



OUIK Newsletter



“UN Decade on Biodiversity Commemoration: 10 Years of Initiatives and the Next 10 Years on Sustainable Biodiversity” Symposium P5

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IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030 SDGs Café

IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030 SDGs Cafe is an event where we collaborate with locals to have discussions about a variety of themes as we imagine the future of Kanazawa. Due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, we have switched over to holding the SDGs Cafes as online webinars, starting with the 11th SDG Cafe. In this newsletter we will summarise the contents of the 11th through 13th SDGs Cafes, as well as the collaborative event we held with high school students.

The 11th SDGs cafe was planned on short notice with the theme of “Continuation Through Change? Workstyles and Remote Work in the Age of Corona.”

First, Mikiko Nagai (Office Manager at UNU-OUIK) gave an overview of the SDGs and explained the purpose of IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030. Additionally, she explained in detail two of the 17 SDGs which are directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8) and Good Health and Well-Being (Goal 3).



Our guest this time was city planning consultant Yukina Yasue, President of Research Institute of City Planning and Communication Co., Ltd., where they implemented an entirely remote work style starting from April. For this SDGs Café, Yasue collaborated with the Kanazawa IKUBOSS Company Alliance to conduct a Remote Work Emergency Survey online. Various issues with remote work were brought up, such as company structures not being compatible, work duties not being possible with remote work, and self-management being difficult. At the same time, many also expressed hope that remote work could be a catalyst for positive change in corporate culture.

Additionally, Yasue, who has had experience with creating infrastructure to allow for remote work since before corona, said that there were 5 requirements for remote work, including establishing a climate of freedom

and responsibility and reconsidering what the results of one's work mean. “It's best to seriously think about shifting from the established norm and convention to a more ideal setup, and now is the chance to do so. It could be said that now the purpose of many organizations' very existence is being called into question,” she continued.

Katsuya Nomizu (President's Office Fellow, Cybozu, Inc.), originally from Kanazawa, also gave us some ideas. Cyboze, Inc. is known for being at the vanguard of workstyle reform, and they have experimented with fully remote working in the past as part of their BCP*. Starting in early March of this year, almost none of their employees were working from the office.

*What is a BCP? A BCP, or Business Continuity Plan, is a plan to minimize the harmful effects of natural disasters or other emergencies on a business in order to ensure its continued operation and recovery.

“Sustainability isn't about protecting tradition. Things that can change and adapt are able to survive. Right now, it is necessary to make a clear decision that a decrease in operational efficiency is unavoidable, and business managers should understand that it's impossible to perfectly replicate how things used to be,” Nomizu explained. He went on to give some more advice about remote work, suggesting that it should start being implemented with managers, that workflows and office duties need to be made clear, and that in general employees should be given the benefit of the doubt.

This was our first attempt at a webinar, and both those running the webinar and those participating felt that the webinar format had several benefits, such as it being easy to ask questions, the slides being easy to see, and being able to participate from far away.

The 12th SDGs café had the theme of “Thinking about Establishing ESG Investment in Kanazawa in the Age of Corona.” ESG* Investment has the potential to create solutions for a variety of societal problems involving nature, the environment, and working people's lives while also supporting sustainable economic growth. We thought about what our region could do during this moment in history when momentum for societal reform is growing in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

*What is ESG? ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance.

Our guest this time was Masakazu Shijimaya, 6th generation owner and managing director of Shijimaya Honpo, a long-established shop selling traditional

fermented foods in Kanazawa. He undertakes a variety of initiatives such as running workshops that inform younger generations of the benefits of *koji* malt and fermented goods and collaborating with groups promoting healthy business management to extoll the benefits of fermented goods. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, he is currently running the workshops online. Unexpectedly, it has become an opportunity to share his products with people who previously would have had little interest in his company's flagship products like *kabura sushi*.

かぶら寿司とは



「塩漬けたかぶ」に「熟成させた鰯」を挟み、米糍で漬け込んで発酵させた石川県伝統の発酵食品です。



Shijimaya imagined how the ideal Kanazawa of 2030 might look and made the following 3 suggestions:

1. Promoting connections and cooperation both within and without the region will revitalize the city
2. We will be able to convey the charm of Kanazawa's culture as it lives on in the daily lives of its citizens
3. People taking part in a variety of projects will be able to develop themselves sustainably

Next, Kenji Fuma, CEO of Neural, Inc., shared some of his ideas with us. According to him, ESG investment is intimately related to the SDGs, and the view that ESG initiatives are vital for sustainable business growth is spreading quickly. He stated that among the ESG points institutional investors check in publicly listed companies, while Environment is relatively simple (CO₂ emissions, water problems, and waste matter), Social and Governance cover a much broader range of themes. "A wide variety of categories are all evaluated based on fixed quantities, so publicization of company information will be important for both ESG investment and the SDGs in the future," he continued. He went on to say, "Institutional investors and banks buy many municipal bonds, thus supporting Kanazawa's public finance. In other words, how much



Kanazawa can improve with regards to ESG in the future will become an important point when issuing municipal bonds."



Finally, he said "When Kanazawa makes an action plan for the SDGs, I would suggest setting target values. It is vital to first evaluate and gain a numerical understanding of the current situation when setting future goals." He then continued to say, "Ideally I would like to realize a situation where the primary actors are the business leaders who are able to cooperate with governments, financial institutions, and NPOs."

As part of a special project, we collaborated with high school students who run a seminar series to hold a two-week collaborative seminar series titled "SDGs and High School Students: The Future of Schools and Learning." The first seminar's theme was "Let's Discuss the Future of Schools and Learning from the Ground Up." First, event planner and facilitator Kohei Sendai (Kanazawa University Senior High School, 2nd Year) explained the idea behind the seminar, saying "In the past, a uniform style of education was sought after, but in modern times diverse and global individuals and education that develops students' individuality are in demand. With that in mind, we planned this seminar to discuss the future of learning."

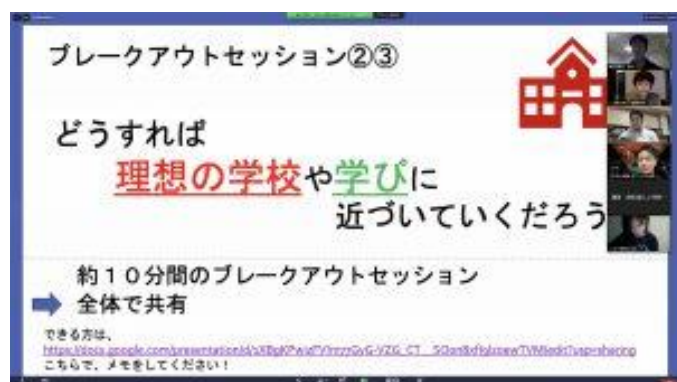


Satoshi Kimura, a Coordinator of the Noto High School Improvement Project, provided us with topics to discuss. The Project works to connect schools with the

surrounding region to address issues caused by depopulation in Noto Town through various efforts, such as: increasing the number of students advancing to high school within the town to ensure the continued existence of the high schools and promote their development; and realizing and supporting student's desired future paths. "In order to address problems that schools can't solve by themselves, I think it may become increasingly important in the future to involve the surrounding region and local authorities by creating a system in which a coordinator is assigned to keep things moving forward," Kimura stated.

We then moved on to breakout sessions to do group work and discuss the ideal style of education and the kind of schools that would be able to implement it. Participants shared their opinions that education should support students' interests, and that instead of requiring only intellectual learning schools should also help advance students' skills in order to establish their identities.

The next week, we held the second part of the seminar with the theme of "How are Other Prefectures and Countries Thinking about Education? Let's Examine Precedents and Discuss." Masako Shirakami (Kurashi Create Representative and NPO Ask Net Advisor), who works as a career education coordinator to connect schools and local regions, provided us with topics of discussion. First, she taught us about the Career Bridge program, which is in high demand from high school teachers, where students can experience both a day at college and a day working at a company. She concluded by saying, "Considering the all-important SDGs pledge of 'No One Left Behind', it's important that we think about what kind of education and schools are best for meeting each individual's aspirations and life goals."



During the group work many valuable opinions were shared. One such opinion was that rather than listing up many examples of successful attempts, it may be more productive to examine examples of failures in order to analyze what cause them to fail. Another point that was brought up by Sendai, both of our guests, and many of

the participants was how important it is to have people from outside the school get involved in the school's activities.

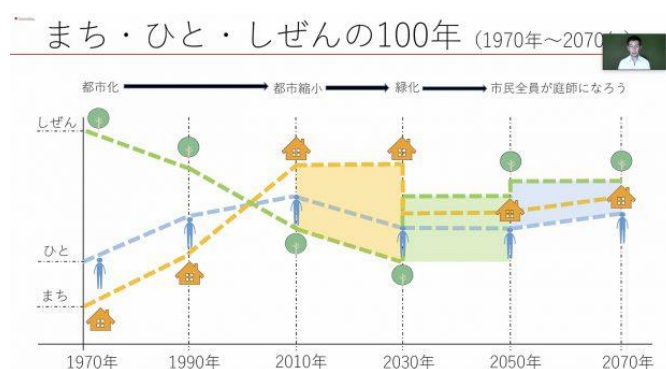
The theme of the 13th SDGs Café was "All Citizens Should be Gardeners! Thinking about the Kanazawa SDGs from a Green Infrastructure* Perspective."

*What is green infrastructure? Green infrastructure refers to land use planning with the goal of creating a sustainable society by re-evaluating nature from a multi-functional perspective.



In 1968, Kanazawa City was the first in the nation to establish a Traditional Environment Protection Law, which stipulated that green spaces and canals within the city must be protected alongside traditional samurai houses, temples, and shrines as part of Kanazawa's historical cityscape. These preservation efforts continue to this day, and the goal of creating and utilizing green infrastructure is explicitly included in the Kanazawa Future Visions presented earlier this year.

Our guest this time was UNU-OUIK Research Associate Juan Pastor Ivars who has lived in Japan for 11 years since coming from Spain to research traditional Japanese gardens in Kyoto and Kanazawa. Juan aims to develop his research in a way that is rooted in the local region by cooperating with citizens to think about the future of Kanazawa City.



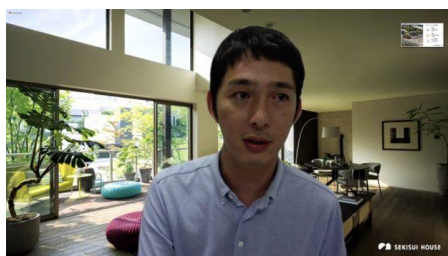
Since 2010, Kanazawa's population has been declining, while the number of unoccupied homes

continues to rise, and the amount of natural space gradually dwindles. In the Kanazawa of 2030 that Juan imagines, unoccupied homes and parking lots would be replaced with green infrastructure, and in order to continue to protect that greenery he proposes that all citizens become gardeners.

"Thanks to Kanazawa's gardens, the city is rich in both ecological and cultural diversity. Intimate connections between people are balanced with intimate relationships with nature, and those relationships with nature in turn lead to happiness between people. Japanese gardens have all these benefits and more," Juan explained.

The next guest to give us some ideas was green

infrastructure expert, researcher, and



publicist Takaaki Nishida (Associate Professor, Kyoto Sangyo University, Faculty of Life Sciences, Department of Industrial Life Sciences), who is involved in many different activities, including publishing collections of examples of a wide variety of green infrastructure projects both in Japan and overseas. First, Nishida explained the concept of green infrastructure, an idea that has yet to gain widespread recognition, as follows: "Green infrastructure is defined as a framework in which, rather than focusing solely on protecting nature, we seek to make use of its benefits to promote regional revitalization and prevent and reduce the effects of natural disasters. It's a way of thinking in which the goal is to use nature's inherent features to our advantage to benefit both the economy and society, which in turn results in nature becoming enriched as well."

Next, he introduced several examples of efforts to revitalize unused land with greenery currently being undertaken around the world. He argued that there are many places in Japan where similar projects could be done, saying "For example, finding ways to utilize spaces like abandoned homes or parking lots is an important point. It is also important to engage in discussions and balance the risks and merits of these projects."

Finally, Office Manager Nagai closed the webinar, saying "I hope those who participated today will continue to promote green infrastructure going forward, and cooperate with efforts to implement it in Kanazawa in the future."

"Looking Back on the Decade on Biodiversity in Ishikawa and Kanazawa, and Looking Towards a More Sustainable New Decade" Symposium

Date : 2020/5/16

Location : Online

At the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in 2010 in Aichi Prefecture, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were adopted. The following decade of 2011~2020 was declared the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with the goal of meeting the Aichi Targets within the decade.

2020 is the culmination of that decade, and so on May 22nd, The International Day for Biological Diversity, an online symposium was held to summarize the efforts made over the past ten years in Ishikawa Prefecture (where a kickoff symposium for the Decade on Biodiversity was held), and to think about how we can continue to promote biodiversity as we work towards creating a more sustainable region over the next ten years.

First, Kazuhiko Takeuchi (President of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Senior Visiting Professor at United Nations



University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, and Project Professor of the Institute for Future Initiatives at the University of Tokyo) gave a keynote speech titled, "The Decade on Biodiversity: The Past Ten Years, and Ten Years from Now," in which he summarized the past ten years of biodiversity efforts and talked about what the next ten years might hold. He argued that rather than thinking about the SDGs, climate change, biological diversity, and natural disasters (disaster risk reduction) as separate issues, it is important to advance a variety of initiatives to address multiple problems synergistically.

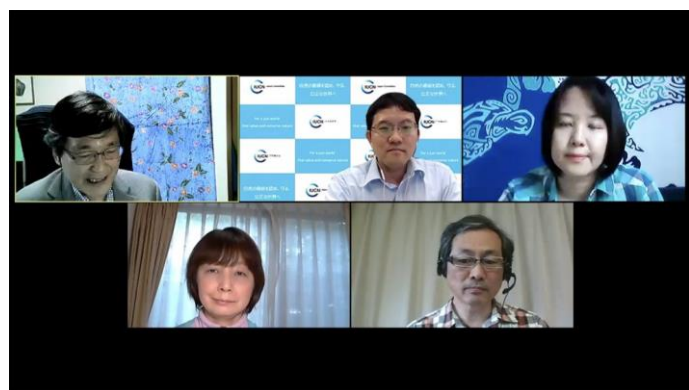
Next, Sayako Koyama (UNU-OUIK Research Associate, Suzu City Noto SDGs Lab Collaborative Researcher) presented on the topic of Biodiversity and Noto's Satoyama Satoumi, introducing efforts to promote biodiversity in the Noto Peninsula. "It's important that we take advantage of the fact that the UNU-OUIK is a United Nations institution strongly rooted in the local region by facilitating networking within the region and creating

opportunities to exchange information with regions across the world that are dealing with similar issues to our own,” she stated.

Next, Kaori Fujita (Nikkei Business Publications, Nikkei ESG Senior Editor & Nikkei ESG Management Forum Producer) reviewed the



past ten years from the perspective of the business sector and talked about future developments. She shared her impression that awareness of the concept of biodiversity has become pervasive, and suggested that in the future, innovation related to the SDGs may be a good opportunity for cities and regions to bring about change through open innovation.



After her presentation, Kaori Fujita joined Teppei Douke (Secretariat of the Japan Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature), Toshio Torii (Director, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment), and Evonne Yiu (UNU-OUIK Research Associate) in a panel session moderated by Tsunao Watanabe (Director of UNU-OUIK) where they reviewed and evaluated the past ten years and debated what direction we might move in going forward. One of the opinions that were shared was that in order to achieve the SDGs in the realm of nature, we must bring about transformative change by engaging all parties involved and creating entry points for participants through the five actions of knowing, protecting, healing, investing, and connecting people and nature. Director Watanabe closed the panel discussion by saying, “I think through today’s seminar, everyone conveyed the message that as we move forward it will be important to create broader, more flexible partnerships than ever before. We hope you will all cooperate with our activities at UNU-OUIK as we continue to act as a bridge connecting current initiatives

and create opportunities to have international discussions about these topics.”

In his closing remarks, Koji Nakamura (Director, Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History) said, “Based on what we heard here today, it’s important that we continue to monitor and evaluate our own contributions to biodiversity,” bringing the symposium, which with about 280 participants was very well-attended, to a close.

2020 Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture National Convention Poster Session

Date : 2020/5/23

Location : Online

UNU-OUIK Research Associate Juan participated in this convention, which was held online due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. At the poster session, which had over 250 viewers, Juan joined Professor Takahiro Tsuba of the Kanazawa College of Art to present on the topic of “Research on Traditional Gardens Along the Canals of Kanazawa City’s Historic Castle Town and Villages.” There are 55 canals which weave their way throughout the city of Kanazawa, many of which supply water to traditional Japanese gardens. A discussion was held in which Juan and Tsuba argued that this is a model of biocultural diversity which should be preserved.



The 1st Noto Satoumi Seminar: “Achieving SDG 14 in the Context of Preserving Satoumi: Considering the Problem of Marine Pollution”

Date : 2020/6/6

Location : Online

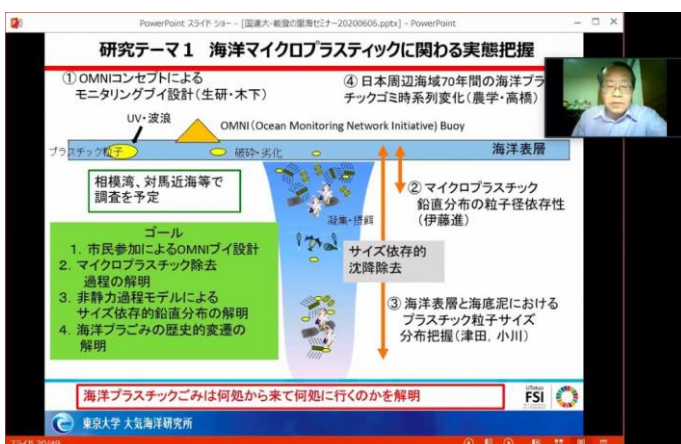
The 1st Noto Satoumi Seminar was held online with the theme of “Achieving SDG 14 in the Context of Preserving Satoumi: Considering the Problem of Marine Pollution.” At the seminar, we deepened our understanding of SDG 14.1 (By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution), one of the ten targets of

SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

First, to kick off the seminar Evonne Yiu (UNU-OUIK Research Associate) gave a presentation on the topic of “Noto’s Satoumi Movement and SDG 14.” Marine pollution is a complicated issue with many causes, including the plastic waste problem which has been a common topic in recent years, as well as industrial chemical dumping, waste produced by the livestock industry, and chemical waste from consumer products, all of which flow from land to sea, causing marine pollution. “It’s important not to increase the amount of marine waste, but we’re getting to the point where we should start thinking of how to re-use that waste material. Also, it is important that innovation not just be limited to technological innovation for developing new re-usable products; we also need intellectual innovation in the form of education reform,” Evonne explained.



Next, Yutaka Michida (Professor, University of Tokyo Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute) talked about the topic of “Problems with Marine Plastic and Related Research Prospects.” Professor Michida’s research mainly focuses on surface-level ocean currents and shifts in their patterns, and as an extension of that research he also surveys the plastic waste carried by said currents. He explained in detail the problem of microplastics, which has been a popular topic in recent years, and how exactly plastic waste flows into the oceans.



Next, Makoto Urata (Senior Researcher, The Institute of Noto Satoumi Education and Studies) gave a presentation on the topic of “Considering Children’s Marine Learning: Environmental Education at the Institute of Noto Satoumi Education and Studies,” in which he shared some of the Institute’s activities. Having local fishermen and experts come in person to classes to talk is a highly effective method of marine education, and the Institute coordinates classes by acting as a go-between for the guest speakers and the schools. Urata went on to talk about the direction of marine education in the future, saying, “It’s important to pursue a more independent, conversational kind of education in which children are allowed to find what interests them and study it themselves.”



Finally, a panel discussion was held on the topic of “What We Can Do to Achieve the SDG 14.1 Target of Reducing Marine Pollution,” moderated by Research Associate Evonne. Chiharu Hayase, an Ama diver (free-diving female fisher) of the Wajima Ama Diver Preservation Society, joined the discussion to say, “The coastline is like an underwater produce field; if the waters along the coast become too acidic, the seaweed that the abalone and turban shells feed on can’t grow. It may be impossible to return the marine environment to how it used to be, but for the sake of the next generation we have to put effort into undoing the damage done by human hands.”

Professor Michida ended the discussion by saying, “As a researcher, I want to work to create a world in which we can debate these issues from a scientific perspective. Instead of people thinking, ‘I can’t do anything by myself,’ I would like them to be aware that their effort is meaningful, and that they should diligently do what they can.”

In his closing remarks, Tsunao Watanabe (Director of UNU-OUIK) reviewed what was discussed and said, “It is vital that we all share the experiences and thoughts of those whose lives are connected to the Satoumi and

ensure that what we have learned is reflected in our individual actions in order to protect the bounty of the oceans.”



2020 Princeton University Virtual Program in Ishikawa

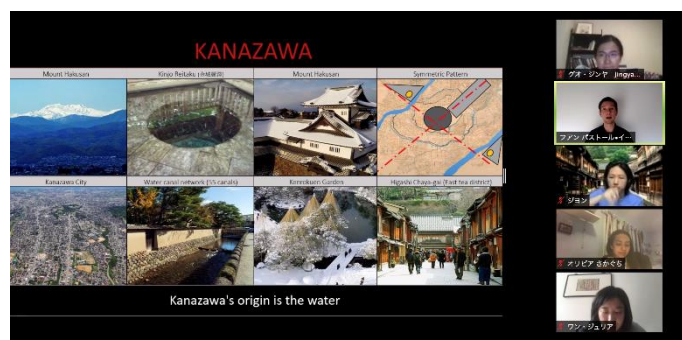
Date : 2020/7/22

Location : Online

Due to the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic, the annual Princeton in Ishikawa Program (sponsored by the Ishikawa Prefectural Government), in which Princeton University students visit Ishikawa Prefecture, was held online this year.

Research Associate Juan gave a lecture titled “Traditional Japanese Gardens and Kanazawa’s Biocultural Diversity” to about 30 students. Juan explained traditional Japanese Gardens from the three perspectives of philosophy, design, and ecology, using Kanazawa’s gardens as a specific example.

He went on to talk about the SUN (Sustainable Urban Nature) Project, a project that seeks to preserve existing urban nature and repurpose unoccupied homes and unused land in order to create a new sustainable urban nature. The students who participated asked many questions and shared their opinions.



Kikugawa and Saiwaicho Walking Workshop

Date : 2020/8/14

Location : Kanazawa, Kikugawa/Saiwaicho

As part of the SUN Project’s research activities, members of the Project’s many local partner organizations (Kanazawa SDGs IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030, Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture Kanazawa Liaison Council, NPO Kanazawa Machiya Research Society, Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History, Hokuriku Green Infrastructure Research Society) took a walk around the Kikugawa and Saiwaicho neighborhoods of Kanazawa. The goal was to survey the increase in unoccupied homes, unused land, and parking lots caused by depopulation, but happily we were also able to see that many gardens and traditional craft studios still remain.



This time we visited the Nagai Zenrinkan Annex Foot Soldier House, the Sugita House Garden, and the Hiraki Garden. Both gardens are supplied with water directly from the Kuratsuki canal. During our visit to the Sugita House Garden, the owner, who is a lacquerware artisan, showed us their workshop, and at the Hiraki Garden, the owner, who is an artisan of the traditional dyeing technique Kaga-zome, explained how they use the canal to wash away paste and extra dye. These examples show how Kanazawa’s rich biocultural diversity has its origins in the water which flows from the River Sai.

Suzu City Elementary Schools SDGs Education

“Goal 14: Let’s Protect the Ocean’s Bounty”

Online Lecture

Date : 2020/9/3

Location : Shoin Elementary School

As part of the SDGs education program that started in all of Suzu City’s elementary schools in 2020, the Noto SDGs Lab gave an introductory course to the students of Shoin Elementary School, who are working on SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). Research Associate Evonne Yiu joined as a guest speaker and gave

an online lecture on the topic of “What We Can Do to Revitalize Noto’s Satoyama and Satoumi with SDG 14.”



The students of Shoin Elementary, who had already started activities such as cleaning up trash on the beaches, asked earnestly for more information about the ocean’s problems and Noto’s Satoumi. The students learned many things about how their lives are connected to the ocean, such as that the Satoumi is a very important place as it is the “Cradle of the Sea,” that many of the ocean’s problems come from the land where people live, and that trash that has been washed out to sea can float there for decades or even centuries without breaking down.

GIAHS Preservation Planning and Study Session

Date : 2020/9/4

Location : Online

This seminar was held for representatives of the 7 towns and villages of the Satoyama Satoumi GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System) in order to increase awareness of the issues facing the GIAHS, strengthen connections between the participants, and prepare for future joint initiatives.

First the seminar’s lecturers, Akira Nagata (UNU-OUIK Visiting Researcher) and Research Associate Evonne gave a lecture on the topic of “What is the GIAHS, and What Is Needed for the Next Preservation Plan.” They explained the conditions for GIAHS designation and introduced several other GIAHS from around the world as well as their associated initiatives and their monitoring and evaluation methods.

Next, in the group discussion the participants were split into groups to discuss the topic of “Future Issues and Future Organization for Each City and Village.” Some opinions that were shared in the discussions included that awareness of the GIAHS is still low and the merits of the designation are unclear, so it is vital to properly monitor and share information; that with the aging population

more regions are abandoning farming, so in areas that require maintenance tasks like cutting grass there is no one to help; and that rather than having the government be the main operator, it would be better to have them support the activities of the locals while also collaborating with external experts and academics.

Visiting Researcher Nagata said, “It is important to support people doing business, and to construct a regional network between governments, agricultural workers, university professors, and local citizens while helping people make practical use of the GIAHS.”

The 2nd Noto Satoumi Seminar: “Achieving SDG 14 in the Context of Preserving Satoumi: Marine Biodiversity Conservation”

Date : 2020/9/19

Location : Online

At the 2nd Satoumi Seminar we learned about SDG 14.2 and 14.5, individual targets of SDG 14 which concern undertaking initiatives to help recover and strengthen the resistance of marine and coastal ecosystems and contemplated how to help preserve marine biodiversity.

First, Research Associate Evonne explained the purpose of the seminar and what conservation of marine biodiversity means in the context of SDG 14. “In the Satoyama and Satoumi region, the forests, hills, rivers, and oceans are all connected, so even while living on land, if you have an awareness of your connection to the oceans you can still contribute to their preservation. If many people work together, we can continue to protect the Satoyama and Satoumi,” she explained.

Next, Mariko Kimura (Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment) gave a keynote lecture focusing on the three topics of



“Currently Protected Marine Areas,” “The New System for Offshore Protected Areas,” and “Protected Marine Areas from Next Year Onwards.” She said that she would like everyone to think about how the protection of the oceans can be achieved through their sustainable use by maintaining the connection between people and the environment; in other words, that people interacting with

the oceans can help protect them, and that it is difficult to protect them without having any interaction at all.

Next, Seiji Yanai (Professor, Ishikawa Prefectural University) gave a presentation on his activities titled "The Connection Between the Forest and the Sea Mediated by the Akategani Crab in Noto's Tsukumo Bay." Every year, many Akategani crabs flock to the Tsukumo Bay to lay eggs, and many kinds of fish also gather to eat those eggs. Professor Yanai suggested that the Akategani crab is an animal that represents the connection between the forest and the sea, and that it may be useful as a subject of study for environmental education. He also runs a public coastal learning exercise at Kanazawa University, in which they use abandoned rice paddies to create biotopes for Akategani crabs.



Next, Minoru Kamamura (Notojima Diving Resort) gave a presentation on his activities titled "Connecting with the Biodiversity of Noto's Satoumi as a Diver." Kamamura has been operating a diving shop on Notojima, located on the East side of the Noto Peninsula, since first opening it 17 years ago. On the topic of the importance of marine biodiversity he said, "There are many different varieties of seaweed, which in turn attract many different organisms. The presence of seaweed and many small fish and shellfish is what keeps the water clean. Leisure diving is reliant on that beautiful natural process." Kamamura also cooperates with local high schools' diving teams to do surveys of the marine environment and clean up trash.



Research Associate Evonne then moderated a panel discussion in which the panelists answered viewers' questions and viewers shared their thoughts and opinions. One viewer said, "Once you realize that life on land is connected to life in the sea, you want to protect the sea. Today's discussion made me feel that it's important to think about both life on land and life in the sea at the same time."

In his closing remarks, Tsunao Watanabe (Director of UNU-OUIK) said, "Through today's discussions we learned about many important



points of view for thinking about how to continue to preserve marine biodiversity. The Noto Satoyama Satoumi is an extremely important region that has been designated as a GIAHS. I think it would be a wonderful thing if everyone were to take part in initiatives to improve our relationship with the sea as we cherish the connection between the forest and the sea."

SDGs Indicator Monitoring and Open Governance from a Regional Perspective: How Local Municipalities Can Change to Implement the SDGs

Date : 2020/9/30

Location : Online

At many UN meetings on the matter, it has been said that local municipalities have a vital role to play in achieving the SDGs, to the point that of the 169 targets of the SDGs, 65% are estimated to be difficult to achieve without the participation of local municipalities. At this webinar, we discussed what kinds of initiatives should be undertaken at a municipal level in order to encourage transparency in municipal administration and cooperation and participation from citizens regarding setting and monitoring indicators for the SDGs.

First, representing Kanazawa City, the event's co-sponsor, Yuki Yoshi Yamano (Mayor of Kanazawa City) gave an opening speech. "In terms of governance, I think even simple daily tasks will effectively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. In order to maintain motivation, I think it is important to create an



environment in which it is easy to see the progress made towards our targets. Each municipality needs to have achievement targets and monitoring systems that are appropriate for them, and which are publicized in a way that allows citizens and partners to see the progress made as well. It is vital to maintain mutual understanding as we advance our efforts,” Yamano opined.

The first keynote lecture was given by sustainability and regional revitalization



researcher Shun Kawakubo (Associate Professor, Hosei University, Faculty of Engineering and Design, Department of Architecture) on the topic of “Local SDGs Promotion and the Significance of Target-Based Monitoring.”

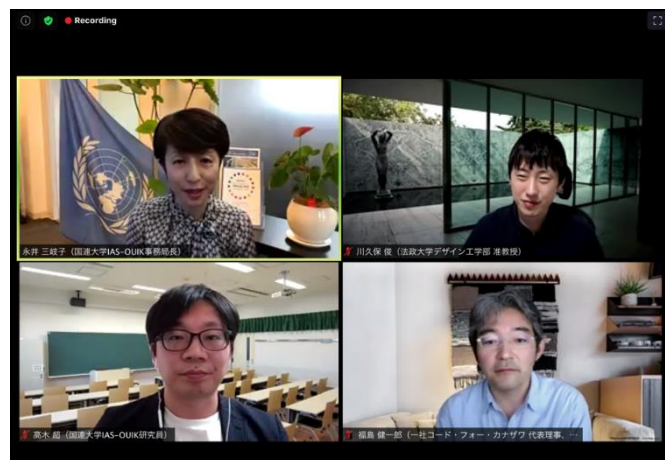
To support local municipalities, Kawakubo is developing a local SDGs platform in order to make the status of local SDGs initiatives more visible. The platform also includes interview articles from the municipalities and ways to share and announce new initiatives. While he encouraged the municipalities to utilize the platform, he also emphasized how vital it is to proactively involve the citizens when establishing SDGs indicators that reflect the current status of progress made, saying, “It’s important for citizens to have the awareness that the SDGs are an issue close to their hometown, and to encourage them to incorporate working towards the goals in their everyday lives.”

The second keynote lecture was given by Kenichiro Fukushima (Board Representative, Code for Kanazawa/Civic Tech Japan) on the topic of “Citizen Participation Through Technology: What is Open Governance?”, in which he discussed using open governance and civic technology to implement local SDGs, monitor indicators, and encourage citizen participation.

Fukushima explained that because it is best to have citizens participate in the process of monitoring and gathering indicator data, it is vital to have transparency in government work and create a society that allows citizens to participate; in other words, it is important to create a framework of open governance. He went on to say, “Municipalities must consider to what extent they are able to utilize technology within the scope of their limitations, and to keep an open mind as they encourage citizens’ participation. It is also important that the citizens

understand and proactively promote use of the IT and other technological aspects of the initiatives, participate in the community, and cooperate with government efforts. It’s important that both sides continue to share their mindset with each other.”

Next, Masayuki Yamamoto (Head of Policy Promotion Division, Policy Strategy Department of Kaga City) introduced Kaga City’s smart SDGs initiative. Kaga is a city known for its traditional crafts, famous hot spring resorts, and tourist spots, but it is also a city faced with structural issues such as a lack of human resources as a result of depopulation, and a decentralized, multipolar city structure. As such, they are aiming to become a smart city by using advanced technology to promote innovation and become a more sustainable city. As part of their initiatives to work towards becoming a smart city, they are considering incorporating a variety of technological tools and systems as solutions to everyday problems, including drones, MaaS, avatars, and e-residency. Additionally, as part of their “Kaga City RE100 (100% Renewable Energy)” initiative, they are aiming to construct a carbon-free society and locally produce energy for local use.



Finally, UNU-OUIK Office Manager Nagai moderated a panel discussion in which a variety of ideas and opinions were expressed, including the following:

- It is important for governments to explain the various functions of the SDGs when cooperating with citizens and to utilize them together
- It is important for the divisions in charge within government bodies to coordinate and gather resources
- Local SDGs platforms might be used to exchange information and opinions
- Measuring, monitoring, and analysis of indicators might be split up between governments, academics, and the citizenry

- It might be good to promote the SDGs through fields that go beyond the scope of existing SDGs (culture, art, sports etc.)

Interview Articles

You can read articles with interviews of Research Associate Evonne Yiu, who is researching Noto's Satoyama Saotumi region, by Courier Japan.

"Satoyama and Satoumi, Protectors of the Japanese from Natural Disasters and Vermin, are Fading Away"

<https://courrier.jp/news/archives/205906/>



"We Can't Protect Japan's Oceans Just by Charging for Plastic Bags: Reducing Waste in the Corona Pandemic"

<https://courrier.jp/news/archives/205907/>



To the Readers

As we approach the end of autumn, winter's chill slowly creeps in. These last few months of the year bring with them a period of flustered activity both in private and professional life, but we hope you are staying well and active as we near the end of the year.

In response to the novel coronavirus pandemic, in May of this year a "New Lifestyle" was proposed to adjust to this new reality. At OUIK, we switched to doing our research activities and events almost entirely online, and incorporated workstyle solutions like remote work and staggered hours. Thank you to all involved who cooperated with these solutions. There have been some positives to this situation, such as online events allowing us to reach more people at once, and our staff being able to be more active in their local communities. We will continue to use online communication as the situation demands as we move forward in the search for our own "new normal."

With that in mind, while we previously published this newsletter twice a year, this will be its final publication, and the last one to be printed on paper. Instead, in order to share reports of our activities to more readers, we will send out an email newsletter in Japanese once a month sharing details of OUIK's activities.

For those of you who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, please subscribe via the link below.

<https://forms.gle/WY5QuHCYVc1mn6zF6>



Thank you for your continued readership of the OUIK Newsletter. We hope we can count on your continued patronage in the future.

From all of us at UNU-IAS OUIK

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