



OUIK Newsletter

Special Issue: Biocultural Diversity

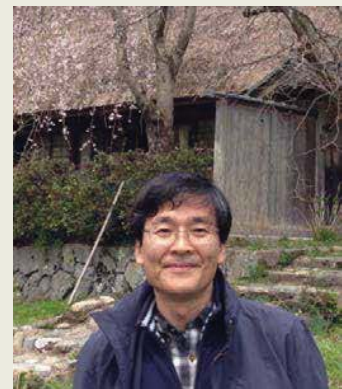
Tsuneo Watanabe
Director

Introduction

**United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
Operating Unit Ishikawa / Kanazawa (OUIK)**

At OUIK we have been conducting research from three perspectives:

1) Sustainable Primary Industries (SPI), 2) Cities and Biodiversity (CAB), and 3) Satoyama and Satoumi (SAS). In the SPI project we have focused on revitalizing the Noto region through its designation as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS), validating its contribution to biodiversity conservation, and building international research networks with other GIAHS sites. In the CAB project we have been examining community development models through discussion of biodiversity conservation in Kanazawa, with a focus on the relationship between cities and rural areas from the perspective of biocultural diversity. And in the SAS project, we have assessed satoyama and satoumi resources throughout Ishikawa Prefecture, compiling our findings in the form of map-based information.



The CAB project has generated the viewpoint that the concept of biocultural diversity, an emerging topic of international discussion in recent years, could be applied to the relationship between satoyama/satoumi resources across Ishikawa Prefecture and cultural resources in Kanazawa City, in a way that transcends the conventional paradigm of countryside as supplier of materials and city as consumer. Ishikawa has a number of internationally registered natural and cultural assets, including a GIAHS (nine Noto municipalities), a UNESCO biosphere reserve (Hakusan), a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (Kanazawa), a Ramsar wetland (Katano-kamoike, Kaga), and a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (the agricultural ritual Aenokoto). These communities have a need for public policies that will help them utilize these international designations for community development, and facilitate networking and synergy creation between them. In response, OUIK began in January 2015 various projects that incorporate these two perspectives: biocultural diversity and international registration programs. In this double issue of the OUIK Newsletter, we report on activities in the first half of 2015 with a special focus on the biocultural diversity approach.

OUIK's Objectives

1. To contribute to international research activities, in collaboration with local partners, towards a sustainable society, and
2. To develop communication and networks with local stakeholders through public outreach and capacity building, while sharing information on international trends.

Biocultural Diversity in Ishikawa: From Discovery to Coordination (January 29, Kanazawa)

We invited Dr. Ana Persic, a UNESCO officer in charge of a joint biocultural diversity programme between UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to speak on international trends related to biological and cultural diversity and to discuss with local government representatives policies for utilizing international networks. Yoshiro Shimizu,¹ who serves as secretary of Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi Promotion Council; Takashi Yamaguchi,² from the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark Promotion Council; and Mamoru Harino, from the Kanazawa City Environment Division, introduced their respective UNESCO-registered resources and also presented management, networking, and other challenges they face as registered communities. Dr. Toshinori Tanaka, University of Tokyo, provided a history of environmental protection frameworks, and also described how a sustainable use approach is being incorporated into conservation efforts that have become common in Europe and the U.S. In the panel discussion that followed, Prof. Asami Shikida, Hokkaido University, leader of the CAB project, joined the discussion on how best to leverage biocultural diversity-related international designations. The group reaffirmed



Keynote speaker Dr. Ana Persic



that the registration programs provided by various international organizations serve an important role as platforms for local dialogue and action. They also suggested that OUIK's role as an international biodiversity conservation platform could help promote dialogue between municipalities in Ishikawa Prefecture and bolster their international PR efforts.

1. Mr. Yoshiro Shimizu (Deputy Director of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Division, Hakui City)
2. Mr. Takashi Yamaguchi (Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark Promotion Council)

Global Island Biocultural Diversity Initiative (March 1, Kanazawa)

Comparative studies of conservation initiatives in and outside Japan based on geographic classification (e.g., satoyama, satoumi, peninsulas, highlands, cities) that extract challenges and advantages is one effective approach to understanding local biocultural resources. This seminar focused the discussion on islands and satoyama. Prof. Sun-Kee Hong, the Institution for Marine and Island Cultures (MIC), Mokpo National University, presented details on the launch of the Global Island Biocultural Diversity Initiative at IUCN's World Conservation Congress held on Jeju Island, South Korea, in 2012. Prof. Jae-Eun Kim, MIC, explained the impacts



Speaking at Chubu Climate Change Seminar in Ishikawa: Climate Change and Daily Living (May 12)



Research Associate Yoshihiko Iida spoke on the topic "Ishikawa's Satoyama and Satoumi and Climate Change," suggesting policies on how to make use of biomonitoring data already existing in Ishikawa prefecture. The more than 120 people attendees, which included agricultural professionals and business owners, listened intently, some taking photos of the presentation slides, to a topic—climate change—that has direct

implications for daily living and the economy.

OUIK Hosts Fieldwork for KU Environmental Technology International Course (April 2)



In an environmental technology training program provided by Kanazawa University, Research Associate Yoshihiko Iida lectured and also hosted fieldwork in the Nunoura district of Noto Town. Participants walked along the shoreline to observe fishing villages and coastal forests,* and also studied farms located in upstream areas of the villages. The training was part of a master's program for Japanese and foreign students, aimed at teaching them environmental technology

applications that fit with local lifestyles.

*Forests protected by fishermen since ancient times based on the belief that they serve a role in attracting and nurturing marine life.

OUIK Joins the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark Promotion Council (April 22)

Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark Promotion Council is aiming to become part of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). In anticipation that GGN becomes an official UNESCO program, OUIK joined the Council to provide networking and public relations assistance. At the regular meeting held on April 22, OUIK Office Manager Mikiko Nagai delivered opening remarks in place of Director Watanabe.

OUIK Becomes Hakusan Biosphere Reserve Advisor, Visits Hakusan Mayor (May 12)

Hakusan City also has a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (BR)—a globally rare example of a municipality having secretariats for both a geopark candidate (Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark Promotion Council) and a biosphere reserve. The Mount Hakusan BR encompasses seven municipalities in four prefectures. These municipalities spearheaded the launch of the Hakusan UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Promotion Council in January 2014. In August 2014, OUIK officially joined the Council as advisor, since then carrying out various activities, including reviewing the designation action plan, collecting and disseminating information on the designation process. In conjunction with the council's third meeting on May 12, 2015, OUIK Director Tsunao Watanabe met with Hakusan Mayor Noriaki Yamada, who, having grown up in the Hakusan foothills himself, shared valuable information about Hakusan's natural environment and culture.



Mayor Yamada (left) and Director Watanabe (right)

OUIK News Topics (January–June 2015)

OUIK Holds Hydrology Lecture and Fieldwork for JICA Trainees from Thailand (January 11)

As part of a JICA training program for Thai government officials and researchers specializing in hydrology, meteorology, and electronics hosted by the Oki Lab of the University of Tokyo's Institute of Industrial Science, Research Associate Yoshihiko Iida lectured on the water and ecosystem services of Kanazawa's Kenrokuen Garden, and also helped the trainees conduct mini-fieldwork at the garden. After learning about the relationship between local topography and the garden's irrigation, that the garden was built in the Edo period, and that moss gardens and other items of high cultural value are maintained to this day, participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to actually observe the cultural services provided by Ishikawa's water resources.



Researcher Yoshihiko Iida (left) explains the Kenrokuen Garden's design

OUIK Lectures at International Workshop of the Ifugao Satoyama Meister Training Program (February 14)



In a workshop commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Satoyama Meister Training Program in the Philippines held by the School of Noto Studies, Kanazawa University, and JICA, Research Associate Evonne Yiu gave a lecture titled "GIAHS in Theory and Practice: the Ifugao Rice Terraces and Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi." The event allowed stakeholders from Japan

and the Philippines to study together the challenges and activities related to both GIAHS sites.

OUIK Lectures at Inaugural Workshop of New Research Department on Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi (February 14)

At a workshop commemorating the creation, in partnership with Suzu City, of a new department for research of Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi at Kanazawa University, OUIK Director Tsunao Watanabe presented key proposals for the new program, including joint projects and human resources exchange between OUIK and the School of Noto Studies, as well as cross-cultural educational opportunities in the local community provided in partnership between Kanazawa University and UNU.



provided in partnership between Kanazawa University and UNU.

that bridges with the mainland have on island culture, using dozens of islands in Sinan County, South Korea, as a case study. The day after the symposium, the two professors toured Notojima, where they came in touch with the "half-farming, half-fishing" lifestyle, fixed-net fishing methods, and a Shinto ritual.

Public Seminar: Satoumi in Noto Peninsula (March 23, Kanazawa)

In fiscal 2015, OUIK has begun activities focused on satoumi, the part of Noto's Satoyama Satoumi GIAHS site that has received the least attention. As the kickoff event to this "satoumi movement," we held a public seminar for learning about satoumi, inviting satoumi experts, fisheries professionals, and other stakeholders from in and outside the prefecture to speak.



In the keynote speech, Tetsuo Yanagi, professor emeritus at Kyushu University and the first to propound the satoumi concept, made the case that research on the link between ecosystem richness and productivity has hardly been conducted for satoumi as it has for satoyama, that much research is needed, and that the findings of such research should be shared widely at international meetings and through academic journals.

In the following panel discussion, moderated by United Nations University Senior Vice-Rector Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Yasuaki Iwamoto (head of Ishikawa Prefecture's Fisheries Division) profiled the current fishing industry in Ishikawa and introduced various traditional fishing methods. Nobuhiro Kido, president of the Ishikawa Fishers Association and a fixed-net fisherman himself, maintained that "youth attract youth" and that young fishers should be given leadership positions to make the profession more appealing to younger generations. Isao Kimura, an oyster fisherman who manages his own seafood restaurant, listed clean rivers that bring nutrients to the Nanao Bay as a reason why oysters grow well there, and emphasized the importance of forest conservation and collaboration between upstream and downstream conservation efforts. Mizuki Suhara, member of the member of the Satoumi Nanao-Bay Committee and president of Notojima Diving Resort, stated that divers can contribute to the local fishing industry and satoumi conservation by assisting local boat inspections and researchers' underwater surveys. Prof. Toshiki Enomoto, Ishikawa Prefectural University, reported on the richness of Noto's satoumi from the perspective of local fermented food culture, which uses Noto marine products.



While this public seminar discussed the marine resources and satoumi culture of Noto in general, OUIK plans to hold a four-part workshop series for studying specific characteristics of satoumi in different areas of Noto. Held jointly with various municipalities, these workshop will be an opportunity for us to

join others in learning about local satoumi, with the intention of promoting Noto's satoumi to a wide audience. (Event details are posted on the IAS website below in Japanese.)

<http://ias.unu.edu/jp/news/news/unu-ias-seminar-reaffirms-role-of-satoumi-in-biodiversity-conservation-and-economic-production.html>

Noto GIAHS Action Plan Revision Workshop (April 20–21, Hakui)

Four years after Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi was designated a GIAHS site in 2011, the Noto GIAHS Promotion Council is reviewing progress on its original action plan while also revising the plan, including its numerical targets.

Because the Council is a coalition of nine Noto municipalities, gathering representatives from all parties to talk in person is a challenge. Following a suggestion from Hakui City, which hosts the Council office, workshops were held

in an overnight-retreat format to review the action plan. In addition to the nine municipalities, the Ishikawa Satoyama Promotion Office, School of Noto Studies of Kanazawa University, and UNU-IAS OUIK were also represented. They conducted group work on essential topics, such as how to create sustainable livelihoods, how to protect Noto's biological and cultural diversity, how to assess and what numerical targets to use for the sustainability of Noto's agricultural heritage systems, and how to clearly communicate the value of Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi. The revised action plan will reflect the outcomes of these discussions.



International Symposium: "Introducing the Ishikawa–Kanazawa Biocultural Region: A Model for Linkages between Cultural Prosperity and Surrounding Satoyama and Satoumi Areas" (May 28, Kanazawa)

OUIK held an international symposium on biocultural diversity in conjunction with the 2015 annual meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, held in Kanazawa for the first time in Japan. The symposium—the culmination of a year's preparation by the executive committee, comprising Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa City, and the CAB project—was the highlight event of the first half of 2015, as it was a chance for OUIK to report on its research results and also indicate the direction of future research.

While the CAB project has been discussing Kanazawa's biodiversity conservation efforts for around three years now, it has reached the conclusion that the development of Kanazawa's food culture and traditional crafts was critically tied not only to the local climate and landscape but also to surrounding satoyama and satoumi, which supported it through the provision of materials and seasonal labor. It is also convinced that the rich spirituality imbued in local tradi-



tional culture is deeply connected to satoyama and satoumi nature, that traditional culture evolved in part to harmonize with the environment, and that conservation of local traditional culture and the natural environment could be pursued hand-in-hand.

This "inextricable link" between culture and the environment was first described internationally in the declaration of the International Congress of Ethnobiology held in 1988 in Belem, Brazil. From around 2000 it came to appear frequently, as the keyword "biocultural diversity," within the context of indigenous rights, biodiversity conservation, local communities, and the like. In 2010, UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) launched the joint program Linking Biological and Cultural Diversity, commencing efforts to clarify the connections between the two forms of diversity and to incorporate comprehensive conservation of local culture and the environment into policymaking processes. Within this international framework, OUIK has been discussing the relationship between Kanazawa culture and natural resources in the Noto and Hakusan regions, with the hope of developing the Ishikawa-Kanazawa Model that allows urban areas and the satoyama/satoumi to grow and develop in a sustainable manner together, in a way transcends the conventional paradigm of consumer and producer regions.



The symposium began with opening remarks from United Nations University Senior Vice-Rector Kazuhiko Takeuchi, followed by presentations on international trends by UNESCO officer Dr. Ana Persic and SCBD officer John Scott, and a case introduction from Italy by Mauro Agnolletti, University of Florence. The program continued with presentations of local cases, including Kanazawa City efforts, Kanazawa food culture, and reports on resident health in the

satoyama and satoumi areas, followed by an overview of the Ishikawa-Kanazawa Model by CAB project leader Asami Shikida. In the subsequent panel discussion, an Ishikawa Prefecture official joined the speakers in a discussion on how the Ishikawa-Kanazawa Model could be implemented and publicized to the world. They pointed out the need for a public policy platform that allows stakeholders from different sectors to discuss ways to conserve culture and the environment comprehensively. As a wrap-up to the discussion, UNU-IAS OUIK Director Tsunao Watanabe read aloud the Kanazawa Message to the consenting applause of participants. (Details of the event are posted on the IAS website below.

<http://ias.unu.edu/en/news/news/kanazawa-model.html>

An executive summary of the symposium is also available at the website below.

https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:2875/Ishikawa_Kanazawa_Biocultural_Region.pdf

OUIK Lectures at KU's 10th Kakuma Satoyama Seminar (June 12)

Office Manager Mikiko Nagai spoke on the convergence of UN and grassroots efforts at the Kakuma Satoyama Seminar held at Kanazawa University's Kakuma campus. She talked about the significance of initiatives in Ishikawa amid international biodiversity efforts, updated listeners on the international discussion over the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and also proposed to create a mechanism for various stakeholders to participate in the biocultural diversity platforms OUIK is promoting to broadcast local opinion and efforts from Ishikawa to the world.

OUIK Participates in 2nd ERAHS Conference (June 23–25)

Local government officials and researchers of GIAHS sites from Japan, China, and South Korea gathered for the Second Conference of the East Asia Research Association for Agricultural Heritage Systems (ERAHS). At the conference, Research Associate Evonne Yiu presented research on creative agricultural systems in Japan, while UNU Senior Program Coordinator Akira Nagata presented results of a comparison between sites in the three countries. (Event details are posted on the IAS website.) <http://ias.unu.edu/en/news/news/erahs2015.html>



Event Announcements

October 3, 2015: SDGs workshop for high school students: Following the adoption of the sustainable development goals at the UN Summit in September, we will gather input from high school students in Ishikawa. (This event is closed to the public.)

November 26, 2015: SDGs Symposium: "Cultivating Human Resources for Sustainable Development"

Join us in welcoming our new staff member! Norie Arita



I first learned about the seriousness of environmental problems in college, and in graduate school I conducted research focused on how organizations (especially businesses) can reduce their environmental impacts. After doing ISO 14001 consulting (assisting the preparation of ISO 14001 manuals, etc.) in a division of an accounting firm for four years, I devoted myself to international taxation for about eight years. Although I have had few opportunities to think about the environmental problems for a long time, I really look forward to learning more through OUIK's activities and to participating in those activities from an administrative perspective. Thank you for your support!

Issued by

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

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