

**Building Resilient and Adaptable Infrastructure and Society: Drawing on the experience of Tohoku Earthquake 2011, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2012, University College London**

Scientific Lead from the UK: Dr Taku Fujiyama, University College London

Scientific lead from Japan: Prof Haruo Ishida Head of sub-committee UK-Japan Collaborative Research on Sustainable Transport of Japan Society of Civil Engineers

Invited Speakers from the UK:

Dr Helena Titheridge (UCL Centre for Urban Sustainability and Resilience, Director)

Prof Brian Collins (UCL Centre for Engineering Policy, Director)

Prof Nick Tyler (UCL, pro-Provost for East and South Asia, Head of Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering)

John Parry (ICE, Sustainable Committee)

Dr Francesca Medda (UCL)

Dr Taku Fujiyama (UCL)

Invited Speakers from Japan:

Prof Haruo Ishida (JSCE, Chair of the subcommittee of Anglo-Japan collaboration on sustainable transport, University of Tsukuba )

Prof Yozo Fujino (Tokyo University)

Prof Tetsuo Hyodo (Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology)

Yukihiro Tsukada (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

Dr Naohisa Okamoto (University of Tsukuba)

Prof Akimasa Fujiwara (Hiroshima University)

Yuki Tanaka (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

Dr Makoto Chikaraishi (University of Tokyo)

Hajime Chikaraishi (University of Tsukuba)

The objectives of the symposium were, drawing on the experience of the Tohoku Earthquake in 2011, to investigate how the national infrastructure and people respond to a disaster in order to build the resilience and adaptability of national infrastructure and society. The symposium was based on the Japanese experience, but theoretical work and current practices in the UK in this subject area (e.g. such as Infrastructure UK) were introduced, so that Japan and the UK exchanged knowledge. In addition, the Japanese Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) ran a workshop in November 2012 in Tokyo to evaluate the effects of the earthquake on the national infrastructure. This London symposium further developed relationships and networks between JSCE and the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE, UK) at various levels, namely institutional levels as well as individuals levels including established academics and early career researchers (post-docs and doctoral students) who are researching infrastructure resilience and adaptability.

The event was attended by more than 50 people and was successful. The speakers from the UK represented several key people in the subject area, including Prof Brian Collins and John Parry. The fact that the audience included a correspondent from BBC proves that the event attracted attention from a wide range of sources and sectors.

The first day consisted of key note speeches whereas the second day focused on detailed report and discussion. As the development of networks is one of the objectives of this event, the programme included networking coffee time/lunches and a reception, and the participants seem to have enjoyed these opportunities.

There was a special session for early career researchers around midday on the first day. The aim of this session was to create opportunities for early-career researchers (i.e. post docs and doctoral students) to network. The session included short presentations by such researchers. This initiative was well received by those who

attended as well as JSCE and ICE. One of the UK participants told me that she received very useful comments from Japanese researchers, and realised there are some Japanese research groups working on the same topic. Now she is thinking to apply for the JSPS postdoctoral short-term scholarship scheme to visit the groups.

Several ideas and motivation for UK-Japan collaboration have emerged from this workshop. First, there is an on-going discussion on further collaboration between the Institution of Civil Engineers and Japan Society of Civil Engineers. Although they have not confirmed the details of the next step, both sides are keen to continue the relationships. Secondly, as an established academic level, there are plans of research exchange. In fact, a postdoctoral researcher from Prof Akimasa Fujiwara's group has already made a visit to UCL and Imperial College after this symposium. Thirdly, there are plans for young researchers to visit each other. Although I am not fully aware of each plan, PhD students on both sides are planning to apply for schemes for early career researchers, such as the JSPS summer programme scheme. – Dr. Taku Fujiyama, University College London.



Symposium Participants