

## Planning Responses to ‘Shock’ and ‘Slow-Burn’ Events: The Role of Redundancy in Regional Resilience

### Description of project

A collaborative research seminar series examining current thinking on regional resilience and the role of ‘redundancy’ in adapting to ‘shock’ and ‘slow-burn’ events (Pendall et al, 2010; Pike et al, 2010; Simmie and Martin, 2010) and aiming to enhance collaboration between UK and Japan researchers on this topic. The UK event (January 2013) involved an academic seminar exploring redundancy in relation to theory, governance and resources and a site visit and policy workshop with policymakers and residents in Longbridge, Birmingham. In Tokyo (March 2013), the academic seminar focused on the planning response to the triple disaster within a comparative framework of resilience and redundancy within regional systems. This was followed up by a visit to affected sites in Tohoku including Kesenuma City where a resident and stakeholder workshop was held.

### Departments and institutions involved

Centre for Urban & Regional Studies, School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Science, The University of Birmingham and Waseda Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Waseda University, Tokyo.

### How collaboration started

Prof. Osamu Sohda and Dr. Peter Lee have previously worked together. They made a previous application to ESRC-JSPS in 2010. They learnt from this and refined a proposal in a series of meetings and email exchanges.

### Amount of money awarded

£28,000

### How the matching funds were sourced from your side

We secured the involvement of Birmingham City Council Staff and Birmingham Resilience team. The city Council funded the travel costs to Japan of one member of staff.

### How participants are benefitting from the scheme

The seminar/workshop was inter-disciplinary in nature drawing on engineering, physics, planning and sociological definitions of resilience and redundancy. This has influenced the way that policymakers view resilience in Birmingham and the issue of ‘resource’. Japanese colleagues benefited from the collaborative planning session in Longbridge which is influencing planning consultation in Kesenuma.

### Collaborative developments since the project started and plans for the future

A joint presentation to the *Smart Energy Cities* conference, Loughborough 17-18 April 2012: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/microsites/enterprise/smart-energy-cities/>

A presentation jointly prepared by Lee and Sohda to the *Risk After Fukushima: Crises, Disasters and Governance*, Paris (IDDRI and SciencePo) 17-18 September 2012: [http://www.iddri.org/Evenements/Conferences-internationales/120917-18\\_Risk%20After%20Fukushima.pdf](http://www.iddri.org/Evenements/Conferences-internationales/120917-18_Risk%20After%20Fukushima.pdf)

Prof. Sohda will visit the UK and CURS in July 2013 and contribute to planning seminar  
Exchange students and internationalisation including Japan and UK joint PhD supervision.

Staff secondment

A research grant application to the British Council aimed at developing exchange outputs.

Linking expertise on transition and shrinkage to international network including Japan and grant application to Horizon 2020 or similar

### **Further applications to JSPS for funding or plans for this**

and JSPS on the theme of transition and resilience in regional systems following shock events; detailed set of interviews and discussion with key actors in climate transition and regional planning at the local, regional and national level in Kesenumma, Sendai and Tokyo.



Birmingham University, Birmingham City Council, Waseda University and Kesenumma City staff in Kesenumma City, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2013



Kesennuma City, March 30th 2013 – evidence of good or bad *redundancy*? One of the questions we faced was what to do with this stranded merchant ship in Kesennuma.



Press coverage of the Kesennuma workshop.

Peter Lee  
3 May 2013