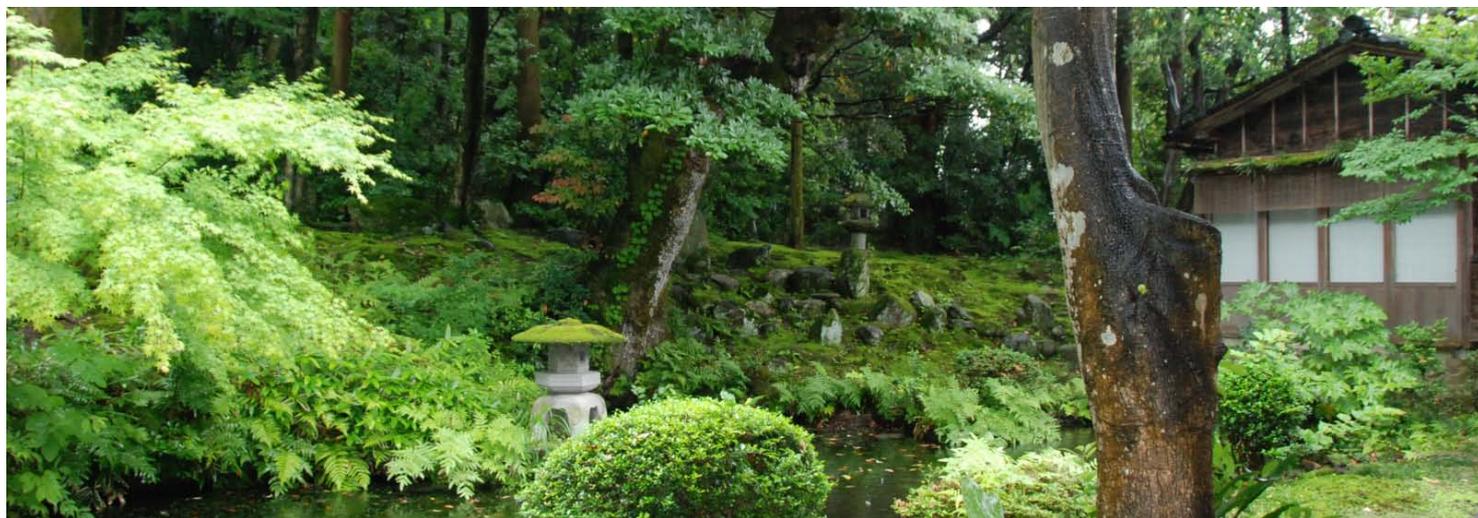




OUIK Newsletter

July 2017



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● *New Initiatives Towards a Sustainable Kanazawa with Biocultural Diversity*

Kanazawa City fosters beautiful nature in many of its planned spaces, such as its traditional Japanese gardens. These gardens provide various types of ecosystem services to citizens, such as cultural experiences and climate control. OUIK took steps to promote, conserve and revitalize these historical gardens in Kanazawa towards sustainability. See details on these initiatives in the event report page 5-6.

● *Courtesy Visits to the Governor of Ishikawa Prefecture and the Mayor of Kanazawa City by the Senior Vice-Rector of UNU*

Kanazawa, June 14, 2017

Professor Taikan Oki, the Senior Vice-Rector of UNU, made a courtesy visit to both Mr. Masanori Tanimoto, the governor of Ishikawa Prefecture, and Mr. Yuki Yoshi Yamano, the mayor of Kanazawa City. The purpose of the visits was to express gratitude for continuous support from the two local governments since the establishment of OUIK in 2008 and to discuss further enhanced cooperation.

Professor Oki expressed his expectation that UNU will continue to help Ishikawa and Kanazawa make great progress on sustainable regional development under the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Professor Oki (left) and Mr. Tanimoto (right)



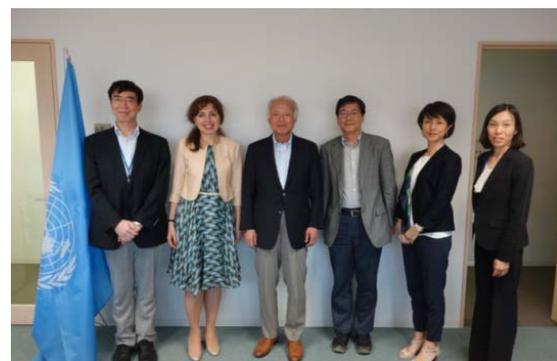
Professor Oki (second from the left) visited Mayor Yamano (third from the left)

● *Visit to UNU by Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

Tokyo, June 19, 2017

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), visited UNU-IAS during her official visit to Japan on June 20, 2017. Professor Takeuchi, the senior visiting professor at UNU, received Dr. Paşca Palmer and introduced her to the Satoyama Initiative, the principal project of UNU-IAS, that aims to realize a society living in harmony with nature.

OUIK members took the opportunity to introduce the accomplishments from the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity (1st Asian Conference on BCD) which was held in Nanao Ishikawa, Japan in October 2016. Dr. Paşca Palmer welcomed the partnership between UNU-IAS OUIK and the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity.



Secretary Paşca Palmer (second from the left) met with Professor Takeuchi (third from the left)

● **COP 13 Public Seminar: International Cooperation through Hands-on Experiences of Satoyama and Satoumi in Ishikawa**

Kanazawa, February 9, 2017

OUIK helped organize a public seminar about the results of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity and informed the public about its contributions to the convention. Ms. Fumiko Nakao from the Ministry of the Environment reported on global trends towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Mr. Teppei Dohke from the Nature Conservation Society of Japan summarized the outcomes of COP 13 from the perspective of civil society. Ms. Mikiko Nagai, OUIK Office Manager, introduced the proposal made at COP 13 to promote a shared



learning system among Asian countries in collaboration with Ishikawa Prefecture as an outcome of the 1st Asian Conference on BCD. During the panel discussion, the panelists and participants discussed local learning activities on biodiversity and the possibility to share their experiences with communities in Asian countries. At the end of the seminar, OUIK announced that it

will create a new initiative so that Ishikawa's satoyama and satoumi can become a living biodiversity classroom and called for active participation in this activity.

● **Workshop on Noto GIAHS¹ Biodiversity Monitoring and Environmental Education**

Wajima, March 16, 2017



OUIK members organized a workshop to discuss further actions to conform with the revised 2016 Noto GIAHS action plan. Dr. Yoshihiko Iida, OUIK Research Associate, shared the outcomes of "Assessment Report about Ongoing Environmental Education and Research Activities on Biodiversity in Noto GIAHS", a survey that was jointly conducted by OUIK and Kanazawa University in 2016. After sharing the survey outcomes, workshop participants discussed how the systems of Noto GIAHS could best be described in educational materials for younger generations.

The workshop participants proposed that seafood such as oysters, trepangs, and seaweed should be used to represent the link among livelihoods centered around coastal areas, rice production, and forest management. We expect the outcomes from this workshop to contribute to the development of new educational materials and biodiversity monitoring methodologies in Noto GIAHS.

● **Noto Satoumi Seminar Series (6th and 7th Sessions)**

■ 6th Session: Women and the Satoumi in Wajima (Wajima, February 16, 2017)

OUIK conducted its 6th Noto Satoumi Seminar in Wajima City and brought this seminar series to schools for the first time. Ms. Chiharu Hayase made an appearance as the seminar's guest speaker. She shared her

¹ Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

30 years of experience working as an *ama*, or female diver, during an on-stage interview with Ms. Evonne Yiu, OUIK Research Associate, in front of an audience of 30 students at Monzen Junior High School.

The students were fascinated by Ms. Hayase's stories. They learned that their local fisheries are run not only by male fishers, but also by female fishers from all walks of life who contribute to the sustainable development of the Satoumi in Wajima.



■ 7th Session: Satoumi Booklet Launch Event (Tokyo, June 10, 2017)



OUIK organized a symposium entitled, "A Look at the Various Work Supporting Satoumi Creation" at the UNU Headquarters in Tokyo to commemorate the publication of the third volume in its Biocultural Diversity Series, "Noto Satoumi Movement: Passing on Wisdom of Living with the Sea." This symposium was held in conjunction with the UN's World Oceans Day on June eighth and The Ocean Conference, which was held at the UN Headquarters in New York from June 5th to 9th. It was attended by over 80 participants.

This symposium emphasized the necessity to create a mechanism in Japan's satoumi, whereby locals can capitalize on traditional fishing methods and customary practices of resource management, along with managing fisheries, resources, and coastal areas as open commons suited for the needs of modern society. Furthermore, symposium attendees recognized that conserving the bountiful marine environment, as typified by the satoumi concept, could also contribute to the international community's effort in achieving SDGs, especially goal 14 "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

● *Field Study Session at Higashiyama-Higashi and Utatsu-Sanroku, Preserved Districts in Kanazawa*

Kanazawa, May 7, 2017



OUIK members visited Higashiyama 1-Chome with members of the Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture (JILA) Ishikawa branch. During this visit we were able to directly appreciate the cultural landscape and natural beauty of the principal areas, as well as the degraded parts of the district that need to be reconsidered from a socio-ecological point of view. Testimonies from neighbors about the history of this district revealed their current concerns, especially those related to the increasing

number of tourists, the loss of neighborhood identity, and the dominance of empty houses and plots in the area. These findings will be discussed among stakeholders.

● *Public Forum Celebrating International Biological Diversity Day*

Kanazawa, May 14, 2017

OUIK members celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22 by organizing a public forum entitled, "Resident Monitoring of Local Ecosystems: Citizen Science for Local Sustainability". During her keynote speech, Professor Izumi Washitani of Chuo University explained the global trend of deteriorating biodiversity and the importance of local action to change that trend. Dr. Shuichi Suda presented case studies about butterfly monitoring via the collaboration of citizens, private entities, and

researchers in Tokyo. At the panel session, the findings of swallow surveys conducted by elementary school kids, an ongoing project that has been carried out for over 45 years all over Ishikawa Prefecture, and firefly surveys conducted by local communities, a project that has been carried out for 30 years, were discussed. Mr. Toshimitsu Muto of the Environmental Policy Division of Kanazawa City said that the city will promote these initiatives by citizens as committed by local biodiversity strategies. Experts outside of Ishikawa highly evaluated the long tradition of citizen monitoring in Kanazawa. It was pointed out that these initiatives could be further enhanced by researchers' support and information technology.



● ***Walk along the Kokoro No Michi Path and Beautification of the Shinrensha Temple Garden***

Kanazawa, May 28, 2017



OUIK members walked the Kokoro No Michi path and conducted garden beautification activities at Shinrensha Temple Garden with Professor Yoshio Tsuchida of the Kanazawa Institute of Technology (KIT) and his laboratory students. This event was the result of a close collaboration between the Cultural Properties Protection Department of Kanazawa City and Mr. Takahiko Kojima, the Shinrensha Temple Garden monk.

In the garden we removed algae from the pond, as well as fallen leaves from atop the green moss. After the beautification activities we discussed the soundscape and special characteristics of the garden inside the temple. We concluded that Shinrensha Temple Garden could serve as a model for garden conservation involving local communities and eco-tourism in the future.



● ***Seminar on the Role of Traditional Japanese Gardens in Kanazawa at Shinrensha Temple Garden***

Kanazawa, June 25, 2017

Dr. Juan Pastor Ivars, OUIK Research Associate, led a seminar on sustainable garden conservation at the Shinrensha Temple garden. The purpose of this seminar was to link current concerns on ecology and cultural heritage preservation to the traditional Japanese garden.

The seminar consisted of three parts. The first part started off with a research presentation by Dr. Pastor Ivars. This was followed by presentations from three speakers. Professor Yoshio Tsuchida of KIT, spoke about the soundscape of Japanese gardens; Mr. Yoshiro Nonoichi, Kanazawa based famous Japanese gardener, explained the special characteristics that define Kanazawa traditional gardens as well as his own work; and finally Mr. Akihide Ano from Kyoto Gakuen University gave a lecture on the concept of rain gardens.



The seminar concluded with a roundtable session entitled, "Kanazawa Gardens: Promotion and Preservation," which was coordinated by Dr. Iida. During the discussion, the owners of four traditional gardens designated as cultural properties of Kanazawa City, Tsujike Garden, Terashima Kurando Garden,

Nishike Garden, and Shinrensha Garden, gave valuable testimonies about the challenges of maintaining historical gardens. In return, they received advice from the other roundtable participants, including people in charge of different departments in Kanazawa City, and professors from a number of universities in Kanazawa, among others. The group concluded that it will be necessary to repeat these kinds of seminars for other traditional Japanese gardens in order to find an appropriate balance of promotion and preservation so that future citizens and tourists can participate in the maintenance of Kanazawa's traditional gardens.

● ***SDGs Workshop with International Students from Kanazawa University***
Kanazawa, June 24, 2017



OUIK participated in an SDGs workshop at Hoenji Temple which was organized by Assistant Professor Aida Mammadova of Kanazawa University. At the workshop, professor Moshir Rahman of Hiroshima University presented a case study from Bangladesh that revealed how public health issues are linked to other developmental issues. His lecture described the importance of approaching SDGs in an integrated manner. Following the lecture, students including Ms. Marika Yoshida, an intern with OUIK, presented on the theme of sustainable cities.

Follow Up of the 1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity

● ***Symposium on Biocultural Diversity for Members of the Ishikawa Natural History Center***
Kanazawa, March 5, 2017

Following the Ishikawa Declaration of the 1st Asian Conference on BCD, Ms. Nagai gave a lecture at this Ishikawa Natural History Center organized annual symposium to disseminate the importance of biocultural diversity at every level. She explained the intrinsic relationship between biological diversity and cultural diversity, as well as social issues the terminology implies, such as indigenous people's rights. At the panel discussion, local vegetable producers, researchers, and officials from Kanazawa City discussed how to apply biocultural approaches to tackling local environmental issues.



● ***Report on the Satoyama Initiative Regional Workshop in Sabah***
Sabah, Malaysia, April 18-20, 2017

Ms. Nagai and Dr. Iida participated in the Satoyama Initiative Regional Workshop which was held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. Around 40 participants discussed the theme, "Mainstreaming concepts and approaches of Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS) in Asia." During the discussion, Ms. Nagai shared the outcomes from the 1st Asian Conference on BCD. This workshop included field visits



to the JICA SDBEC² project site where young villagers played a vital role in community development within the Crocker Range UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (BR).

● *Preparatory Meeting for the 1st Global Dialogue on Biocultural Diversity*

New York, United States, April 30, 2017

Given the success of the 1st Asian Conference on BCD, the Global Dialogue on Biocultural Diversity meeting is being organized by the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme and the American Museum of Natural History. OUIK contributed to this preparatory workshop by sharing its experience of organizing the 1st Asian Conference on BCD.



Sharing Local Learning with the International Community

● *Keynote Speech at the 10th Southeast Asia Biosphere Reserves Network Meeting*

Jakarta, Indonesia, May 16-17, 2017

Dr. Iida participated in the 10th Southeast Asia Biosphere Reserves Network (SeaBRnet) meeting to deliver his keynote speech, “Roles and Challenges of Local Implementation for UNESCO Science Programs: The Case for Japanese Biosphere Reserves (BRs)”.

Dr. Iida informed his audience about Japanese BRs and the project he jointly implemented with OUIK and the Mount Hakusan BR in 2016 during his presentation entitled “Mutual Learning Platforms for Asian Local Practitioners of UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.” He also chaired the session on the coordination of UNESCO science programs including the Geoparks Programme, the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), and World Heritage Programme. A detailed report can be obtained from the UNESCO Office in Jakarta and Japanese Funds-in-Trust.



(Photo: UNESCO Office in Jakarta)

● *Contribution to the Workshop on Action Plan Implementation and Monitoring of GIAHS*

Rome, Italy, June 29-30, 2017

Ms. Nagai participated in a workshop on action plan implementation and monitoring of GIAHS at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome as a resource person. The workshop aimed to develop a common monitoring framework for GIAHS sites to maintain oasis agriculture in North Africa. She presented Noto’s experiences regarding action implementation and monitoring with workshop participants. Although the environmental, geographical, and social settings are different among sites, some issues were shared as common important factors, such as coordination of stakeholders and the need for capacity development.



² Project on Sustainable Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation in Sabah by Japan International Cooperation Agency

● *Intern Activities at OUIK*

Kanazawa, April 10-July 14, 2017

My name is Marika Yoshida and I'm currently completing my fourth year of undergraduate coursework at the Tokyo Gakugei University School of Education for International Understanding. My internship period with OUIK was from April to July 2017.

I am interested in the movement of peoples, as well as the phenomenon of settlement. During my internship period, I learned about and analyzed the current situation facing local areas from the viewpoints of different cultures. My research topic deals with how people from various regions and communities affect the social environment of Kanazawa and Ishikawa at large. I had opportunities for hands-on learning during my internship with OUIK, and such experiences proved to be invaluable. When I study at the City University of New York beginning in September 2017, I will draw upon the experiences I gained from OUIK.



My main activities with OUIK included collecting data for the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in Kanazawa, participating in SDGs classes for foreign students at Kanazawa University, and performing jazz saxophone with my band at the event entitled "MISIA's Satoyama Museum" in Ishikawa Forest Park.

Event Announcement

● *Upcoming Events*

Life, Nature and Cultural Landscapes (International Symposium)

Date: August 27 2017

Venue: Kanazawa Bunka Hall, 3F

Organizer: Kanazawa University, Co-organizer: UNU-IAS OUIK

Series Events on Post-1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity

Date: October 4 (14:00-17:00) and 15 (13:30-17:30) 2017

Venue: Kanazawa Bunka Hall, 3F

Organizer: UNU-IAS, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa

For more information, please visit our website: <http://ouik.unu.edu/en/events>

Published: July, 2017

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