

INTERVIEW

with

Dr. Megumi Sugimoto



♠ *Yirong Zhao & Yang Lei*
Dr. Megumi Sugimoto is an Assistant Professor at Kyushu University at IDS3 and proactive specialist in hazard management. Her research fields are risk management for natural hazard and disaster education.

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View of Disaster Education
Natural disasters occur frequently throughout the world. In order to protect themselves and people around them, everyone should learn about natural disasters and how to cope with them. Japan is a country subject to many natural disasters and it is important to pay attention to disaster education and the disaster situation. Disaster education is especially important for foreigners, not fluent in Japanese and thus face difficulty in accessing information and instructions during times of disaster. It is important for foreigners to learn now what to do when natural disasters occur.
In other countries, such as Indonesia, there are

Disasters don't wait to happen

many natural disasters but the countermeasures are less advanced than in Japan. In such countries disaster education is even more important. Dr. Sugimoto has worked for disaster prevention and reconstruction from the 2004 Sumatra tsunami in Indonesia. One of her projects has built 85 tsunami memorial poles in places where the tsunami inundated. This project arouses people's awareness of disaster prevention and helps preserve memories. People learn how high the water reached in the previous tsunamis and help people to decide the height to evacuate to.

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Suggestions on Disaster Prevention Countermeasures
It is better to prepare an emergency kit that can be used immediately in emergency situation. Generally, the kit should contain: LED flashlight (with batteries), water, foods (canned foods, cookies), radio, first-aid kit money, rope, whistle, blanket, plastic wrap, gloves, glasses, toothbrush, powder milk and diaper for babies, pads for females, and so on. If you face a volcano, you can bring a helmet and a mask. Similarly, if you face a snowstorm, you can bring long boots and a warm coat or anything you can warm yourself. According to different natural hazards and your family members, the preparations and countermeasures for disasters are different. You must consider your need. More than an emergency kit, small items can be always carried around for emergencies. We asked Dr. Sugimoto what she usually carries with her. She carries a portable LED flashlight and a whistle; both are very small that can be hung on the keychain. She said that disasters can happen at anytime, anywhere. We have to do some prevention!

Decision Science and Natural Disaster
Dr. Sugimoto uses a poster made by the IDS3 student (Mr. Sumi) to explain the relation between decision science and natural disasters. Companies are encouraged to review the BCP (Business Continuity Planning) blind spots after the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, and by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Prior to new disasters, internal controls should be discussed. For example, how to make an evacuation judgment, what should the rules be for the evacuation route, and what is the litigation risk from the employee's family. Preparing for these crisis, the companies' leaders are requested to have an ability to make fast decision. Nonetheless, there are dilemmas such as when disasters happen, company managers want employees to stay in building, but some of the employees may ignore the commands, and they want to go home to make sure their family members safe or not.

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Plus Alpha
Dr. Sugimoto stressed plus alpha. Scientific evidence is important but it is only the starting point, it is not enough for preparing disasters. We should not only go by past data but we should consider plus alpha and prepare for extra. In one example, Tohoku tsunamis, the 869 Jyogan earthquake was under estimated magnitude 8.3, but the 2011 Tohoku tsunami was magnitude 9.0 and caused many deaths. We should go beyond what has happened before in the evidence. Science Program strives to educate them with the skills needed for becoming the bridging person. I want them to be challenging in their work and be something that is non-existent at present.

DECISION

SCIENCE

NEWSLETTER

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Natural Disaster

Hakozaki campus

Bootcamp

Tohoku Earthquake



EDITOR'S NOTE

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The theme of the twelfth issue of Decision Science Newsletter is "Natural Disasters". Natural Disasters are occurring more frequently in recent years and become one of the important issues that we cannot ignore their risk. One of the IDS3 programs focuses on Natural Disasters. In this issue, we report the disaster prevention education, disaster recovery, and other activities conducted by the modules.

FEATURE

Sayonara! Hakozaki Campus

♣ *Kun Qian, Andrew Rebeiro-Hargrave*

After thirteen long years, Kyushu University has accomplished its huge moving project from downtown Hakozaki to modern Ito campus. The relocation project started, when I came to Japan for graduate study in 2005. It took so long that I finished my master and doctoral study at Department of psychology completely in Hakozaki Campus. Ito Campus is located at the most western part of Fukuoka city and borders with Itoshima city. Here, it is like wild wide west, broad and vast, and there is enough land to make Ito the largest campus all over Japan (272 ha.). Bigger campus brings more possibilities to the university, as well as economic opportunities to the local

Ito area. But in opposite, social life in Ito Campus is not easy, because the relocation was finished far in advance of building sufficient infrastructures. Hakozaki Campus opened in 1903, finally closed at the end of September, 2018. The land which has witnessed a visit from Dr Albert Einstein, and the memories and dreams of millions of young people will be exported to new buildings. It's a pity that we cannot bring our children here and tell them "Hey, your dad/mum studied here. What a beautiful campus!" But all of us who experienced Hakozaki are looking forward to its wonderful future. Arigato, Hakozaki! Sayonara, Hakozaki!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 7, Fukuoka, Japan, **The opening of gibier restaurant "Yaku-shika no tsudoi" at the "Kyudaisai" festival, Environment Module.**
Oct. 27, Fukuoka, Japan, **The opening of gibier restaurant at the "Motooka-Hounen-matsuri" festival, Environment Module.**
Nov.14 -16, Jian village, Korea, **Survey on building a sustainable local, Governance module.**
Dec 4, Kyushu University, Japan, **Tohoku field trip seminar, Disaster Module.**
Dec 14-17, Yaku island, Japan, **Decision Science Special Exercises, Environment Module.**

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FIELD TRIP



♥ *Ai Nagabana*
The Disaster Module carried out Tohoku field trip from August 1st to 3rd. IDS3 researchers visited Kamaishi city and Rikuz-

Two sides of the restoration coin from the Tohoku earthquake

entakata city in Iwate, and Kesennuma city in Miyagi. The purpose was learning the situation at the time of the disaster, and restoration from that time to the present, and the future prospects. Many students were interested in the tide breakage construction project in Kesennuma city where different types of tide breakage were built in each district because discussions on the construction were done at the district unit level. This is an interesting model of decision making which reflects the residents living and living work in

each district. In other places, residents stated that government remained a problem for the construction of the tide breakage. This showed that it is important to spend time and discuss many times until the two sides, the government and residents, agree. The reconstruction of the Tohoku region, now passing into seven years since the earthquake, is entering a final stage. We would like to continue paying attention to the restoration and supporting as much as we can.

FIELD TRIP

♥ *Feifan Xu*
Takada-san, of the Disaster Module, revisited a village called Ciptagelar in Jawa Barat in Indonesia from July 18 to July 27. She confirmed the delivery network of the small hydropower station and the collected data on river flow rate and rainfall data. She traced the power lines from four small hydropower stations to find out which villages are supplied with electricity. She surveyed residents to understand the management system and obtained electric-

Surveys small hydropower stations in Indonesia

ity bill records of each house. She conducted interview surveys to establish the amount of power generated, the year of construction, the number of power transmission per households, and the presence or absence of breakdown and correspondence. Based on the information gathered, she will build a model to calculate the amount of electricity generation and flood risk in the future. It was exciting and through investigations, I received many experiences on the current status and problems of power man-

agement in Ciptagelar. She hopes to make the most of my specialty in building hydrological models necessary for calculating the amount of electricity generated and flood risk.



WORKSHOP



♥ *Tomobito Sekiguchi*
The Governance module carried out workshops at Hoshino-village in Yame city from August 19th to 20th. We stayed Fumi-chan's house, (Mrs. Goto, a key person of the village) and ate tasty local dinners (e.g., rice, vegetable, ayu fish). At "Hoshinosato", agricultural

Eggplants, flowers and Mrs Goto's tasty dinners

product processing facility, 60 to 80 years old women worked passionately in their jobs. We helped cut 50 kg eggplants that became just 2kg after drying!! In the Rokuri community, we learned that inhabitants have held Higanbana flower festival for 10 years every September. However, now there is shortage of manpower to treat increasing number of guests and sustaining the festival is a major challenge for them. At Seikoen kids nursery school we learned that, 53 children commute there. Its place in nature, and children can play beside river when they go for walk. It was interesting to observe how Seikoen play its role in next generation. We visited JA's

direct sale store, "Nijino mine no sato" and "Road station ukiha", and compared different points from them. We got information and experience in these workshops and reflect on the learning of the workshop's contents for the next visit.



PROJECT



◆ *Hiroshi Nitta*
For many people it is difficult to guess from pictures what type of natural disasters occurred in Japan last September. They may see

Never too Early to Be Prepared for Natural Disasters

that the bigger disasters are, the harder to identify what type of disasters has occurred. Megumi Sugimoto, an assistant professor at IDS3 realized that through her research and inspection of areas affected by natural disasters, it is best to always be prepared against natural disasters in daily life to keep losses and victims to a minimum, especially when considering that natural disaster occur suddenly, and in many instances people do not have enough time to evacuate. She also believes that natural

disasters happened last September should affect the thinking on what the education on disaster prevention should be.



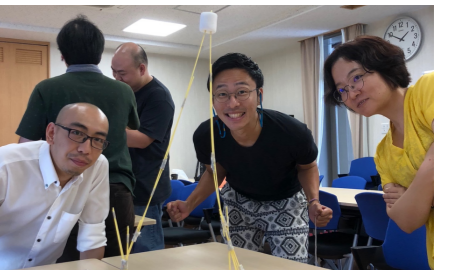
SEMINAR

◆ *Nuren Abedin*
The Human Module boot camp of for 2018 was held in July. The purposes of the boot camp were to introduce New students who joined Human Module in Spring 2018 to the older members, develop team building through different challenges, games and activities. On day 1, new students presented about their research work to the faculty and members of Human Module. Followed by team building activities with "Marshmallows and Spaghetti" challenge, blind-folded tea

Marshmallows and Spaghetti at the Human Module Bootcamp

tasting games and barbeque party. Day 2 started with business case studies followed by team work preparing lunch and playing "Catan". Every activity had its own goals and rules. Preparing food in a group promotes team work and encourages students to develop skills of cooking. "Blind-folded tea tasting" challenge demonstrates how individuals can have different opinions on the same thing. "Marshmallows and Spaghetti" promotes sharing and accepting mindset to taking action to achieve one common goal.

Playing "Catan" with the goal of common welfare for all stakeholders taught how different ways of collaborations can be initiated to achieve benefits for all.



PROJECT



◆ *Yaodan Zhang*
Environment module representatives (Drs Hosoya, Onda, Ota, and students Takeru Kusudo and Yunmei Mu) carried out a carcass feeding to carnivorous animals as part of IDS3 practical training at Omuta City

Wild meat and an ideal place for dating

Zoo. Many wild birds and animals (e.g., deer and wild boar) are caught to manage their number and nationwide. This causes a problem on how to use the individuals: they can be eaten as human food, such as at "gibier" restaurant in the center of Fukuoka, however, they are small, and it is costly to distribute and stay profitable. Alternately, they can be used as a pet food, or feeding as fresh food to carnivorous animals in the zoo. Feeding of carcass is an effective environmental enrichment activity. It helps carnivorous animals express normal behavioral patterns and meets one of the five freedoms of Animal Welfare by

giving food in a more wild form rather the feeding with fillets, as is often in a zoo. Omuta City Zoo has pushed enrichment ideas enormously to the front and carries out a lot of activities in addition to this. If you are interested in learning more, hurry to Omuta City Zoo! The entrance fee is amazing 370 yen! Below junior high school students is 90 yen! Ideal for dating! (Official staffs at zoos). The members of this activity are conducting a questionnaire survey to find out about the reaction of the guests and hear valuable stories from the zoo staff.