

Lecture on Tomodachi Operation in Great East Japan Earthquake (2013/2/13-15)

Venue: Tohoku University Campus (Sendai)
Topics: Tomodachi Operation and Afterward

Mar. 12, Prof. Shinichi Egawa invited Mr. Robert D. Eldridge, Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, G-7, and Political Affairs and Public Diplomacy Officer, Marine Corps Installations Pacific (Okinawa, Japan) as a special lecturer of Great East Japan Earthquake Watcher in IRIDeS as a consequence of Annual Meeting of Japanese Association for Disaster Medicine.

On Mar. 11, 2011, the U.S. Marine Corps was performing maneuvers for large scale disaster at the offshore of Malaysia. Immediately after getting the information of Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, the commanders decided to go and provide rescues to affected areas. In order to international rescue, the request from Japanese government is indispensable. Not only the size of disaster but also the mutual relationship with trust helped to accomplish the immediate issuing of the request.

Mr. Eldridge introduced the special features of U.S. Marine Corps that can approach through aerial, marine and ground ways that is different from classical Army, Navy and Air Force concept. U.S. Marine Corps had an overview of the damage information and accessed to Kesennuma Oshima through the only path from sea shore. It also found that Sendai Airport is a key structure for rescue and recovery and offered immediate recovery of the Airport by huge effort. Mr. Eldridge talked with fluent Japanese and passion with love for Japan and its people.

U.S. Marine Corps already started the individual partnership with the local governments at high risk area of future megadisasters including Shizuoka and Kochi. We appreciated the robust aid from U.S. Marine Corps and felt it is necessary to strengthen the resilience of our society.



Mr. Robert D. Eldridge



Operation Tomodachi Emblem

Shinichi Egawa (Disaster Medical Science)