

Field survey on Typhoon Haiyan was reported at the IDRC, Davos (2014/8/24-28)

Subject: Philippine Typhoon Haiyan, 2013
Location: Congress Center, Davos, Switzerland

The 5th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2014 was held in Davos, Switzerland from Aug. 24th to 28th. The International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) of Tohoku University held a session, “Lessons learned from the Typhoon Haiyan to propose a better strategy to cope with infrequent catastrophic events,” introducing the field survey report of Philippine Typhoon Haiyan which occurred in November of 2013. In the session, the following topics were presented.

1. Overview of Typhoon Haiyan and reasons for magnification of damage due to Haiyan: Prof. Yuichi Ono (Disaster Information, Management and Public Collaboration Division, IRIDeS, Tohoku University)
2. Medical response to Typhoon Haiyan: Safe hospital and health centered risk reduction: Prof. Shinichi Egawa (Division of Disaster Medical Science, IRIDeS, Tohoku University)
3. Wind-induced damage to school buildings in the Philippines due to Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 and lessons: Prof. Yukio Tamura (Tokyo Polytechnic University)

The IRIDeS dispatched research teams to the Philippines six times and conducted interdisciplinary research from various fields. Prof. Ono explained the current research results obtained from the field survey and introduced some issues concerning future policies on disaster risk reduction. Prof. Egawa introduced a health problem of chronic maladies caused by lack of meals and sanitation after disasters. In addition, he presented some damages to hospitals by the typhoon and advocated the need of a reconsideration of safe hospital. Prof. Tamura introduced damage mechanisms of structurally insufficient buildings, based on the survey results of damaged school buildings. In his discussion, he emphasized the importance of durability of frames and roof structures, and also wind-resistant structural designs. There was a great deal of discussion about future policies against disasters with researchers from various countries.

In addition, the IRIDeS set an exhibition booth in which some posters about the research activities of IRIDeS, the HFA IRIDeS Review Report, and a DVD introducing the Great East Japan Earthquake were presented. More than 30 visitors from various countries signed on the sheet for record. They learned about the IRIDeS and they were looking forward to the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction next March.

(continued on the next page)



Situation of the session
organized by IRIDeS



Prof. Yuichi Ono



Prof. Shinichi Egawa



Prof. Yukio Tamura



Exhibition booth of IRIDeS



Explanation by Prof. Ono (right)
and Prof. Egawa

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