

Center for Sustainable Development Studies

The 28th Annual Conference of Japan Society for International Development (JASID)

*Hidetoshi Kitawaki
Director of Center for Sustainable Development Studies*

With the participation of 312 persons, the 28th annual conference of JASID was held on 25th and 26th of November 2017 at Hakusan Campus of Toyo University located at Bunkyo Ward in Tokyo. For Toyo University, this was the second occasion to host such conferences, following the 8th Spring Conference in 2007 at Itakura Campus in Gumma. Toyo University is happy to host the meeting again at Hakusan Campus on the occasion of its 130th anniversary. This conference was held with the co-sponsorship of the Center for Sustainable Development Studies of Toyo University (CeSDeS). In the conference, students from African and Pacific island countries were requested to support operation because they will become resource persons to carry out international development in the next generation.

In this conference, 71 papers were presented in English/Japanese, and four posters were demonstrated. In addition, ten thematic sessions and six round tables were held, which was a remarkable feature of the conference. The details are described in "session reports" prepared by chair persons, however, it was reported from them that in-depth discussions were held on various subjects.

As the plenary session, an international symposium, "Cross-boundary Human Development for Sustainable Development Goals through International Networking"



The 28th Annual Conference of JASID

was hosted by CeSDeS. In the symposium, the main topic was the remote education through ICT, which makes the world smaller and convenient. I believe that this discussion can show a guide towards educational outreach and research promotion in international development.

I owe the success of this conference to the support and collaboration of board members of JASID, Hiroshima University which hosted the previous annual conference, Kwansai Gakuin University which hosted spring conference, and many members of JASID. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who made this conference a wonderful one.

《International Symposium Report》

“Cross-boundary Human Development for SDGs through International Networking”

*Toshiya Aramaki
Researcher*

On November 25, 2017, the Toyo University Center for Sustainable Development Studies held an international symposium entitled “Cross-boundary Human Development for SDGs through International Networking” (co-organized

by the Japan Society for International Development (JASID); Graduate School of Regional Development Studies, Toyo University; Faculty of Global and Regional Studies, Toyo University; Center for Academic Research



Scene from the symposium

Promotion, Toyo University; and Faculty of International Tourism Management, Toyo University / supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)) in Room No. 8B11 of the No. 8 Building, Hakusan Campus, Toyo University.

This year's symposium was held with the aim of providing an opportunity to consider how information and communication technology (ICT) and networks can contribute to developing countries and widespread human resources development, as well as whether ICT and networking can contribute to human resources development that supports the achievement of SDGs, through case examples such as ICT support in developing countries, education utilizing such ICT and networking, and the formation of widespread education networks. Held on the same day as the 28th Annual Conference of the Japan Society for International Development (JASID) (which was also held on the Hakusan Campus, Toyo University), the symposium was attended by approximately 200 participants, including JASID members and Toyo University students.

Overviews of each speaker's presentation are provided below.

**“USP’s Experiences on Education for Cross-boundary: Human Development in Pacific Islands”
Dr. Derrick Armstrong (Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of the South Pacific)**

The University of the South Pacific (USP) is a unique university—established in 1968, it is an international university with 14 campuses scattered over 12 countries, including three main campuses in Fiji, Vanuatu, and Samoa. Currently there are around 28,000 students from 48 countries studying there. Based on the experiences of USP in developing cross-border human resources training programs in the past, Deputy Vice Chancellor Armstrong spoke about the kinds of educational programs that USP is currently developing, introducing its strategies from the perspectives of educational activities, student, support, research advancement, ICT utilization, community collaboration, and implementation

organizations. Providing information about USP's strategies and experiences in making effective adjustments to and promoting human resources development in an unusual environment in which campuses are physically separated by large distances across multiple countries, the lecture was extremely valuable.

“ICT and Education for Human Resource Development in International Development Cooperation Through JICA’s Experiences”

Mr. Tomoyuki Naito (Senior Advisor, JICA)

After providing an overview of advancements in and the diffusion of ICT as well as JICA's endeavors aimed at further diffusing ICT, Mr. Naito described the changes that ICT has and will bring to human resources development in developing countries from the perspectives of training specialized human resources in the healthcare field, the evolution of training into personalized learning, and the combining of conventional face-to-face education with ICT, and also made recommendations for the effective utilization of ICT. Examining how ICT can be utilized, taking into consideration a variety of human resources training programs, not only those in developing countries, the lecture was very beneficial.

“Toyo University’s Experiences and Future on Remote Education”

Dr. Hidetoshi Kitawaki (Vice President, Toyo University)

Going back to Toyo University founder Dr. Enryo Inoue's distribution of lecture notes, Dr. Kitawaki spoke about the development of Toyo University's correspondence courses and remote education provided by the Graduate School of Economics's Public-Private Partnership course and the Faculty of Information Sciences and Arts, as well as his own experiences of remote education as a graduate student and the future outlook for remote education. In easy-to-understand terms, Dr. Kitawaki also described how Toyo University had progressed from conventional correspondence education comprising successive exchanges of information to real-time education programs utilizing ICT.

Through this symposium, I believe participants gained a sense of how the advancement and diffusion of ICT have increased the feasibility and effectiveness of remote education and broad-based education, and have the potential to lead to new human resources training programs aimed at achieving SDGs.

Furthermore, the symposium's organizer, Toyo University, launched two new faculties in April this year—the Faculty of Global and Regional Studies and the Faculty of International Tourism Management—and has just started developing new human resources training

programs such as making study/research abroad compulsory and proactively accepting international students under an independent Toyo University scholarship program, and so the symposium provided

beneficial information on various issues.

On behalf of the organizers, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to all the co-organizing and supporting organizations, the speakers, and the participants.

《Overseas Research Report》

“Disasters and Reconstruction in Italy: Open Seminar at the University of Camerino”

*Kozue Kashiwazaki and Ryo Matsumaru
Researcher*



Meeting at the Nazionale Protezione Civile

The Italian Republic is an especially major country for natural disasters amongst European countries, with Italy’s central region suffering severe earthquake damage in recent years. Reconstruction is progressing in the Abruzzo region, where 309 people lost their lives in the earthquake centered on L’Aquila, the capital city of the region in 2009. However, successive earthquakes, the largest in the past 36 years—M6.2 and M6.6—struck Norcia in the neighboring Umbria region in August and October 2016, respectively. In addition to the human damage, devastating damage was caused to heritage buildings that had been constructed over centuries in mountainous areas of the central region, and the people are facing many issues in their endeavors to carry out reconstruction.

As the first step in research we are planning to conduct in the future, in July 2017 the authors carried out an interview survey at Italy’s Nazionale Protezione Civile (Department of Civil Protection), participated in an open seminar at the University of Camerino, and inspected the earthquake disaster zone. From the interview survey

at the Nazionale Protezione Civile we learned that operational coordination for the department had become even more difficult and important following the Central Italy earthquake due to (1) the disaster zone including and straddling multiple regions and areas, making it difficult to coordinate among differing administrative systems, distribute resources, and connect infrastructure; (2) the vulnerability of Italy’s central region due to obscure building regulations as well as land use issues and hydrogeological risks; and (3) the difficulty of restoring damaged cultural heritages. Furthermore, having endured successive earthquakes, there is an unprecedentedly high number of residents needing housing assistance, and attention has been called to the increasing importance of housing assistance in reconstruction efforts. During the interviews, co-author Matsumaru described reconstruction policies and organizational structures in Japan and Asian countries, and a discussion was conducted on ways to create more effective systems and coordination.



Presentations at the University of Camerino



Visiting the Mayor of Camerino



Red Zone inspection

At the open seminar held by the University of Camerino, both authors made presentations regarding post-disaster reconstruction and community development in Asia, with Matsumaru speaking on the topic “Recovery from Large-scale Disasters: Issues in Japan and Asian Countries Focusing on Resettlement” and Kashiwazaki describing “Community Resilience toward Disaster in Asian Cities”. University of Camerino Professor Emanuele Tondi then made a presentation on the damage suffered by the Camerino region and the status of reconstruction efforts. Following the presentations, there was a lively discussion among the instructors and students. After the seminar, Professor Lucia Ruggeri and graduate students kindly took the authors to visit the Mayor of Camerino and guided them on an inspection of the disaster zone and temporary housing facilities.

Located in Macerata Province in the Marche region, Camerino is a municipality with an area of 130 km² and a population of approximately 7,000 local residents, with another 7,000 residents affiliated with the University of Camerino, for which it is known as a “Medieval University Town”. The University of Camerino was founded in 1363 and its historical building-lined complex is located in the town’s center. However, after the Central Italy earthquake, the old city center was designated as a “Red Zone” (no entry permitted), and so only the university complex’s outer buildings, constructed 20 years ago, are currently in use. At the time of our survey, the university was conducting classes with assistance from the national government, and the students who

were continuing their studies were exempted from paying tuition fees.

Immediately after the earthquake struck, approximately 5,000 people evacuated to evacuation centers and container temporary housing; however, since it has become apparent that reconstruction will take time, many residents have begun living temporarily in apartments on the east coast, about 100 km away, with some residents traveling to and from Camerino by bus every day. Currently approximately 300 people are living in temporary housing in three locations around the town.

Even in the old city center, where damage was especially bad, only around 10% of the buildings were partially or fully destroyed, preserving the townscape on first glance. However, buildings have sustained more damage inside than they appear to have on the outside and have been deemed to be dangerous, and even now building inspections to ascertain the level of damage are continuing. Heaps of rubble are piled around building with significant damage, and while schools and shops facing plazas can be seen to have undergone partial reinforcement measures, virtually no building have undergone repair work as yet. A common recurring theme in the damage is the damage to the upper sections of old buildings such as churches, which were built by stacking stones or bricks, and to the exterior walls of relatively newly constructed housing made of reinforced concrete. Furthermore, since many of the buildings are connected, standing in rows, even buildings that do not appear to have been damaged cannot escape the impact of damage to neighboring buildings. The zone is patrolled by soldiers, and with the permission of the fire department, residents go into the zone accompanied by soldiers to collect items they need for everyday living or merchandise.

The bus company building on the outskirts of Camerino has become the temporary office for the fire department as well as the local government, functioning as reconstruction headquarters. Furthermore, large and small tents have been set up near the university facilities as temporary commercial facilities where merchandise (daily necessities and miscellaneous goods) taken out of the Red Zone is sold at each booth. However, apart from ventilation measures, the tents are not equipped with any heating/cooling equipment such as air-conditioners, and because it becomes very hot inside these tents during the day, nearly all of the stores only sell their goods from the evening onwards when the temperature falls, and at the time the survey was being conducted, there was virtually no one there.

The temporary housing currently being used is container-type temporary housing. Containers providing living spaces are lined up on either side of a passageway, giving the appearance of a fish skeleton from above. These structures are characterized by their separation of internal

and external spaces. As common spaces, the facilities have cafeterias and multipurpose spaces, but no one was using these areas when we visited. However, the passageways were wide, and we saw elderly people sitting on benches in the passageways and chatting.

With reconstruction in the old central city area lagging behind in this way, Camerino's municipal government and the University of Camerino have jointly launched an association called "IONONCROLLO CAMERINO" ("I will not be daunted") and have begun recruiting student

volunteers, formulating energy measures, providing support for commercial activities and events, carrying out promotional activities, and other grassroots actions to support reconstruction. However, access to the town is limited due to its location in the mountains, and it is sustainable support activities are proving difficult. There are increasing calls from local residents and students demanding the effective utilization of temporary commercial facilities as well as plans for commencement of reconstruction of the Red Zone.

《Overseas Research Report》

Research into the environment surrounding Inle Lake in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Terumasa Matsuyuki
Visiting Researcher

The Center's Sustainable Business team conducts research on the theme of creating sustainable societies through business in Asia and Africa. In August 2017 I accompanied Gaku Manago, one of the Center's researchers, on a trip to research the environment surrounding Inle Lake in Myanmar.

Inle Lake is a freshwater lake located in the Nyaungshwe Township of Taunggyi District in Shan State. It is a large lake with a surface area of 43.5km², and the local people have long led traditional lifestyles on the water. In particular, vegetables such as tomatoes and eggplants (aubergine) are cultivated on floating farms located on the lake's surface. It has hitherto been considered that the expansion of the surface used for cultivation by floating farms, slash-and-burn agriculture practiced by the

inhabitants of the surrounding hills and the household effluent of residents have all contributed to a decline in the water quality of the lake, but as yet the exact details of these factors have not been clarified. It was thus that we embarked on our research by interviewing local people and investigating the various types of water utilization.

Our research took place in two locations. One was a relatively affluent area where a small textile factory is located. In this district the local people collect their water from a well and there is a water tank for their shared use, which we observed being used for showering facilities etc.



A view of the small textile factory



View of a floating farm



Conducting interviews with local people

Furthermore, while some households were seen to use fully automated washing machine, most of them did their laundry in the lake. The textile factory utilizes chemical dyes, the residual waste of which is flushed into the lake. The other district where we conducted our research was a place where incomes are comparatively low, and although the residents do have electricity they depend on rainwater for drinking water, and they both bathe and do their laundry in the lake. Despite the fact that there was some disparity between incomes and so on in the districts it was discovered that there is a possibility that household effluents and industrial wastewater are harming water

quality in Inle Lake. It is possible that the expanding gap between rich and poor is a factor in the lake's worsening water quality, and the next step in research will be to analyze the structure of the regional economy.

In addition to the results outline above, we visited sites where trees are being planted on the surrounding hillsides, and some floating farms, thereby gaining an overview of the local situation. There are many different factors involved in the deterioration of Inle Lake's water quality. For the time being, however, we will pursue water quality research and the clarification of the different ways in which water is used in order to continue with our research.

New Publication



In September 2017, a new publication was released under the supervision of The Center for Sustainable Studies at Toyo University (hereinafter "the Center"), titled "Sustainable Development Goals and International Contributions – A View from the Field. (In Japanese)" This book, the sixth compiled by the Center, reviews our activities

and accomplishments to date. It stands besides five earlier works, including one that received a Special Award (2014) from the Japan Society for International Development.

The book is intended to promote sustainable development under SDGs (sustainable development goals) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. This accords well with the mission of the Center, i.e., to support international cooperation toward the attainment of such goals. We have

advanced a variety of activities in this area, centering on fieldwork-based study, research and practice. The book, along with reporting the activities of Center researchers, introduces various efforts of SDG specialists, their colleagues from universities in other countries and experts in international organizations. The composition of the book is presented below, along with some concrete, particularly noteworthy cases within columns dedicated to them. While space limitations prevent a complete introduction of SDG activities over their full extent, it does present a systematic overview of associated practices and prospects.

We anticipate further contributions from Center fieldwork based study, research and practice within a variety of projects already underway. Here, the book features a discussion of such matters as how SDGs can be transformed into concrete action and what the Center can do in support of such efforts. This viewpoint makes the book different from those on similar themes. If you would like to know more about this book, please do not hesitate to ask the Center by e-mail, cesdes@toyo.jp, in English or Japanese.

Reference



- 5 min from Exit A3 of Hakusan Station on the Toei Subway Mita Line
- 5 min from Exit 1 of Hon-Komagome Station on the Tokyo Metro Namboku Line

Center for Sustainable Development Studies (CeSDeS), Toyo University
(Strategic Research Base Development Program for Private Universities)

Address: 7th floor, Building 8 Hakusan Campus, 5-28-20 Hakusan, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 112-8606, JAPAN

E-Mail: cesdes@toyo.jp

URL: <http://www.toyo.ac.jp/site/orc-e/>

Tel/Fax: +81 3-3945-7747 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays)