United Kingdom

URL : <https://www.ucl-japan-youth-challenge.com/programme-2023/>

The UCL Grand Challenge Workshop and the resilience symposium was held and co-organized by IRIDeS and IRDR (UCL's Institute for Disaster Risk and Reduction) at University College London (UCL) on the 24th and 28th July respectively under UCL-Japan Youth Challenge 2023 (started from the 22th July). The UCL-Japan Youth Challenge, a prestigious annual summer school program which has a tremendous reputation and impact since 2015 allow opportunity for pre-university students from Japan and the UK attend a series of university-style lectures on a wide range of subjects by academics from leading UK universities including University of Cambridge and UCL. In Cambridge, a lecture was given by Sir Rory Bristow KCMG. He served as British Ambassador to Afghanistan during the turmoil there. In addition, meetings were held with researchers in Cambridge who are working in areas such as the brain sciences, robotics and nutrition. Lively discussions ensued regarding academic fields in both Japan and the UK.

UCL engage in UCL Grand Challenge Workshop. Faculty members and students from IRIDeS and IRDR contributed to both events as this year's theme is "resilience". Associate Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab) currently visiting UCL-IRDR and Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office) are one of the organizing committee members for this year.

On the 28th July, the resilience symposium started by welcome messages from Prof. Shinichi Kuriyama (IRIDeS's director) and Prof. Joanna Faure Walker (IRDR's head) followed by group presentations from students. The second half of the symposium started by a presentation from Fukushima prefecture followed by presentations from both IRIDeS and IRDR faculty members, Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri, Dr. Lisa Guppy (IRDR), Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura and Prof. David Alexander (IRDR and Tohoku University's Professor (Cross-Appointed)) and closing speech by Prof. Masahiro Yamaguchi (Tohoku University's Vice President for Education Reform and Global Engagement). There were more than a hundred participants attended this resilience symposium.

Text and photos from :
Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)
Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)

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UCL Grand Challenge Workshop



Welcome message by Prof. Kuriyama



Presentations by highschool students



Presentation by Prof. Alexander



Closing speech by Prof. Yamaguchi



Group photo of organizing committee members and speakers



Reception's opening speech by UCL's Professor Ohnuma



Reception's opening speech by Prof. Yamaguchi

12th Conference of the Pacific Rim Community Design Network: "Looking Back and Looking Forward: Community and Justice in Crisis": Conference and site visits (2023/9/16-18).

Themes: Community recovery, community planning, disaster reconstruction, recovery, The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, nuclear disaster, Fukushima, International Symposium,

Place: IRIDeS, Sendai City, Futaba Town, Namie Town, Minami-Soma Town, Tomioka Town

URL: <http://prcdnet.org/working-conferences-papers/2023-tohoku/>

From Sept. 16-18th, the 12th Conference of the Pacific Rim Community Design Network: "Looking Back and Looking Forward: Community and Justice in Crisis" was held in Tohoku, including a symposium at IRIDeS, and field visits to disaster-affected communities in Fukushima. With more than 115 participants, this event was co-organized by the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) of Tohoku University, co-chaired by Assoc. Prof. Maly Elizabeth (International Research Collaboration Office), and the Foundation for Ecological Democracy, in collaboration with the The Pacific Rim Community Design Network.

The Pacific Rim Community Design Network was first launched at the University of California, Berkeley in 1998, and for the last 25 years has been bringing together leading community design scholars and practitioners from Japan, Taiwan, and the United States. The network has provided a vehicle for collaboration and mutual support, as well as a forum for a comparative understanding of community design in the fast-changing political and social context of the Pacific Rim, with network members now in countries including Australia, Canada, China, Ecuador, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States.

A celebration of the 25th anniversary of the network, this event was the first time to meet in person post-pandemic, and as the first meeting in Japan since 2010, it was also the first time for the network to gather in the disaster-affected area after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011. Taking the theme of justice and community design, the focus of the event was on visiting and understanding the current situation of disaster-affected communities in Fukushima.

On Sept 16th, participants visited Futaba Town together, and from the evening and on Sept 17th, split into 4 smaller groups, who stayed in and visited different communities in Odaka in Minami-Soma, Tomioka, Futaba, and Namie, exploring different themes including youth, storytelling, and community recovery. Coordination for the field visits was carried out with the collaboration of many network members, and from Tohoku University: Assistant Professor Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies) and Prof. Aya Kubota (Graduate School of Engineering, Architecture and Urban Design Course, Tohoku University)

On the 18th, participants came back together for the Big Table gathering at IRIDeS, in Sendai. In the morning, each group shared what they had seen and learned, followed by a special presentation from Prof. Kota Kawasaki of Fukushima University, a comment from Professor Emeritus Randy Hester (Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at the University of California Berkeley), and a discussion with all participants. More than 40 participants presented their research in poster presentations, including IRIDeS faculty: Assoc. Prof. Maly Elizabeth, Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office), and Visiting Researcher Naomi Chiba (Disaster Humanities and Social Science Division).

In the afternoon, a symposium on the 25th anniversary of the network included a special keynote presentation from Prof. Randy Hester, looking back on the history of the network, and a panel discussion looking forward.

Text and Photos by: Maly Elizabeth (International Research Collaboration Office)
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Large group photo of all participants on Sept. 16 in Futaba Town



Small group participants who visited Tsushima area of Namie Town, on Sept. 17



Big Table Gathering on the morning of Sept 18, sharing their field visit experiences



Special Keynote Presentation from Prof. Randy Hester in the Sept 18 Symposium



Panel discussion



Group photo of participants

International collaboration on the 2023 Southeastern Türkiye earthquakes under J-RAPID has started (2023/09/20-21)

Theme : International research collaboration activities, digital archive, disaster mitigation education

Place : Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Türkiye

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has announced ten projects on the 2023 Southeastern Türkiye earthquakes under the J-RAPID collaborative research/survey program for urgent research. There are two projects from IRIDeS that have been granted including “Creation support and utilization of the 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake related digital archive” project lead by Prof. Fumihiko Imamura from IRIDeS and Prof. Ahmet Cevdet Yalciner from the Middle East Technical University (METU). Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri and Assoc. Prof. Akihiro Shibayama are also members of IRIDeS side. Prof. Imamura and Assoc. Prof. Suppasri made their first visit to Türkiye during the 20th and 21st September after starting the project. On the 20th September, they both gave invited presentation about their collaboration on tsunami and disaster mitigation for more than 30 years at METU. On the 21st September, there were some meetings conducted at Coastal and Ocean Engineering Division (METU), Civil Engineering Department, School of Education (METU) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to discuss several matters regarding the disaster data collection, data archiving and contribution for the other projects such as data sharing, risk assessment and disaster mitigation education.

More information: https://www.jst.go.jp/pr/info/info1635/index_e.html



Prof. Imamura's invited presentation



A meeting at Coastal and Ocean Engineering Division, Civil Engineering Department



A meeting at School of Education



A meeting at JICA

Text and photos : Prof. Fumihiko Imamura and Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)

Symposium on Memories and “Negative History”: How to convey the 3.11 Disasters? Co-organized by IRIDeS and the Hoover Institution of Stanford University (2023/9/23)

Theme: Disaster Storytelling, cultural and collective memory, difficult pasts

Venue: IRIDeS, Namie Town

The multilingual Symposium (Jp-Eng) held on Saturday, September 23, 2023 brought together scholars and experts to discuss cultural memories, disaster storytelling, and Kamishibai. Organized Asst. Prof. Julia Gerster, Assoc. Prof. Akihiro Shibayama (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies) of IRIDeS, Stanford University Hoover Institution research fellow Dr. Kaoru Ueda, and Kamishibai director Ikumasa Teppei, the event aimed to explore how historical experiences, particularly those of war, and disasters, are transmitted, expressed, and archived through various mediums. In total, on the first day about 170 people participated onsite and online, and 36 people joined the Fukushima and Kamishibai tour to Namie Town on the second day.

The morning session commenced with thought-provoking presentations under two thematic sessions. In Session 1, titled "Cultural Memories and Objects as Storytellers," speakers delved into the complexities of narrating historical experiences. Prof. Shinzo Araragi from Yamato University and Sophia University reflected on the challenges of recounting war and colonial experiences, emphasizing the nuanced ways these narratives are passed on through generations. Prof. Andrew Gordon from Harvard University (online) provided insights into the rhyming history of disasters, drawing parallels between the Ashio copper mine pollution incident and the Fukushima nuclear disaster, and Prof. Ryo Morimoto from Princeton University (online) presented on a hidden archive of TEPCO that conveys their employees' experiences, while also discussing the complexities of preserving historical records.

Session 2, focusing on the "Transmission and Expression of Memories," further enriched the discourse. Assoc. Prof. Shosuke Sato (Disaster Resilient Society Promotion Lab) analyzed the current landscape of disaster storytelling activities in Japan, highlighting the significance of passing down experiences of catastrophes across generations. Asst. Prof. Anna Wiemann from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München explored storytelling through the lens of Zeitzeugen in Germany, shedding light on diverse approaches to recounting historical events. Asst. Prof. Gerster addressed the challenges in transmitting disaster memory in the regions of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima after the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake.

Following a stimulating morning of presentations, attendees could witness a live Disaster Kamishibai Performance. The performance, introduced by Ms. Mihoko Murakami, Mr. Tetsuo Murakami, and Mr. Ikumasa, was based on experiences of tsunami survivors in Fukushima Prefecture.

In the afternoon session, the focus shifted to "Historical Studies of Kamishibai and Digital Archives." Mr. Taketoshi Yamamoto from the NPO Institute of Intelligence Studies and Prof. Sharalyn Orbaugh from the University of British Columbia (online) delved into the role of Kamishibai as a tool for propaganda during wartime, offering critical insights into the manipulation of narratives for political purposes. Dr. Kaoru Ueda from the Hoover Institution Library & Archives at Stanford University explored the digitization of Kamishibai, underscoring the evolving nature of storytelling mediums and their impact on collective memory.

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The symposium culminated in a lively panel discussion, providing an opportunity for speakers and attendees to engage in dynamic exchanges. In particular, connections and differences between storytelling and memories of natural hazard disasters and wars were discussed.

Day 2 of the event, scheduled as a Fukushima and Kamishibai Study Tour under the lead of Kamishibai director Ikumasa Teppei, offered participants a hands-on experience to visit significant sites and engage with local narratives firsthand. During the one-day excursion, the participants had the chance to watch Disaster Kamishibai performances at the places significant to the story, such as the Ukedo Elementary School disaster heritage site, and an abandoned cow shed in the nuclear exclusion zone. The Kamishibai plays were performed by disaster survivors, evacuees and returnees in Namie Town.

Overall, the Symposium and Study Tour served as platforms for interdisciplinary dialogue, fostering greater awareness and appreciation for the complexities of cultural memory, disaster storytelling, in the aftermath of historical and contemporary crises.

More information and abstracts can be found at the event page:

(Eng): <https://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/eng/event/detail---id-6281.html>

(Jp): https://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/event/event_jn/detail---id-6279.html

Video recording of the event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1suA7A4MPpY>



Kamishibai performance accompanied by music and impression of one of the performances held at an abandoned cow shed in the nuclear exclusion zone

Text and pictures: Julia Gerster, Akihiro Shibayama (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies)

Visit of the President of University College London to the International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University (2023/10/5)

Theme : International Collaboration , Disaster Science

Place : IRIDeS, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

On the 5th of October 2023 (Thursday), Dr. Michael Pence, the President of University College London (UCL), a strategic partner and a university with which we hold an inter-university agreement, visited Tohoku University together with Prof. Alan Thompson (Dean of the UCL Faculty of Brain Science and Pro Provost for London), Prof. Nigel Titchener-Hooker (Dean of UCL Engineering), Mr. Ciaran Moynihan (Director of Global Engagement, Office of the Vice Provost (Research, Innovation and Global Engagement), Mr. Nick Marsden (Associate Director of Development (Faculties), Office of Advancement), Ms. Tania Trosini (Head of External Engagement and Operations, Office of the President and Provost), and Ms. Keiko Tsunekawa (Global Engagement Manager, Office of Vice Provost (Research, Innovation and Global Engagement)).

During this visit, a meeting was held between Dr. Pence and Prof. Hideo Ohno, the President of Tohoku University. It reaffirmed the crucial partnership between UCL and our university within the framework of our International Excellence Research University System. Building on discussions held in March this year with Prof. Toshiya Ueki, Executive Vice President for Co-creation Strategy, and Prof. Geraint Rees, Vice-Provost of UCL, this visit provided an opportunity to exchange ideas regarding the future development of collaboration between two institutions. Notably, the partnership in disaster research between UCL and IRIDeS has continued since the Great East Japan Earthquake, with researchers from both universities actively engaging in not only joint research but also educational collaboration.

A meeting was also conducted between the UCL delegation and the IRIDeS. Prof. Shinichi Kuriyama, Director of IRIDeS, emphasized the significance of collaboration with UCL in disaster medicine and inclusive disaster prevention. Furthermore, discussions took place on the continued utilization of medical data established since the Great East Japan Earthquake, exploring the potential for diverse collaborative research spanning fields such as medicine, particularly neurology, research on the elderly, engineering, and humanities.

In addition, a British student currently enrolled in our institute as a doctoral candidate, having completed a Master's program at UCL, participated in the discussions. Specializing in tsunami engineering, the student highlighted the importance of collaboration between sociology and tsunami engineering, particularly in the context of risk communication. Moreover, the student underlined the significance of fieldwork conducted in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which helped establish a trusted relationship with the IRIDeS.

Through this visit, the importance of collaboration between UCL and the IRIDeS was reaffirmed. Under the leadership of our new director, Prof. Kuriyama, discussions were held on the direction to advance disaster studies internationally, encompassing diverse fields such as medicine, engineering, humanities, and involving stakeholders in disaster-related areas.

The visit and the meetings strengthened collaboration between the institutes, advanced disaster research, and fostered lively discussions on student cooperation. As a result, the outlook for future joint projects and collaborations has become clearer. The collaboration between UCL and the IRIDeS holds the promise of further achievements.

Report by Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)
Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)

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The exhibition space on the 1st floor of the IRIDeS



The special exhibition “Commemorating the 100th Memorial of the Kanto Earthquake”



The meeting held at the IRIDeS



Commemorative photo with the UCL President and the visiting delegation at IRIDeS

AIWEST-DR 2023 Conference report (2023/10/11-13)

Theme: 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, disaster risk reduction, international conference

Venue: Faculty of Psychology, Gadjah Mada University (Yogyakarta, Indonesia) and online

URL: <https://aiwestdr.psikologi.ugm.ac.id/>

Gadjah Mada University, University of Syiah Kuala, Sydney University, and IRIDeS held the 15th Aceh International Workshop and Expo on Sustainable Tsunami Disaster Recovery (AIWEST-DR2023) at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on October 11-13, 2023. AIWEST-DR was established by the Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC) at Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia, with the aim to share lessons from the historic human suffering and infrastructure damage and reconstruction that followed the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The conference gathered more than 200 international and Indonesian participants in Yogyakarta and online. IRIDeS members, particularly Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab), Assoc. Prof. Erik Mas (Disaster Geo-informatics Lab), Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office), and Assoc. Prof. Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office) have been contributing to organizing the AIWEST-DR conference for several years.

Following opening remarks from Prof. Ova Emilia (Gadjah Mada University) and Prof. Marwan (Syiah Kuala University), the first day included a keynote lecture, titled Adaptive and Sustainable Resilient Society, by Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati (Director of BMKG and Gadjah Mada University), sharing research achievements about tsunami early warning systems focused on Yogyakarta. The following panel session included a dynamic discussion on the role of actors in building adaptive and sustainable resilience to disasters.

The second day began with a keynote speech from IRIDeS Director Prof. Shinichi Kuriyama (Disaster Public Health Lab), followed by a special session on inclusive disaster risk reduction, with the principal “Leave No One Behind,” one of the main Sustainable Development Goals. The special session, organized by Assoc. Prof. Boret and moderated by Assoc. Prof. Maly, aimed at identifying gaps and promoting the inclusion of vulnerable groups across multiple areas and phases of disaster management. The session started with a special message from Ms. Miwako Takahashi, sharing the experiences she and her daughter Ms. Momoko Takahashi, as a severely disabled person, during the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Following, there were six presentations from IRIDeS as well as a representative from ASB Indonesia and the Philippines (Worker’s Samaritan Federation). The special session provided an opportunity to discuss inclusive disaster risk reduction in Japan and Indonesia for and with people with vulnerabilities. In parallel sessions, IRIDeS members and graduate students presented their research in 16 presentations in person and online.

AIWEST-DR 2023 was an opportunity to gather international researchers and experts from different countries again after the COVID-19 pandemic and share current advances in research on a variety of topics to deal with disaster risks. The conference also highlighted active international collaborations between all the participants and countries and learning from past disaster experiences. AIWEST-DR 2024, commemorating the 20 years anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, will be held on November 8-9, 2024, by the Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC), Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, to commemorate.

Text and Photos: Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab)
Ryo Saito (Cognitive Sciences Lab)
Yuta Hara (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office)
Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)
Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office)
Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office)

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Presenters and titles from IRIDeS members in the special session and parallel sessions

1. Special session

	Representative presenters	Titles
Keynote	Shinichi Kuriyama	Overview and Featured Projects of the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University
Special session (Organizer: Assoc. Prof. Sebastien Boret, Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Maly)	Leaving No One Behind: Disasters, Vulnerability, and Social Inclusion in Japan, Indonesia, and Their Partners	
	Miwako Kitamura	From Vulnerability to Resilience: Gender and Diversity in Disaster Reduction
	Sebastien Boret & Hyejeong Park	Disaster preparedness with and for people with disabilities
	Julia Gerster	Foreign residents, and disaster preparedness. Examples from Sendai City after the Great East Japan Earthquake
	Ryo Saito	Future Directions of School BOSAI Cocreation Class in Japan for Building a Resilient and Sustainable Society
	David Nguyen	Tourism and Disaster Resilience
	ASB Indonesia and the Philippines, DiDRRN	Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Practice: Views from the Frontliners

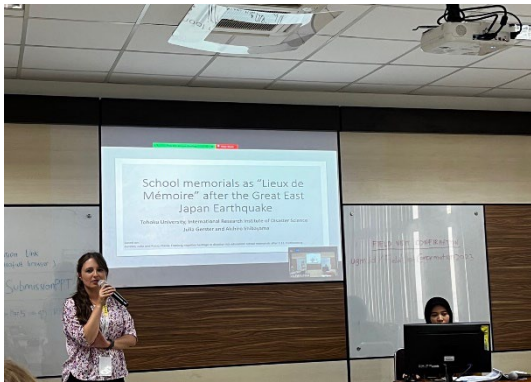
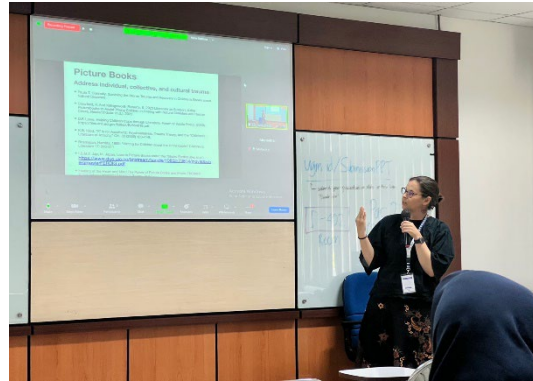
Keynote speech and a special session for Leaving No One Behind



2. Parallel session

No.	Representative presenters	Titles
1	Akihiro Shibayama	Sustainability Issues of Digital Archives of the Great East Japan Earthquake
2	Daisuke Sasaki	Measurement of Indicators of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at Local Level: A Case Study of Sendai City
3	Hyejeong Park	What Makes A Community Stronger in the Face of Disasters and Its Risks: A Case Study of a Small Community during the 2018 Heavy Rain and Floods in Western Japan
4	Julia Gerster	School Memorials as “Lieux de Mémoire” After The Great East Japan Earthquake
5	Liz Maly	Disaster Picture Books in Japan and the United States: An Inventory and International Comparison
6	Ryo Saito	Cocreation Phase-Free BOSAI Class in Triangle Model and its Digitalization: A Case Study in Elementary School in Japan
7	Sebastien Boret	The Temporality and Symbolic of Memory-Scape in Post-disaster Communities: A Study of the Monuments for the Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake
8	Yuta Hara	How Does The Central Government Behave in The International Arena of Disaster Risk Reduction? Focusing on The Frequency of Statement Publication at The UN Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Graduate students		
9	Elisa Lahcene	Coral Reef Response in the Maldives during The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami
10	Muhammad Rizki Purnama	Tsunami Numerical Modeling and Its Applications
11	Sesa Wiguna	Building Damage Classification Using Remote Sensing and Domain Adaptation Approach for Rapid Assessment
Online		
12	Constance Chua	Developing Continuous Topo-bathymetric Elevation Models of Tsunami-prone Areas in Indonesia: A Focus Study on Bali Province
13	Erik Mas	Forecasting Spatial Population Distribution in Tsunami Hazard Zones Using Mobile Data
14	Kanako Iuchi	Unveiling The Rebuilding Progress in The Fifth Year Following The 2018 Central Sulawesi Earthquake and Tsunami
15	Kwanchai Pakoksung	Tsunami Resonance Characterization in Bay Due to An Earthquake-Triggered Landslide: A Case Study in Ambon Bay, Indonesia
16	Tomoki Nishida	A Study on Evacuation Decision-Making for Industrial Parks Using Numerical Tsunami Simulations at Sendai Port

IRIDeS group and presenters in the parallel sessions



AIWEST-DR 2023: Special Session on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (Hosted by IRIDeS) (2023/10/12)

Theme: 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, disaster risk reduction, international conference

Venue : Faculty of Psychology, Gadjah Mada University (Yogyakarta, Indonesia) and online

URL : <https://aiwestdr.psikologi.ugm.ac.id/>

"The 15th Aceh International Workshop and Expo on Sustainable Tsunami Disaster Recovery (AIWEST-DR 2023) took place in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from October 11 to 13, 2023. Fifteen members from our institute, including Professor Shinichi Kuriyama, the director (Disaster Public Health Lab), and Vice Director Professor Yuichi Ono (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office), attended. On October 12, 2023, our institute organized a special session titled 'Leaving No One Behind: Disasters, Vulnerability, and Social Inclusion in Japan, Indonesia, and Their Partners.' It focused on inclusive disaster risk reduction, with a particular emphasis on people with disabilities.

In this session, we were honored to host guest speakers Ms. Momoko Takahashi, who is with disability requiring medical care, and Ms. Miwako Takahashi, her mother and caregiver. They shared their personal experiences during the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami, shedding light on the challenges they faced in disaster isolation, including limited access to essential supplies like food and water. These insights deepened our understanding of people with disabilities and improved our disaster preparedness knowledge.

The importance of providing special consideration for people with disabilities throughout disaster prevention, response, and recovery was underscored. The discussions also included insights from Indonesia about disasters and people with disabilities.

Additionally, Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office), Assoc. Prof. Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office), Asst. Prof. Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab), Asst. Prof. Ryo Saito (Cognitive Sciences Lab), Asst. Prof. Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies), and Assoc. Prof. David Nguyen (Tsunami Engineering Lab) contributed to a wide range of discussions on inclusive disaster risk reduction.

During the opinion/experience exchange between the Takahashi family and people with disabilities from Indonesia, there was an opportunity to discuss the situation of mothers and children with disabilities in Indonesia. This exchange also included interactions among people with disabilities through art of Ms. Momoko Takahashi. Among the discussions, topics such as the challenges faced by mothers who provide care to people with disabilities, including sleep deprivation and feelings of loneliness, were raised. It became evident that there are common challenges related to caregiving and the roles of families and mothers in both Japan and Indonesia.

Through these valuable opportunities, new insights into the challenges faced by people with disabilities from an international perspective were gained. This has expanded the possibilities for future collaborations in disaster research and projects involving people with disabilities requiring medical care.

Text and Photos : Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)
Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab)
Yuta Hara (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office)
Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office)
Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office)
Yuichi Ono (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office)
Shinnchi Kuriyama (Disaster Public Health Lab)
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Share their experiences during the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami in the special session, offering valuable insights into disability challenges during disasters.



A touching interaction between an Indonesian child with disability, Ms. Takahashi Momoko, and their family



Indonesian people with disabilities sharing their disaster experiences and engaging in meaningful discussions



Art exchange between Indonesian child with disability, Ms. Takahashi Momoko, and their families

International Symposium “Disaster & Memory” (2023/10/18-19)

Theme: Disaster’s remains; Memories; 3.11; Fukushima nuclear accident; Minamata disease; Second World War; Biodiversity loss

Venue: IRIDeS, Aobayama campus of Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan)

On October 18th-19th, JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow Mathieu Gaulène (International Research Collaboration Office) co-organized with the associate researcher Romaric Jannel (Kyoto University) an international symposium in IRIDeS called “Disaster and Memory”. This event benefited from the support of Associate Professor Sebastien Penmellen Boret (International Research Collaboration Office) and financial support from the International Research Collaboration Office of IRIDeS. This event reflected how the concept of “memory” is intertwined with how disasters are perceived and represented. As our societies evolve in the 21st century under the new paradigm of Anthropocene, where disasters seem to be on the rise, the question of how to memorialise them and place them in a “grammar of disasters” to authorise meaning and resilient actions becomes salient and common theme of the discussions.

This international symposium brought together 13 researchers from different universities in Japan (Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Iwate, and Tohoku University) and abroad (University of Nimes, France) who discussed various cases of disasters from different perspectives (sociology, law, anthropology, computer science, history, biology, philosophy, and semiotics).

Within the four sessions held over two days, the IRIDeS Assistant Professor Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies) made a presentation about “*School memorials as “Lieux de Mémoire” in the cultural and collective memory of the Great East Japan Earthquake*”, JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow Mathieu Gaulène made a presentation about “*From the memory to the imagination of disasters*”, and Assoc. Prof. Sebastien Penmellen Boret about “*The Temporality of Memoryscapes: A Study of the Memorial Monuments of the Great East Japan Earthquake*” which was concluding the two days of the symposium, and introducing the visit of the memorial monuments and reconstruction area of Yuriage in Natori.



Discussion of the first session on October 18th, 2023

Report by Mathieu Gaulène and Sebastien Penmellen Boret
(International Research Collaboration Office)

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This visit was the occasion to exemplify the discussion on how memory is used to prevent and cope with disasters and how the memorialisation process occurs after a disaster, such as the Great East Japan Earthquake of 3.11. Assoc. Prof. Sebastien Penmellen Boret introduced the participants during the visit to different memorials for the tsunami victims in the coastal area of Yuriage (public/private memorials). He described the evolution of the community in link with the memorialisation and reconstruction processes.

In conclusion, this event has been an opportunity to open discussions between researchers from different disciplines, use other methods of research and open to everybody's different perspectives on how to describe what is a memory of a disaster.



Visit of the memorials of Yuriage, October 19th, 2023

SCIENCE AGORA 2023 (2023/11/18)

Theme: Great Kanto earthquake, collective impact, inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR), DRR from ordinary time

Venue: Telecom Center Building, Odaiba, Tokyo

URL: <https://www.jst.go.jp/sis/scienceagora/2023/index.html>

Science Agora 2023, organized by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), was held at the Telecom Center Building in Odaiba, Tokyo, on Saturday, November 18 and Sunday, November 19, 2023. This is a comprehensive event that considers science and society with five main topics: nature, society, sports and arts, leisure and entertainment, and social issues. The World Bosai Forum, IRIDeS, and the Study Group to Improve Disaster Prevention and Disaster Assistance sponsored a session entitled "100 Years after the Great Kanto Earthquake: Toward Creating Collective Impact in Disaster Reduction". The session was attended by Prof. Shinichi Kuriyama, Director of the IRIDeS (Disaster Public Health Lab), Prof. Yuichi Ono (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office), and Assistant Professor Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab) with a psychologist Ms. Rieko Takahashi with Ms. Momoko Takahashi, who is with a disability requiring medical care, and Ms. Miwako Takahashi, her mother and caregiver.

In the first part (theme: connections from ordinary time), Momoko and Miwako Takahashi shared messages from their experiences during the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and Director Kuriyama highlighted the necessity of inclusive DRR toward a building resilient society. In the second part (theme: building all stakeholders' connections at ordinary time on DRR, collaborative actions), all participants from various organizations, including IRIDeS members and Momoko and Miwako Takahashi, discussed ways to achieve inclusive DRR from ordinary time with the business sector, and created human networks with developing various ideas for inclusive DRR. We believe that this event provided us with an opportunity to gain and think about an understanding of inclusive DRR with all stakeholders, in which "Leave No One Behind" for future disasters.



Part 1. Open session
(Prof. Kuriyama, Ms. & Mrs. Takahashi)



Part 2. Network Workshop

Text & Photos: Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab)
 Yuichi Ono (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office)
 Shinichi Kuriyama (Disaster Public Health Lab)

Collaboration on tsunami and disaster research with universities in the UK (2023/11/20-22)

Theme : International research collaboration activities, tsunami, disaster risk reduction

Place : University of Bath and University of Cambridge

URL : <https://www.oceanblogs.org/earthquakeandtsunami/news-and-opportunity/>
<https://talks.cam.ac.uk/show/index/125626>

On the 20th November 2023, international seminar on tsunami research having speakers from Japan, UK and New Zealand had been held at University of Bath with online streaming. The seminar has a background on long collaboration on tsunami research among IRIDeS (Prof. Fumihiko Imamura and Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)), Prof. Ahmet Cevdet Yalciner from the Middle East Technical University (METU) and Dr. Mohammad Heidarzadeh from University of Bath. Two master students of Prof. Ahmet Cevet Yalciner are now PhD students of Prof. Alison Raby, University of Plymouth which is also another tsunami research partner of IRIDeS. At the seminar, Assoc. Prof. Suppasri presented on collaborative research topics between IRIDeS and METU, University of Bath and University of Plymouth and had several discussions on future collaboration among this research network. On the 21st November 2023, Assoc. Prof. Suppasri and Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office) were invited to give talks for Cambridge Disaster Research Network to share their current research knowledge on tsunami engineering and gender perspective respectively. On the 22nd November 2023, Assoc. Prof. Suppasri visited Prof. Amy Donovan (Department of Geography) and Prof. Emily So (Department of Architecture), University of Cambridge to made a follow up discussion on possible collaboration in the future on volcanic hazards as well as earthquake and tsunami hazards through the UK based's Earthquake Engineering Field Investigation Team (EEFIT).



International tsunami seminar
(on-site participants)



University of Bath campus tour
(Photo: hydraulic experiment lab)



Invited talks for Cambridge Disaster
Research Network



A meeting at Univresity of Cambridge

Text and photos : Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)

Collaboration on tsunami research with UCL Earthquake & People Interaction Centre (EPICentre) (2023/11/28)

Theme : International research collaboration activities, tsunami disaster, physical model, empirical model and numerical model

Place : Earthquake & People Interaction Centre (EPICentre), University College London (UCL)

Prof. Fumihiko Imamura's research group (IRIDeS) and Prof. Tiziana Rossetto (EPICentre) 's research group has long collaboration on tsunami research since the beginning of IRIDeS establishment in 2012 with several co-authored journal publications as well as exchanging of young researchers. Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri strengthened collaboration between IRIDeS and EPICentre during his academic visit in UCL by conducting several activities related to physical model, empirical model and numerical model.

On the 27th June 2023, Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri got invited by Prof. Tiziana Rossetto to visit the largest specialist tsunami simulator in Europe at HR Wallingford which as been using for performing tsunami research by EPICentre. Current physical model study on countermeasure for small oil tank in Japan was introduced and discussed for global application.

In October, several discussions on the TU-UCL funded research on using post-disaster data to evaluate the relative impact of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami hazards on the Japanese building inventory were made to improve current understanding of empirical model that explain earthquake and/or tsunami force against building damage.

On the 28th November, Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri got invited to give a talk for EPICentre seminar on current development on tsunami hazard and risk assessment that integrated scientific knowledge from both numerical and empirical models as well as contribution to all stakeholders. More research achievements as well as exchanging of young researchers can be expected in the future through various activities as mentioned above.

More information

EPICentre:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/epicentre/epicentre-pioneering-resilience>

HR Wallingford:

<https://www.hrwallingford.com/facilities/tsunami-simulator>

2022 Tohoku University-University College London Matching Fund:

https://www.tohoku.ac.jp/en/news/university_news/2022_tohoku_ucl_matching_fund.html



Seminar's flyer



Invited talk for EPICentre seminar

Text and photos : Anawat Suppasri
(Tsunami Engineering Lab)

Professor David Alexander from UCL visited in Japan (2024/1/16-25)

Theme : International research collaboration activities, tsunami disaster, field research
 Place : Miyagi Prefecture ,Tokyo

Professor David Alexander from UCL visited Japan and had a formal meeting with Professor Shinichi Kuriyama, the director of IRIDeS. Additionally, he delivered a keynote speech at Tohoku University's Symposium. The focus of the presentation was the "Foresight Project". The presentation emphasized the importance of rigorous emergency planning methodologies and the creation of scenarios as input for effective emergency plans.

Fieldwork and Collaboration in Kesennuma

During the visit to Tohoku University, Professor David Alexander, alongside Associate Professor Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab) and Researcher (Specially Appointed) Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office), engaged in fieldwork related to the Great East Japan Earthquake in Kesennuma. The Kesennuma City Hall organized a meeting providing insights into the impacts and recovery processes following the earthquake. Additionally, Kesennuma Plaza Hotel organized a Storyteller tour, focusing on learning about community Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Cultural Exploration in Tokyo

Professor David Alexander and Researcher (Specially Appointed) Kitamura visited Watasu Nihonbashi in Tokyo, facilitated by Mitsui Fudosan Company, to understand the collaboration involving Sanriku local culture and the smart city concept. This collaboration provides valuable insights into the integration of local culture into urban development projects, contributing to the understanding of innovative approaches to city planning. The team also visited Small Worlds in Ariake, focusing on disaster mitigation through the lens of Japan's animation and miniature figure concepts.

These diverse activities collectively contribute to the ongoing research and collaborative efforts between UCL, Tohoku University, and external partners. The exploration of disaster resilience and emergency planning methodologies benefits from these experiences, enhancing our understanding and fostering a multidimensional approach to addressing challenges related to natural disasters.



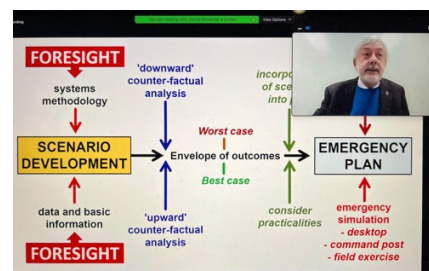
Meeting with director Kuriyama



Centre seminar



Kesennuma local tour



Keynote speech by Prof. Alexander

Text and photos : Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)
 Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)

Hybrid Book Break: Pursuing Justice after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Accident (2024/1/26)

Theme: The Great East Japan Earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster

Place: IRIDeS, Sendai and online

IRIDeS faculty Asst. Prof. Julia Gerster and Assoc. Prof. Akihiro Shibayama (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies) organized a hybrid book break together with Dr. Natalia Novikova from Tamagawa University and Dr. Manuela Hartwig, research associate at the NIES, on January 26, 2024 to celebrate the release of *Japan's Triple Disaster. Pursuing Justice after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Accident* published by Routledge and edited by Natalia Novikova, Julia Gerster and Manuela Hartwig. Participants joined at IRIDeS and online. Dr. Novikova reported on the background of editing the book in her introduction before three of the authors presented the main arguments of their chapters. Tokyo University Prof. Mariko Ogawa's presentation shed light on domestic violence in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake. She highlighted how structural injustices exacerbate vulnerabilities, particularly for women, in disaster-affected areas. Kota Kawasaki, Professor at Fukushima University, provided a comprehensive overview of the recovery and revitalization efforts implemented in the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster. Tohoku University Associate Prof. Alyne Delaney's presentation focused on the impacts of rebuilding efforts in coastal Miyagi communities. She highlighted how infrastructural interventions, such as lowering mountains and building sea walls, affects place attachments and local people's feelings towards recovery. Following the presentations and comments, a lively discussion moderated ensued with contributions from other authors, including Natalia Novikova, Manuela Hartwig, Katsuyuki Hidaka, Assoc. Prof. Maly Elizabeth (International Research Collaboration Office), Akiko Ishihara, and Sunhee Lee. Topics ranged from the role of community engagement in disaster recovery to the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in policy formulation.

Additional information on the book can be found here:

<https://www.routledge.com/Japans-Triple-Disaster-Pursuing-Justice-after-the-Great-East-Japan-Earthquake/Novikova-Gerster-Hartwig/p/book/9781032375465>



The participating authors in front of the IRIDeS sign

Text and pictures: Julia Gerster, Akihiro Shibayama (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies)

Fieldwork on Disaster and Disabilities in Banda Aceh, Indonesia (2024/1/29-2/8)

Theme: hazard, disaster, disability, vulnerability, building resilience, 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami
Venue: Banda Aceh, Indonesia

On January 29-February 8, 2024, Associate Professor Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office), Assistant Professor Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab), and co-researchers in Indonesia (Alfi Rahman, Syiah Kuala University; Pradytia Putri Pertiwi, Gadjah Mada University; Muzayin Nazaruddin, Universitas Islam Indonesia; Yulia Direzkia, Clinical Psychologist, Aceh General Hospital) carried out fieldwork on disaster and disabilities in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. This collaborative research is titled "A Study on Disaster and Disabilities in Indonesia: Learning from the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami." Referring to the slogan "Leave No One Behind" created by the 2015 UNSDG, the study aims to understand the needs of people with disabilities and their caregivers and provide opportunities for inclusive disaster risk reduction activities. Considering multiple fieldwork within three years, we tried to understand the experiences of people with disability during the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami in Aceh and investigate the recent regulations and instruments the Aceh government has developed to reduce disaster risks for people with disability.

During the fieldwork, they visited two model schools, which are a high school (Man 1) and an elementary school (Min 9), supported by the national government for inclusive educational systems, and a support school (SLB TNCC), as an elementary school, for pupils with various disabilities. We interviewed the principal and teachers to investigate how society could integrate people with disability into multiple schools' curricula, as well as the need for disaster preparedness. They conducted interviews with NGOs working for people with disability and regulation development in Aceh. They observed that despite abundant efforts from the government and foreign aid, there are still numerous vulnerable people, including people with disability and a lack of welfare systems. Eventually, they had meetings with individual participants to understand the social environment for people with disability, their disaster experiences, and the need for disaster preparedness. These participants included various people dealing with disability, such as a mother raising a son with intellectual disability and a lady who lost her leg during the 2004 tsunami and is currently leading a group supporting young people with disabilities.

Finally, they visited the Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC) at Syiah Kuala University to discuss AIWEST-DR for the 20th anniversary of the 2004 tsunami on November 8-9, 2024. Based on our collaborative research group's various field experiences and indigenous knowledge, this conference will contribute to making further practical and systemic steps for implementing inclusive disaster risk reduction and enhancing the capacity for disaster risks.

Text and photos : Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office)
Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab)

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Collaborators, teachers, and students in a support school



Research meeting at a collaborator's home



TDMRC at Syiah Kuala University



Model High School Man 1 Instagram Post

International Symposium “Findings from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Tsunami” (2024/02/21)

Theme: Tsunami; UNESCO, Earthquake

Venue: IRIDeS. Aobayama campus of Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan)

On February 21, a webinar symposium on the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake and tsunami was held on the occasion of a visit to IRIDeS by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG). The event shared facts and research findings with the international community on the earthquake and tsunami that occurred in the Noto Peninsula, Japan, on January 1st 2024. Professor Yuichi Ono (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office) and Professor Fumihiko Imamura (Tsunami Engineering Lab) were involved in the organization of the symposium.

The international symposium brought together more than 80 researchers from more than 10 countries, with Associate Professor Yusaku Ota (Tohoku University), Mr. Shingo Ushida (Japan Meteorological Agency) and Professor Shunichi Koshimura (Disaster Geo-informatics Lab) discussing earthquake mechanisms, tsunami warning systems and tsunami characteristics, respectively. In addition, Associate Professor Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab), Associate Professor Erick Mas (Disaster Geo-informatics Lab) and Associate Professor Bruno Adriano (Disaster Geo-informatics Lab) reported on field surveys, demographic analysis and remote sensing efforts, respectively.

In the afternoon of the symposium, a field visit to the areas affected and rebuilt after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami took place for the visitors of the TOWS-WG (UNESCO-IOC). The group visited the Natori City Centre for Earthquake Disaster Reconstruction and Legacy, the site of the Arahama Elementary School in Sendai City and the Millennium Hope Hill in Iwanuma City. The video of the webinar/symposium is available on the IRIDeS Channel at the following URL: <https://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/channel/>



The TOWS-WG from UNESCO-IOC visited the Ruins of the Arahama Elementary School in Sendai City.

Text and photos: Erick Mas (Disaster Geoinformatics Lab)
Yuichi Ono (2030 Global DRR Agenda Office)
Shunichi Koshimura (Disaster Geo-informatics Lab)
Fumihiko Imamura (Tsunami Engineering Lab)

International Disaster and Recovery Workshop held at IRIDeS (2024/2/26)

Theme: Natural Hazards, Compound Disasters, Nuclear Disaster, Recovery, Memory, Student Workshop

Venue: IRIDeS. Aobayama campus of Tohoku University (Sendai, Japan)

On February 26th, an International Disaster and Recovery Workshop was held at IRIDeS as part of the winter schools of Yamagata University – Leibniz University Hannover on ecosystems and resilience; and Kataribe World Network (KWN)-Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU)-IRIDeS on disaster memory. The workshop aimed to introduce and discuss various facets of disaster management, recovery, and memory. The event was organized by IRIDeS faculty and attended by about 60 people, including students and faculty of Yamagata University, Leibniz University Hannover, LMU Munich, National University of Singapore, Yamaguchi University, and representatives from the Kataribe World Network.

A screening of the documentary "The Great Tsunami in Japan" on the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami in Japan, was followed by manifold presentations of IRIDeS faculty on aspects of the disaster's impact and recovery. Assoc. Prof. Maly Elizabeth (International Research Collaboration Office) started with a presentation on housing and community recovery, highlighting the challenges and strategies involved in rebuilding communities post-disaster. Following this, Assoc. Prof. Erick Mas (Disaster Geo-informatics Lab) discussed the development of tsunami disaster mitigation technologies, focusing on real-time response mechanisms essential for effective disaster management. Assoc. Prof. Sebastien Boret's presentation on memorial monuments and disaster memory shed light on the role of commemorative structures in preserving collective and cultural memory and honoring the victims of disasters. Finally, Assoc. Prof. Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies) presented on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster and its long-term implications for recovery efforts. This presentation also served as a preparation for the upcoming field trips of the students and to raise their awareness regarding signs of the disaster to be encountered in Fukushima prefecture, such as radiation measuring posts, vacant land, or newly rebuilt residential areas.

The workshop concluded with a session dedicated to group discussions led by students, focusing on disaster perceptions. This interactive segment encouraged participants from different countries and universities to share their perspectives, experiences, and insights, fostering a collaborative learning environment conducive to knowledge exchange and critical reflection.

Text and Photos: Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies)
Maly Elizabeth (International Research Collaboration Office)
Erick Mas (Disaster Geo-informatics Lab)
Sebastien Boret (International Research Collaboration Office)

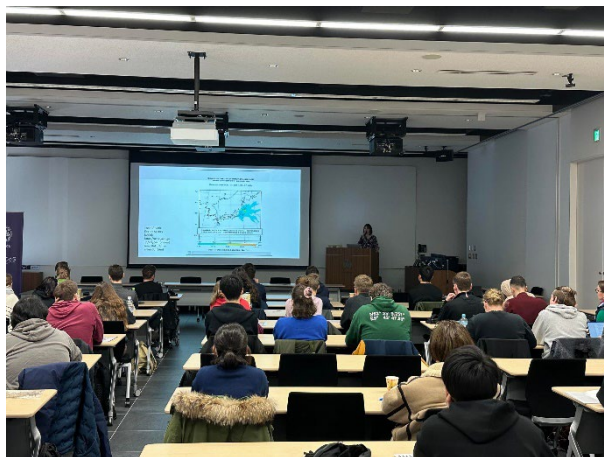
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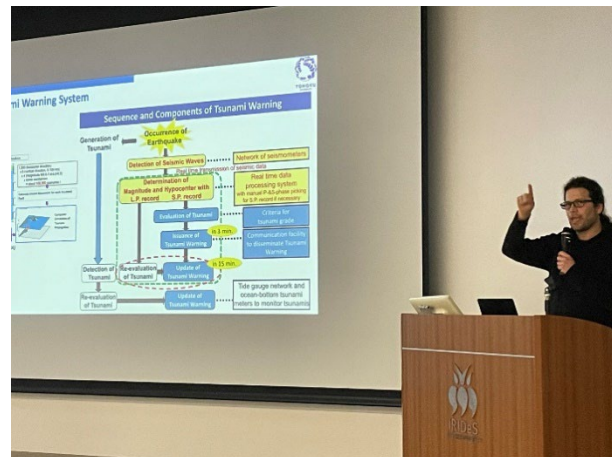
Presentation by Assoc. Prof. Boret



Presentation by Assoc. Prof. Maly



Presentation by Assoc. Prof. Gerster



Presentation by Assoc. Prof. Mas



Group work impressions

Winter School on Disasters and Memory (2024/2/26 - 3/2)

Theme: Compound Disasters, Nuclear Disaster, Recovery, Collective and Cultural Memory, Student Workshop
Venue: IRIDeS, Sendai, Ishinomaki, Minamisanriku, Kesenuma, Futaba, Namie, Tomioka, Iwaki

The Kataribe World Network (KWN), Assistant Prof. Anna Wiemann of Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU), and IRIDeS Associate Professors Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies) and Liz Maly (International Research Collaboration Office) co-organized a winter school on disaster memory. In total eleven participants, including four students from LMU, traveled across Miyagi and Fukushima Prefecture to learn from people and places affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and their role in disaster memory transmission.

The Winter School on Disaster and Memory commenced on Feb. 26th with a workshop organized by IRIDeS and joined by Yamagata University and Leibniz University Hannover as part of their separate winter school. The session featured presentations by IRIDeS faculty aimed at preparing the participants for their field research and introducing them to current academic discussions connected to the Great East Japan Earthquake, recovery and memory. The workshop ended with the students presenting their findings from a group work on disaster perceptions. About 60 people from various universities joined the workshop.

The second day of the Winter School program began with a visit to the designated disaster heritage site Kadonowaki Elementary School in Ishinomaki, where the group engaged in discussions with director Richard Halberstadt, gaining insights into the recovery of Ishinomaki City and the background of turning the school into a memorial. Afterward, the participants proceeded to the NEWSee museum, learning about the “wall newspaper” (*kabe shinbun*) that was handwritten every day on large sheets of paper and distributed to the shelters to ensure access to correct information in the direct aftermath of the disaster. At Okawa Elementary School, where 74 children and 10 teachers died in the tsunami, the group learned about the failed evacuation practices and different attempts at negative heritage preservation. The day ended at Hotel Kanyo in Minamisanriku, which served as a shelter for tsunami survivors in 2011.

On Feb. 28, participants joined the hotel's Kataribe Bus, offering insights into local disaster response and personal accounts of Mr. Shun Ito. The day included visits to KWN president Kazuma Goto's house, where he shared his experiences and insights into local culture as a kataribe. In the afternoon, the group learned about the influence of repeating disasters on local culture through a Kataribe and Kiriko experience with Mayumi Kudo, enriching participants' understanding of traditional rituals and community resilience. After a guided tour through the memorial park, the group headed to Kesenuma. In the evening, participants joined a workshop on gender and disaster and young people's perceptions facilitated by KWN members Chiharu Yoshida and Shun Ito.

Feb. 29 began with a visit to the Rias Ark Museum for an observation of the permanent exhibition on disaster-affected objects. Participants then proceeded to the Koyo Highschool Memorial Museum for a guided tour by the young kataribe Ms. Sato, and discussions with Kenichi Sato, former Director and city officer, responsible for designating evacuation sites before the 3.11 disaster. The lively discussion among the group focused on adapting evacuation measures and how to prepare for disasters that may go beyond the expected (*soteigai*).

From March 1st, the tour continued in Fukushima Prefecture. Participants departed for the GEJE and Nuclear Disaster Museum for an observation of the exhibition, gaining critical insights into the impacts of nuclear disasters on communities and the environment. In Namie Town, the group witnessed a

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Kamishibai performance by members of the Tsutaetai project, offering a cultural experience intertwined with discussions on disaster memory. The afternoon included a Kataribe guided tour through Tomioka, just recently released from the exclusion zone. The group got to see examples of recovery, such as newly opened shops or the Tomioka winery, as well as the challenges faced by communities in the coastal areas of Fukushima, such as depopulation and remaining issues regarding decontamination.

The final day of the Winter School program featured a visit to the Kataritsugi Event in Iwaki City, organized by IRIDeS Michinoku Shinrokuden. This year's event featured seven short stories based on survivor narratives. The stories were read by Keiko Takeshita on stage accompanied by music. Further, a handmade kamishibai on disaster preparedness was performed by students of Iwaki Tanki University. The Winter School concluded with a farewell dinner, offering participants an opportunity to celebrate their shared experiences.

Overall, the Winter School on Disaster and Memory provided a platform for interdisciplinary learning, collaboration, and reflection, highlighting the importance of memory in understanding and addressing the complexities of disaster management and recovery.



Kamishibai performance in Namie Town



Guided Tour at Kadonowaki Elementary School



Walk through the Minamisanriku Recovery Park



Kataribe and Kiriko Experience

Text and photos: Julia Gerster (Disaster Culture and Archive Studies)
 Elizabeth Maly (International Research Collaboration Office)

Members of IRIDeS organised the workshop at UCL IRDR (2024/02/27)

Thema : International collaborate、 Disaster science

Venue : University College London, UK

Dr Hejeong Park (Assistant Professor of Disaster Medical Informatics Lab) and Dr Miwako Kitamura (Researcher (Specially Appointed) of International Research Collaboration Office) visited University College London (UCL) to discuss future research collaborations between Tohoku University and UCL. These discussions aimed to foster educational collaboration with an international and comprehensive approach to managing frequent disasters. Their visit also included participation in classes at UCL, highlighting the benefits of educational cooperation and the potential for specific future research projects.

Educational Activities at UCL:

Dr Park and Dr Kitamura attended lectures organised by Dr Punam and Dr Estella. Dr Kitamura contributed to a lecture for the UCL IRDR Master's course on social vulnerability, focusing on a case study from Japan. Additionally, in February, she collaborated with an LGBTQ+ group in Japan to deliver an online lecture.

Various Meetings at UCL:

Dr Kitamura visited UCL and met with international collaboration officers and academic staff. These meetings underscored the ten-year collaboration between Tohoku University and UCL IRDR, focusing on joint research initiatives led by members of the UCL IRDR. Moreover, the engagement included a meeting for the UCL Youth Challenge programme, organised by Professor Ohuma.

Workshop Details:

The workshop featured Professor Alexander, a leading researcher in disaster management, and Dr Punam Yadav (Deputy Director, IRDR Centre for Gender and Disaster Research, UCL) as moderators. The discussions involved UCL researchers and a curator from the Museum of London, focusing on enhancing collaboration with the Institute and international contributions by integrating a social perspective into disaster research in Japan. Dr Park presented on the inclusion of disabled individuals in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), emphasising the critical role of social vulnerability perspectives in disaster research, especially in Japan, where disasters are frequent.



Workshop poster



Workshop Photo



Group photo at lecture

Report by : Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)
Hyejeong Park (Disaster Medical Informatics Lab)

Professor Maureen Fordham from UCL visited in Japan (2024/03/3-7)

Theme : International research collaboration activities, tsunami disaster, field research

Place : Miyagi Prefecture

Professor Maureen Fordham, Director of the UCL IRDR Centre for Gender and Disaster, embarked on a pivotal visit to Japan to enhance collaborative efforts and share vital insights on incorporating gender perspectives into disaster risk reduction. Her itinerary included a formal engagement with Professor Ueki, Vice President of Tohoku University, and constructive interactions with the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI Center) at Tohoku University. This visit facilitated valuable exchanges with faculty members and a student deeply involved in DEI activities, underscoring the potential for integrating gender diversity into disaster risk management practices.

Fieldwork

A significant portion of Professor Fordham's visit was dedicated to fieldwork in Onagawa and Ishinomaki, areas profoundly affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. This effort, in collaboration with Researcher (Specially Appointed) Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office) and a PhD student from Tohoku University, aimed to gather firsthand insights into the disaster's impacts and the community's recovery and resilience strategies. The team engaged directly with the local people of Onagawa, who shared their experiences and the reconstruction efforts of their town. A visit to Kadowaki Primary School in Ishinomaki emphasized the essential role of education in disaster preparedness and resilience.

Emphasizing the Importance of Disaster Gender Studies

The discussions and activities during this visit highlighted the critical importance of disaster gender studies. Gender perspectives are crucial for understanding the nuanced impacts of disasters on different segments of the population and for developing more inclusive and effective disaster risk reduction strategies. The collaboration between the UCL IRDR Centre for Gender and Disaster and the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) at Tohoku University is a testament to the commitment to advancing this field. Together, these institutions aim to foster a multidisciplinary approach to disaster research, integrating gender studies to enhance resilience and emergency planning methodologies.

Future Collaborations

Professor Fordham's visit to Japan has significantly bolstered the research and collaborative dynamics between UCL, Tohoku University, and their external partners. The engagements and fieldwork conducted have enriched our understanding of disaster resilience, highlighting the indispensable role of gender perspectives in crafting comprehensive and effective disaster response strategies. The ongoing partnership between UCL and IRIDeS promises to advance our capabilities in addressing the challenges posed by natural disasters, ensuring a more inclusive and equitable approach to disaster risk reduction.



Meeting with professor Ueki



Visit Onagawa

Text and photos : Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)

Dr. Canay Doğulu (TED University) visited IRIDeS for pushing forward the J-RAPID Türkiye–Japan collaboration project on disaster education (2024/3/8-12)

Theme : Disaster education, International collaboration
Venue : IRIDeS, Minamisanriku town, Ishinomaki tsunami ruins

Dr. Canay Doğulu (TED University, Türkiye) visited Japan for pushing forward the J-RAPID Türkiye–Japan collaboration project on disaster education.

On 10 March, the J-RAPID project “Survey on the impact of the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes on schools and the situation of disaster education” (PI: Yo Fukushima (Assoc. Prof., Inland Earthquake and Volcano Lab) and Canay Doğulu) organized a workshop at IRIDeS and online. Dr. Canay Doğulu shared the preliminary results of a questionnaire survey conducted against teachers in the affected areas of the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquake disaster. The responses included a strong need for comprehensive and practical knowledge on earthquake preparedness, intervention, and building safety principles. There was also an emphasis on hands-on learning.

On 11 March, Dr. Canay, Dr. Fukushima, and Dr. Kitamura (Researcher (Specially Appointed), International Research Collaboration Office) visited Minamisanriku and Ishinomaki. In Minamisanriku, they participated in a bus excursion that provided storytelling on the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster, which led to discussion on the engagements of individuals to the community in the face of disasters by comparing Japanese and Turkish contexts. They also visited Okawa Elementary School and Kadonowaki Elementary School, memorials of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and discussed the importance of such facilities for disaster education.

The project aims to collect the records of the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, with a particular focus on the disaster at schools, that can be used in future disaster education. In April, the project team plans to organize a workshop in Gaziantep by inviting teachers working in the disaster affected areas. The findings from the workshop on 10 March along with other discussions among the Turkish–Japanese project team members communicated during the visit of Dr. Canay will be reflected in the workshop in April and future collaborations.

Report by : Yo Fukushima (Inland Earthquake and Volcano Lab)
Miwako Kitamura (International Research Collaboration Office)
Aiko Sakurai (Disaster Education Research and Implementation Lab)
Ryo Saito (Cognitive Sciences Lab)

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Group photo after the workshop. From left to right: Dr. Ryo Saito (Asst Prof., Cognitive Sciences Lab), Dr. Fukushima, Dr. Kitamura, Dr. Canay, Dr. Aiko Sakurai (Prof. (Cross-Appointed), Disaster Education Research and Implementation Lab), Dr. Takashi Oda (Univ. Tokyo)

Türkiye and Japan Disaster Education Workshop
Organized by the J-RAPID disaster education project

Date: 10 March 2024 (Sun)
Time: 14:00-16:30 (Japan Standard Time)
Venue: Online
Zoom Link:
<https://zoom.us/j/94388803797?pwd=bTdET3hsVnd4SS0TG5aZTE1d3UyQT09>
Anticipated participants: Colleague researchers of the project members and research collaborators
Language: English (no translation)

Workshop goals:

- Share the preliminary findings of the online survey being conducted with school teachers in the area affected by the February 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquake disaster.
- Discuss the potential implications of the survey findings for disaster education efforts.

Program :

- Introduction of the project
- Report by Dr. Canay Doğulu (Assoc. Prof., TED University, Türkiye): "Preliminary findings and the current status of the online survey conducted with in-service teachers in the disaster-affected areas in Türkiye"
- Discussion among participants

For Inquiries, please email Yo Fukushima (fukushima@irides.tohoku.ac.jp)





Flyer of the workshop, photos of the project members during the workshop: Dr. Canay Doğulu and Dr. Emin Özdamar (Turkish Japanese Foundation).

J-RAPID Workshop on support and utilization of digital archives related to the Kahramanmaraş (Southeast of Türkiye) earthquake (2024/3/12-15)

Theme : The 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake, disaster digital archive

Place : Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Türkiye

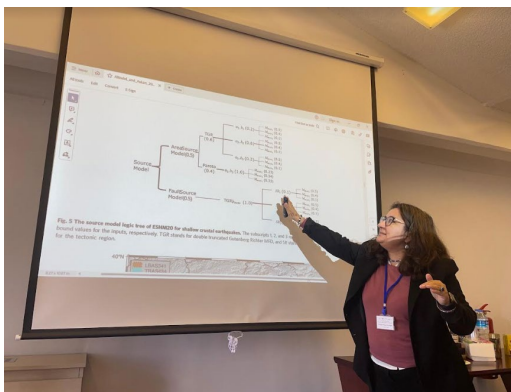
Project on Creation support and utilization of the 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake related digital archive was started from the 31st August 2023. The first workshop for the project was held at the Science Museum on the 15th November 2023, in collaboration with the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake Special Project. During the workshop, we discussed the role and potential of archives, as well as expectations and future challenges. This time, the second workshop was held at the Middle East Technical University (METU) with the leader of Türkiye side, Prof. Ahmet C. Yalciner, at Ankara, Türkiye during 12-15 March 2024 including students' participation from both Japan and Türkiye on "Disaster Digital Archives for Tomorrow".

The workshop started on the first day (12th March 2024) by having a series of presentations related not only to the 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake but the earthquakes in Japan and disaster digital archive moderated by Assoc. Prof. Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab, IRIDeS). Local participants are not only students from METU but also participants from JICA Türkiye office. The first presentation was given by Prof. Aysegul Askan and Assoc. Prof. Meltem Senol from METU on seismic hazard assessment before and after the 2023 Kahramanmaraş Earthquake as well as damage and vulnerability in the earthquake affected areas. The second presentation was made by Prof. Hidenori Watanabe (the University of Tokyo) on disaster digital archives and recent initiatives by showing many examples of applications to historical disasters such as the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. The third presentation was made by Prof. Fumihiko Imamura (Tsunami Engineering Lab, IRIDeS) on lessons from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. The last presentation was made by six graduate school students from the University of Tokyo (Prof. Watanabe's lab) on cutting-edge research using VR, digital map and other technologies using the previously mentioned disasters as research targets.

The second day of the workshop (the 13th March) until the last day of the workshop (the 15th March) was a students workshop for "Disaster Digital Archives for Tomorrow" with participation from graduate students from METU, Tohoku University and the University of Tokyo. Students from both countries were split into four groups and worked together to create a prototype of their disaster digital archive using 3D maps and other usable tools. Some ideas such 1) Using game to archiving photos and let the players understand evacuation route, 2) Serious game to let the players prepare disaster mitigation related goods, 3) Using of projection mapping and idea of immersive museum so that the users understand disaster processes (before disaster, during disaster and after disaster) and 4) using 3D photo technologies and text-mining to let the users understand how to evacuate and trend of wording at each disaster stage. This workshop demonstrates a good example of collaboration of the young generation from both countries which is sustainable even after the project has ended.

Text and photos by Fumihiko Imamura and Anawat Suppasri (Tsunami Engineering Lab)

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Presentation by Prof. Aysegul Askan



Presentation by Assoc. Prof. Meltem Senol



Presentation by Prof. Hidenori Watanabe



Presentation by Prof. Fumihiko Imamura



Presentation by student



Student workshop