



# OUIK Newsletter

Autumn 2019



The old site of Mr. Kurando Terashima's House

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Symposium of the SDGs Social Dialogue Series:  
Shaping the Region's Future Through the SDGs

Date: March 23, 2019

Venue: Kanazawa Bunka Hall

With the theme *Potentials of Community-led SDGs*, the symposium serves as the conclusion to the SDGs Social Dialogue Series launched by the kickoff roundtable conference held on June 4, 2018. Issues and insights gained from previous dialogues were presented, after which an in-depth conversation in a panel discussion format were conducted on how to advance efforts toward the SDGs going forward, from the local government's perspective in Session 1, and in partnership with different organizations in Session 2.



Prior to the general symposium, Kanazawa City Mayor Yukiyoshi Yamano delivered a presentation on the achievements of the dialogues.

Working to (1) set Kanazawa's own distinctive goals, (2) develop an action plan to achieve these goals and (3) inform everyone in Kanazawa City of all these, Kanazawa City arrived at the following five aims:

- ① Learning from older generations who had ventured into new things while treasuring Kanazawa's individuality (its nature, history and culture), we must also try new things and offer more appeal in order to connect with the younger generation.
- ② We must look for the city's future growth not in expansion nor in extension, but in valuing the environment given to us, creating a circular economy and passing it on to the next generation. Our children and grandchildren will be the ones to create our future world.
- ③ We must develop the city with our children and grandchildren in mind at all times.
- ④ We must create governmental policies, which bring out inclusive communities all persons can fulfill their potential, regardless of (dis)ability, age, gender and other backgrounds.
- ⑤ Treasuring the achievements by our ancestors, we must create innovations toward a sustainable society that does not end only on personal levels, but which comes along with frameworks.

Since envisioning what the world should be in 2030 is important, Mayor Yamano announced that the Kanazawa SDGs will be called IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030 and that activities will start from April 2019. He ended by saying, "We hope to create a sustainable Kanazawa City together, by getting as many people as

possible involved along with the three concerned parties. I hereby declare our commitment to work hard to make this a reality."



In Session 1 called the *Role of Local Governments in Promoting SDGs in the Region*, the facilitator, Cosmo Takagi, provided the topic: What changes will the SDGs bring to local governments?

Diverse opinions were given, including: Moving forward with the existing policies is unsustainable; Sustainability can be achieved by formulating policies from the perspective of the SDGs, and this requires transformative ideas; and it is important to address how the current status quo can be changed.

In the in-depth discussions, Hiroyuki Takakuwa (Planning and Coordination Division Chief, Kanazawa City) was joined by three other panelists representing local governments selected as the government's SDGs Future Cities: Naoyuki Kaneda (Planning and Finance Division Chief, Suzu City), Yuji Yokogawa (Deputy Chief of Planning Promotion Department, Hakusan City) and Akinori Kurane (Nagano Prefecture government official/Co-representative, Shinshu Innovation Project: SHIP). According to Mr. Kurane, the development of the SDGs as global standards has made it easier to cross boundaries between organizational divisions, leading to a change in the awareness of people in government. Another panelist gave the following point of view: How do we embrace diversity? How do we assess our progress toward SDGs? There are many issues, but the process itself, of resolving such issues through dialogues, is also important.

In Session 2 called the *Design of SDGs Partnerships*, Takuji Hiroishi (President, empublic Ltd.), acted as facilitator, while meaningful discussions were carried out on the best way to form partnerships by Kenichiro Fukushima (Founder, Code for Kanagawa: CfK), Kouta Ebina (EMPOWER Project member and Kanazawa University graduate student), Yusuke Ueno (Associate Professor, Ishikawa Prefectural University), and Mikiko Nagai (Office Manager, UNU-IAS OUIK). First, Mr. Hiroishi provided the topic for discussion: the importance of partnerships in working on the SDGs and the best way to form them. He said that the

theme for the SDGs is to transform our world to its next version. Our problems today involve a variety of factors that are interconnected, making it impossible to identify and pick out the most critical one. Under these circumstances, partnerships across various sectors and disciplines are essential. This also means that we cannot solve our problems unless everyone moves up to the next level and the partnerships themselves need to be transformed into a new version in the next generation. He added that the economic aspect of the SDGs is equally important, as evidenced by the intense commitment of businesses, and that of new technologies are required.



Next, each panelist discussed their own efforts. Fukushima shared the initiatives of Civic Tech to solve issues for

SDGs through ICT. As a member of the EMPOWER Project, Ebina talked about its Supporter Coming Out initiative. Ueno introduced the Hokuriku Green Infrastructure Association, which was established by researchers from four universities last year. Nagai said that thanks to the Dialogue Series, "I was able to broaden the ties between people and, through forming partnerships, I was able to learn constantly about other people's perspectives."

Hiroishi closed Session 2 with the following observation and expectation from the SDGs originating from Kanazawa and Ishikawa Prefecture: "Working on the SDGs has allowed us to get involved with all kinds of people. People from fields that we used to think have nothing to do with us come to meet, which gives us the chance to talk about our ideas on a sustainable society. The SDGs had also made it easier to give voice to opinions on what we think is right. I can't wait to see how we actually make the SDGs a reality by 2030. If each one of us contributes in our way, with the skills we have, our kindhearted efforts, or our learning, then we can change the region."



In the closing remarks, Tsunao Watanabe (Director, UNU-IAS OUIK) noted that, "We have many different opinions, but we need to understand each other's differences and learn from each other in order to move forward. I believe that developing such flexible partnerships will be very important from now on."

### Garden Cleaning Workshop of a Kanazawa City Designated Cultural Property

Date: March 31, 2019

Venue: Senda Family's Garden

Maintaining a garden is laborious work. In particular, gardens such as Senda Family's Garden, which has a large pond that draws water from canals, require regular pond cleaning in addition to the usual weeding and caring of trees. This entails difficult and heavy manual labor. Half a year had passed since the last cleaning workshop, and mud had accumulated once more at the bottom of the pond.

Around 15 people, including local residents, students, local government officials and tourists from other countries



participated in the workshop. They went inside the drained pond and shoveled out the buildup of mud at the bottom.

After cleaning, they had tea in the house and learned about the history and construction of the garden from the owners, Noriko Senda and Nobuhiro Ishino. The garden is a type of Japanese garden with a central pond and strolling paths around it, and was made in 1894 by former Kaga Domain retainer, Norifumi Senda. They said that the level of techniques of gardeners used throughout the garden would be hard to find these days. All the participants were absorbed in listening to the extraordinary talk.

This kind of volunteer cleanup work was originally carried out mainly by the Landscape Policy Division staff of Kanazawa City. Juan Pastor-Evars, an OUIK researcher, joined from 2017 and promoted a practical immersion program that includes Japanese traditional tea ceremonies and workshops for learning about the garden history and management after the cleanup, with the aim of developing the work into an ecotourism activity. This can potentially be used more extensively as a new garden management system as well, that benefits owners by redistributing the heavy labor.

### IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030: SDGs Café

We have been organizing study group meetings and seminars on the SDGs since April 2019, called the SDGs Café. As a part of the IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030 project, this initiative is a forum where all kinds of people can join and have the chance to imagine the Kanazawa of 2030, and allow local residents to decide on the future of Kanazawa. Since it is a café, drinks and sweets are available. It is a place for face-to-face communication where anyone can freely participate

and exchange ideas in a relaxed atmosphere. As of September 2019, there had already been five such events, in which all the speakers and attendees have *imagined* on a variety of topics.

In the first event, Mr. Kensei Nishide of Gakuto Labo spoke about his vision of the future of education. He proposed a next-generation workshop academy



that takes advantage of Kanazawa's history, culture, and philosophy, based on the idea that in the future, education will not simply be a matter of acquiring knowledge, but rather forming a qualitative understanding of the world around us.

As an international example, Mr. Paul Muthers, who lives in the Noto area, introduced the special learning processes and systems used at his former school. He graduated from a democratic school in England called Summer Hill School, where students and teachers make the school rules and decide on the learning process together. Participants were surprised and intrigued by this rather unique system—noting in particular how much it differs from the Japanese education system—so much so that they continued asking questions past the event's official closing time. The common point of two speakers' talks, and one of the most impressive points made at the event, was that adults should not only give knowledge to children, but also give them the necessary support to help them open the way to the future.

In the second event, the theme was *Civic Tech and No One Left Behind on Information Access* and the speaker who *imagined* Kanazawa in 2030 was Mayuko Suda of NPO Florence. Using her experiences in working in the field of childcare as an example, she showed a vision of 2030 where everyone can receive the benefits of IT, frameworks for outreach (home delivery and services received at home) can be created through IT, and where we share the resources among ourselves to solve social issues.

What do we do to realize this imagined future? The answers to this question were given by experts Kenichiro Fukushima (CfK Founder) and Atsuro Tsutsumi (Associate Professor, Kanazawa University/Chairperson, EMPOWER Project KANAZAWA) in their presentations.

Delivering information to everyone is not easy. Tsutsumi said, "How easily can a person wanting certain information access it? If that is not taken into consideration, then there is little value in giving the information." In other words, everyone must be given

access to the information if no one is to be left behind.

Another response given is that moving forward, it may be necessary to create tools that can provide simple, easily understandable information, even if



we all have to contribute and pool the funds to develop them. There was a lively question-and-answer session and exchange of ideas related to the theme. For example, a participant said that though the technology itself is becoming commonplace, there are still only a few people who act for themselves and attempt to work on various social problems, and another asked why local governments are not making progress in making data freely available (open data).

In the third event, the theme was *The Education We Need Today* with Shinji Fujioka (Professor, Faculty of Economics and Management,



Hokuriku University) as the invited speaker. Participants watched the documentary film reexamining school education, *Most Likely to Succeed*, which was then followed by a conversation among everyone at the venue.

The documentary captured the reality of 21st century style classes at High Tech High, an American high school that studies and practices future-oriented education. Students were evaluated on what they learned at cultural festivals, and such, not by tests. Unlike rote learning in an education that overemphasizes college entrance exams, the aim is for students to learn deeply of their own accord and grow as a person through both failure and success. In the first place, our current educational system was conceived in the era after the industrial revolution when mass production was popular. In the 20th century, it was believed that the national income rises if the GDP increases matched reality. However, rapid technological advances from the late 1990s deprived many people of their jobs, marking the beginning of a new era where graduating from college does not translate into a stable job. It is said that we are entering an era where only highly creative work will remain. If so, it is normal to feel anxious about the future and wonder if the current educational system is adequate.



According to Fujioka, just watching the movie is not enough. Those who watch it, such as students, their parents and teachers, as well as people in

different walks of life, need to share their views. In the workshop after watching the movie, the attendees were divided into groups to talk about their own communities and discuss the Japanese educational system. One piece of feedback that resulted from this is that from here on, what we need is a system where the unique Japanese identity and sense of propriety are preserved while at the same time nurturing children's individuality.

The 4th SDGs Café was actually a continuation of the 3rd event. With the theme *Educating the Standard Bearers of 2030*, Yoshitsugu Yamamoto (Principal, Kanazawa University Senior High School) *imagined* Kanazawa in 2030, while Hirohisa Ikehata (former Principal, the Japanese School Singapore) and Kensei Nishide (CEO, GAKUTOlab Inc.), a social entrepreneur working to connect college students with companies and children with local communities, presented many ideas.

The university-affiliated high school had been designated as a Super Global High School (SGH) by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,



Science and Technology in 2014. (As a five-year limited program, the designation ended in March 2019.) Yamamoto said that as an SGH, they had been undertaking educational programs on a global scale, with the goal of creating those who can sustainably live and make the most of their abilities within the global ecosystem and international community. This had led to a more open school that interacts with other schools in and outside Japan and they received advice from institutions and businesses in the Hokuriku region. Aside from this inflow, outflow also increased as more students went abroad for studies and other activities. He added that the New Curriculum Guidelines that are about to be implemented emphasizes autonomous, interactive and deep learning (active learning).

Next, Ikehata talked about the efforts of the Japanese School Singapore to share problem awareness between adults and children, as well as the good and bad of Japanese education he recognized during his stay in Singapore. Moreover, Nishide presented the achievements of student support for long-term practical internship (GARENA) in Kanazawa, the only



local government that enforced the Student Town Promotion Ordinance in the country. He then said that through discussions with

everyone present, he would like to create a place where feedback from young people is fully included in developing a diversified educational system.

With the theme of *What Kind of Corporate Management Does Society Want in 2030? My Company Wish List!*, the 5th event was held in collaboration with the *Work Style Reform Advocacy Project in Kanazawa: Summer Seminar 2019* by the Kanazawa IKUBOSS Company Alliance.



Two university students with ties to Kanazawa, Tatsuyoshi Nakanishi (2nd year student at Kanazawa University, native of

Taito, Tokyo) and Reo Togami (4th year student at Meiji University, native of Kanazawa City) were asked to *imagine* how they will be working in 2030. Nakanishi said, "I want to work on a job that pays well for the effort! This doesn't mean wanting to take it easy on the job. For me, a job that pays well for the effort means work that results in higher levels of happiness, and a sense of growth and learning." He also believes that having a satisfactory private life is important, which for him means not just pursuing hobbies but also valuing self-expression through spending time with family and contributing to the community.

On the other hand, Togami said, "I want to help boost the earning power of the community." He said that a model case for Kanazawa and Ishikawa Prefecture that leads to the development of the urban hub of the future should be created and developed. To that end, he believes that starting up attractive new business ventures and growing them, or in other words creating *earning power*, is the key, and if this is channeled into a system, then the outflow of young people to Tokyo may be stopped. He relates that to do this, he will need to gain the necessary life experience and practical business skills in the next 10 years.

Next, the audience listened to a talk by Katsuya Nomizu (Fellow at the Office of the CEO at Cybozu, Inc., native of Kanazawa). Cybozu has



been included in the annual list of Great Place to Work for six consecutive years. Attendees working in companies in the city were all ears to his response to the question: How can a company be great even with low pay? Nomizu said, "In Cybozu, each person has their own personal work style." He confided that job applicants started pouring in when they let employees craft their own career plan and decide for themselves how they want to work over the course of their lifetime. Furthermore, he said "Most students personally want to acquire skills. To what extent can companies provide them the means to gain those skills? The best standard for work motivation is whether they will take the business in new directions. Too many companies can't seem to be able to do this."

In the ensuing talk session, he answered the question "What kind of corporate management does society want?" by saying, "The same as the *triple-win* management philosophy of the Omi merchants of old, where everyone benefits — buyer, seller and the public. In other words, it's good for you, your customers and society. It also means that it's for the sake of Kanazawa and Ishikawa, customers and yourself." He concluded by saying, "If you keep on doing this all the time, then your company will be one that society respects."

#### Brainstorming Workshop on Noto's GIAHS Education

Date: June 1, 2019

Venue : Ishikawa Prefecture Kenko no Mori

In 2018, OUIK collaborated with the local community in publishing a picture book called *Let's Make a Harvest Feast!*, to help children learn about nature's blessings and community wisdom through preparations for a feast for the Noto festival. For this occasion, we brainstormed ideas in the form of a workshop on how to make full use of this picture book in actual classroom settings together with participants.



To start with, Yuki Hagino (Team Maruyama) gave a talk about some of their past educational activities, by discussing their

work so far on environmental education under the concept of "raising children as a community, raising the hearts and bodies of children in Mii Town," as well as their scientific and cultural monitoring activities. Next, we were able to experience the *Doing Math with Food* program, facilitated by Hikaru Kamogawa (researcher, Japan GEMS Center). Great Exploration in Math and Science (GEMS) is an interactive learning

experience program for preschool to high school students developed at the University of California, Berkeley, to help students master the ability to think for themselves and to express their thoughts through words and actions. According to Kamogawa, math teachers used to have only one right answer for each math problem, but from now on, students will have to conceive of many factors and employ a variety of ways to arrive at the right answer.

Finally, applying what we learned throughout the day, we brainstormed and shared in groups what we think should be included, and should not be included, in education for children and Noto in the future. We received many feedback, such as "No to one-way teaching!" and "I want to create something that helps the children, as well as the community, to learn." We hope that this helped each participant create their vision of education and, through the workshop, create new connections to expand Noto's GIAHS education. OUIK set up a booth again this year at the event called *MISIA's Satoyama Museum* held in MISIA's Forest inside the Ishikawa Forest Park at the town of Tsubata, Ishikawa Prefecture.

#### UNU Booth in MISIA's Satoyama Museum

Date: June 9, 2019

Venue : Ishikawa Forest Park

May 22 was designated as the UN International Day for Biological Diversity. As the theme for this year was on *food*, we decided to highlight the connection between food and the *satoyama*, as well as the SDGs, at this event.

A *satoyama* refers to a mountain bordering a village which has an ecosystem cultivated by humans. The act of cutting trees allows



light to enter the forest and creates a forest rich with a diversity of flora and fauna. It also enriches our lives when we make good use of the trunks, leaves and other tree parts obtained from logging. However, biodiversity loss has become a problem because of the aging population and lack of manpower in recent years, resulting in poor forest management. Through a lecture and a shiitake mushroom inoculation activity, the children were taught that forests that are properly cared for by humans are actually healthier than untouched forests.

#### Launching of the SDGs Mii's Feast Project

In May 2019, the Maruyama Group, which conducts local educational activities in Wajima City, Ishikawa Prefecture, in cooperation with the Mii Elementary School, started an environmental education project called the *Feast Project of the Mii SDGs*. OUIK supports such educational activities that use the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) site, Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi, to aim for a sustainable future.

Although lumped together as a single designation called Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi, there are many kinds of traditional area-specific cultures within it. Hoping that activities such as this one by Mii Elementary School will be also conducted in other regions of Noto, we are working together with local communities to create a platform for enabling interactions between the *satoyama* and *satoumi*. For a year, the project has aimed to provide a way to learn about local nature and traditions, and their connectedness, through the process of making a *feast* based on the picture book *Let's Make a Harvest Feast!* Getting out of the classroom to listen to the stories of local people and work with friends to make a *feast* fosters the children's creative thinking, sense of pride for the local community and sense of appreciation for nature in the *satoyama*, by making them go through the process of thinking and doing things for themselves.

The first activity of the project held in May involved harvesting the wild vegetable, bracken, in Maruyama at Mii, Wajima City and pickling it in salt. Since it was the first time for many of the students to pick wild plants, they were given plenty of hints by the local people and Yuki Hagino of the Team Maruyama as they looked down and searched hard. Where and when do brackens grow? What kind of plants and animals live alongside it? In their remaining time, the children also made bamboo-leaf boats and enjoyed their day of learning.



The second activity was held in June. The group headed to the source of the Kawarada River, which flows across Wajima City, in search of *gori*, the local name for Japanese sculpin, a highly prized small freshwater fish. The *gori* lives only in clean water and the population has apparently decreased due to the construction of embankments and pesticide use in rice fields in recent years. The children tried their hand at *gori* catching, as the locals showed them how to do it. While muttering about the coldness of the water, they waded into the river and were soon intent on plunging their hands into the water, catching ten

fish in about half an hour. Since the immersion program this time included making and eating an actual *feast*, they immediately started skewering the fish. Eating a meal means partaking of life. The children's faces showed mixed feelings as they looked at the *gori* that had been alive until a few moments ago. The fish were grilled over charcoal and dipped in sauce before eating. Delicious! I want some more! The taste of food that they caught themselves was exceptionally good. Lastly, they returned the fingerlings that they hadn't eaten back to the river.



The third activity held in July was an excursion to Suzu City to try making flying fish broth called *agodashi*.



*Agodashi* is a Japanese soup stock (*dashi*) made out of dried flying fish, which are made from fresh flying fish that had been simmered or grilled and then dried. In Suzu, *agodashi* is made by catching small flying fish at the outer cove, grilling them over locally produced charcoal and drying. The activity-filled day included (1) *agodashi* making, (2) learning about the *shichirin*, a small charcoal stove made of diatomite for grilling the flying fish, and (3) and learning how to make tools for catching the fish. The children learned about the cycle of food: how the fish caught in Suzu throughout the day are turned into an essential ingredient in Noto's local cuisine called *agodashi* using locally made tools and materials, and finally eaten by the local people. They also visited the SDGs Lab at the Noto School, Kanazawa University and learned about the 17 goals and 169 targets for a sustainable society. It was an opportunity for the children to understand the SDGs better after they learned that their usual activities in the forests are connected to the SDGs.



**Symposium on Restoring Kinship with Nature  
through Japanese Gardens**

**Date: July 6, 2019**

**Venue : 21st Century Museum of Contemporary  
Art, Kanazawa**

The UNU-IAS OUIK produced the fifth booklet of its Biocultural Diversity Series focusing on nature and Japanese gardens in Kanazawa, entitled *Restoring Kinship with Nature through Japanese Gardens: The Challenge to Achieve a Sustainable Commons in Kanazawa*.

To celebrate the occasion, we invited all the authors to present in a symposium to uncover the hidden charms of Kanazawa's gardens from the perspective of history, environment and design, and to think of new ways to enjoy gardens and reflect on what we can do to pass them on to future generations.

In the opening remarks, Juan Pastor-Ivars (Research Associate, OUIK),

described the contents of the booklet. He presented the previously unknown attractions of gardens and how to engage in them, as well as shared Kanazawa's unique



biodiversity strategy, the struggles and challenges of garden owners to maintain their gardens, the lessons learned by looking at Japanese gardens from various perspectives, and what is gained by the new ways of getting involved with Japanese gardens.

Next, Tadao Kobayashi (Trustee, The Folklore Society of Japan / former Professor, Hokuriku University) gave a keynote speech entitled *Kanazawa as Seen from Gardens*. He explained that the spatial features of Kanazawa is laid out in what is called an *inverted feng shui*, i.e. the Chinese feng shui flipped 180 degrees, and so clusters of temples were placed in locations considered unlucky to block evil spirits. He also showed, through old photos of Kanazawa, that it was literally a *forested city* with lots of trees in the central area, and speculated that in the old days, Kanazawa had conducted landscaping and actively planted the surrounding trees. He concluded his talk by saying that Kanazawa has preserved many of its folk customs related to plants, and that many people have been drawn to its urban lifestyle that is inextricably linked to plants, which still remains to this day.

In Talk Session 1, the discussion started on the theme of *Hidden Charms of Kanazawa's Gardens* with Takahiro Tsuba (Professor, Environment Design Course, Kanazawa College of Art) acting as facilitator and with Yoshiro Nonoichi (President, Nonoyo Landscape Gardening Ltd.), Kyoko Terashima (former owner, the Old Site of Mr. Kurando Terashima's House), Takanori Hasegawa (Professor, Faculty of

International Communication, Hokuriku University) and Yoshio Tsuchida (Professor, Department of Architecture, College of Architecture, Kanazawa Institute of Technology) as panelists.

First, each panelist gave their perspective on the charms and ways to enjoy gardens. Tsuba talked about the cleaning activity he conducts with students every year at Rinshotei Garden's *goninbuchi no matsu* (literally the "pine of five person's stipends") and at Senda Family's Garden.

Hasegawa then detailed the kind of trees that were planted in the Kaga Domain retainer's estate garden and the reasons why. He added that



gardens that can be made self-sufficient as in the past would be very appealing for the sake of preserving gardens in the future.

Terashima spoke about her memories when she was living at the former Mr. Kurando Terashima's House. She said that they lived a modest life, where they heated bathtub water with firewood picked up from the garden and ate and appreciated the natural things that grew and bore fruit in the garden. She also recalled how they were unable to hire a gardener, so they did the *yukitsuri* (propping up branches with ropes to protect trees from heavy snow) themselves by copying what others were doing, and said "It was really hard work, but we had to do it."

Gardener Nonoichi described the characteristics of Japanese gardens in Kanazawa based on the concept of "a mountain hut in the city" (creating a *satoyama* scene around the house) and the pruning techniques unique to a snowy region like Kanazawa.

Tsuchida showed the audience how to enjoy soundscapes. He then revealed that most Japanese gardening skills have been handed down to the present as tacit knowledge, and in order to pass these on to the future, he said that such tacit knowledge must be preserved as explicit knowledge, not only for the creator but also for the viewer.

"Kanazawa still has a lot of gardens, and the chance to preserve them, as well as many people who have known the pleasure of creating them..." said Prof. Tsuba. He then ended Talk Session 1 by saying, "I hope that these gardens will be valued more than just a landscape but also as a natural space for the city and a habitat for living creatures."

The theme for Talk Session 2 was *Sustainability as Seen from Local Nature* with Yusuke Ueno (Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Faculty of Bioresources and Environmental Sciences, Ishikawa Prefectural University) acting as facilitator



and with Motofumi Marui (Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, College of Architecture, Kanazawa Institute of Technology), Aida Mammadova (Associate Professor, Organization of Global Affairs, Kanazawa University), an international student representative (Kazan Federal University, Russia) and Mikiko Nagai (Office Manager, OUIK) as panelists. The panel discussed what we can do to make the newly discovered values and attractions of gardens in Session 1 sustainable.

First, Ueno presented an outline of the SDGs as key action goals for considering sustainability. He also introduced the concept of *green infrastructure*, which utilizes the systems and functions of nature for infrastructure development, disaster prevention and land management.



Marui then gave a talk focusing on urban heat and urban green. Global warming is further aggravated in urban areas by the heat island effect. However, cities also have green spaces, where cold air flow generated by the greenery cools down surrounding areas. In Kanazawa, it was found that there is a difference of 2 to 3 degrees at night between the Katamachi area and the Kodatsuno plateau.

Mammadova is in charge of an immersion program for international students to experience Kanazawa's culture. She said that the program allows students to see everything in one place upon entering the garden (soundscapes, landscapes, architecture and economics) and provides the best experience to learn about Japanese culture, such as tea ceremony after cleanup a Japanese garden.

Nagai described the activities for the SDGs being led by Kanazawa City, Junior Chamber International Kanazawa and UNU-IAS OUIK. In it, she discussed the five aims of Kanazawa SDGs.

Finally, Ueno ended Talk Session 2 with the following points, "We need to discover new value from various outlooks, including those of people from other countries and build a framework where many people would want to engage in and in which they can enjoy. Partnerships are also important when tackling issues. If we can preserve or bring back the distinctive lifestyles of Kanazawa and old Japan, then Kanazawa will certainly be a more appealing place 50 or 100 years from now."

In the closing remarks, Tetsuo Ueda (the Ishikawa Liaison Committee, Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture) mentioned the difficulty of maintaining Japanese gardens. He said, "It is extremely difficult for owners and managers alone. We must consider engaging in civic collaboration from research to maintenance and management of gardens and wildlife."

### GIAHS Action Plan Formulation Workshop

Date: August 1, 2019

Venue : Shika Town Community Center

The four cities and five towns comprising the Noto Regional Association for GIAHS Promotion and Cooperation participated in the workshop.

The workshop had three objectives:

1. Verify the accomplishments and issues of GIAHS efforts to date
2. Share models for Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi
3. Assess the courses of action moving forward for each city and town and the entire region.

In the morning, all the municipalities gave presentations on their GIAHS initiatives. Several common issues emerged, such as developing human resources and securing supporters for the *satoyama* and *satoumi*, and finding the best way to give support and subsidies to the groups implementing the initiatives. Afterwards, Nagai from OUIK gave a lecture called *Let's Move Ahead with Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi Partnerships Led by Collective Impact!* In the afternoon, a group work session was held to reconsider the relationships between groups working on Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi and the GIAHS.

Three common issues emerged:

1. The best way to give support
2. How to widely share the lessons learned from best practices
3. How to get young people involved in the field of traditional skills.

The workshop provided an opportunity to review the accomplishments and issues of each municipality's efforts, and determine what



needs to be done to circulate GIAHS efforts dynamically and comprehensively throughout the Noto region. As a final activity in the group work, the groups constructed a map of stakeholders and organizations carrying out various activities in their municipalities, in order to visualize and study what

kind of collaborative framework and support can be provided through GIAHS activities.

### LGBT and Education Dialogue

Date: September 8, 2019

Venue : 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art

The dialogue was as part of the *Kanazawa Rainbow Week 2019: Creating an Inclusive Kanazawa Together, with No One Left Behind in the SDGs*. A photo exhibit of around 2000 people by the *LGBT Coming Out Photo Project: OUT IN JAPAN* was simultaneously held at the venue. Holding the dialogue event within that space turned out to be a great opportunity to deepen our understanding of LGBT issues and think of ways that the schools and the community can help.

Mikiko Nagai (Office Manager, OUIK) acted as moderator. In Session 1 called *How the Community*



*Can Help*, the four panelists were Hiroshi Hase (Member of the House of Representatives), Fumiko Hagihara (President, G&S Corporation, Representative of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs in HOKURIKU), Katsutoshi Shibata (Chair of Ishikawa Prefectural Elementary and Junior High School Principal's Association) and Gon Matsunaka (President, NPO Good Aging Yells).

Matsunaka, who manages the operations for the *Kanazawa Rainbow Week 2019*, began the session by talking about the situation of LGBTs among other things and saying, "I hope more people realize that LGBTs are all around us." Hase said, "LGBTs are little understood in Japan. Rather than developing laws to eliminate discrimination, I would like to enact legislation that will mainly promote understanding." Hagihara added, "Discrimination against women presidents used to be awful. I believe that someday LGBTs will be naturally accepted as well. To make this happen, we must get various stakeholders involved and promote understanding of LGBTs." Shibata responded by saying, "We need diversity in teachers in order to (notice and offer support to each child) for adapting to the diversity of children." Matsunaka closed the session with a hint of hope, "Ultimately, I wish for a world where I can have a conversation in which I can say 'I have a boyfriend' and the common response will be 'That's good.'"

In Session 2 called *How the Schools Can Help*, the four panelists were Takeshi Maeda (Representative, Second: Fun School and Faculty Consultant), Seiko Matsuoka (Representative, NPO ASTA), Shigeyoshi

Suzuki (Representative, the Magnifying Glass Society) and Mika Yakushi (Representative, NPO ReBit).

Maeda commented, "I think it's important to follow up on teachers as well. If we can create an open



environment inside the faculty room, then we can create a culture of acceptance and diversity throughout the school." Matsuoka said, "I think it's important to be mindful that our words are respectful of sexual diversity. When asking something like 'Got a new boyfriend?' we can ask 'Have you met someone?' instead." Suzuki narrated, "When I came out at work that I was gay, I was told to stop revealing such private matters in the workplace. We are all humans, with failures and other things that are to confide to someone else. But I learned from my students in class that revealing such things and accepting them is a chance for us to get to know each other more deeply." Yakushi added, "When LGBTs come out, it is very encouraging for them to see people responding with a willingness to know more, even if they didn't know anything about LGBTs, and giving support through dialogues." The panelists spoke out with many personal experiences.

According to a survey, the Hokuriku region has the highest percentage of people with negative views on homosexuals. There may be various social circumstances underlying this result, but understanding and accepting minorities and other people is extremely important if we are to realize a society in which no one is left behind. LGBT may still be an unfamiliar term to many of us, but it seemed like all the people who participated in the Rainbow Week and the dialogue event have learned a great deal from them.

### Urban Biocultural Diversity: "Urban Realities and Urban Nature" Reading Workshop

Date: April 1-7, 2019

Location: South Africa

13 researchers from around the world, including Juan Pastor Ivars, Research Associate at OUIK, met in South Africa to participate in a workshop with the purpose of publishing a book on urban biocultural diversity. The workshop was organized and sponsored by Michelle Cocks and Charlie Shackleton, professors at the University of Rhodes in South Africa.

In his chapter of the book, Dr. Pastor evaluates the figure of the Japanese garden—its ontology, aesthetics, and ecology—with a focus on the



gardens of Kanazawa. In particular, he presents examples of how to rebuild the relationship between people and nature through Japanese gardens. The program of the workshop included individual readings and discussions of each chapter, followed by excursions into the surrounding area. This workshop demonstrated the importance of interpersonal links at a global level in order to promote the concept of biocultural diversity, as well as to create an academic body for its implementation and governance. The book is scheduled to be published early next year.

**Participation at the 6th East Asia Research Association for Agricultural Heritage Systems  
Venue: Ha Dong, South Korea**

The 6th East Asia Research Association for Agricultural Heritage System (ERAHS) this year, has been organized in Ha Dong county,



Korea. Around 300 GIAHS stakeholders participated in this event and deepen their understanding and relationships. In Ha Dong, their traditional tea cultivation system is one of the factors for the GIAHS designation.

OUIK's research associate Evonne Yiu moderated a session on *Young Generation and GIAHS*, where many creative ideas were proposed by representatives from Korea, China and Japan.

The role of youth is very important for GIAHS, and many creative ideas were proposed by representatives of youth in Korea, China and Japan.

**Participation at the 4th SDGs UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development  
Date: July 2019  
Venue: UN Headquarters, New York, US**

At the 4th SDGs UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), concerned parties from all over the world meet every year at the UN Headquarters in New York to report on their progress on the SDGs. The 4th HLPF took place from July 8 to 18 and focused on Goals 4 (Quality Education), 8

(Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



While there were various related events held in addition to the voluntary national reviews by each nation's representatives, the spotlight was on the event for advancing SDGs at the local level called Local2030. Local governments are considered to play an important role for 65% of the 169 SDG targets. Local government heads and representatives from around the world shared their problems and accomplishments on education, inequality, finance and partnerships. We can't wait for the time when Ishikawa Prefecture's local governments will be able to send their message to the rest of world. Another important feature of the SDGs is the importance given to the voices of the youth. This is probably because by 2030, the young people currently in their teens and 20s will be taking the lead toward a sustainable society. The OUIK was able to interview the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Peter Thomson, together with a youth organization called SDGs-SWY, to ask about his expectations from the next generation on Goal 14 (Life Below Water) of the SDGs.

**New staff members**

**Akiko Urakawa  
Administrative Assistant**



Born in Aichi Prefecture. After working at a travel agency desk, as an English teacher for children and as an office staff in a graduate school laboratory, I have been involved in OUIK activities as an office assistant since 2018.

I have lived in many different regions mainly due to my husband's relocation and have gained my professional experience mostly in back office work. I work daily supporting the operations of the OUIK amid the splendor of nature in Ishikawa and the refined culture of Kanazawa.

**Cosmo Takagi**  
**Research Associate**

After graduating from university, I worked at a non-profit organization and in the business sector, and then I assumed a post at the municipal government of Yamato City in Kanagawa Prefecture. I worked as a municipal government staff member for 5.5 years before leaving the position to become a doctoral student in the USA to study “SDGs Localization at Local Governments”. I finished a training course called “Executive Leadership Programme in Evaluation and Sustainable Development Goals (ELPE)” in 2018. I am also working at Keio University as a Project Research Associate (Cross Post). At OUIK, I work on research projects regarding SDG Localization in the local government.



adults and the children are thinking, and it made me think about what role I can play in Ishikawa in the future. In the three months of the internship, I learned more than I had imagined I could, and it had allowed me to give shape to a core part of my future career.

**Satoka Narushima**  
**(June to September 2019)**

For the internship, I set four goals for myself, which I was able to fulfill, namely 1) to learn about the biocultural diversity linking the richness of nature and culture, 2) to learn about initiatives for the SDGs in Ishikawa Prefecture, 3) to learn about OUIK activities, and 4) to get involved in managing events and programs. I was also able to take part in various events and activities, and became aware of many new things during these three months. And for someone like me, who come from Chiba Prefecture, it was also an opportunity to appreciate the wonders of Japanese culture by living in Ishikawa Prefecture and experiencing the traditional crafts and culture representing Japan. In the future, I would like to make the most of my internship experience and continue to explore the ways that I can help realize a sustainable society. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who have made this possible and to all the local people for their support throughout my internship.



**Internship**

**Yuka Mukai**  
**4th year student, Department of Environmental Science, Faculty of Bioresources and Environmental Sciences, Ishikawa Prefectural University (May to August 2019)**

From October 2018 to March 2019, I went to study in Laos about the essence of environmental education as part of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). My aim was to give back what I have learned there to the environmental education in Ishikawa Prefecture someday. However, I didn't fully understand Ishikawa Prefecture's environmental education and the SDGs, so I decided to study them as much as I can through an internship at OUIK. Through the Feast Project of the Mii SDGs, lectures at the Satoyama Museum in MISIA's Forest, sea trash surveys at Hegura Island, and participation in SDGs café events and meetings during the internship, I learned about the current state of environmental education and the SDGs, and I also realized the difficulty of developing something through partnerships between the implementers and the governments. Furthermore, through a presentation at the Kanazawa University Satoyama Seminar and by carrying out SDGs education at Iida High School, I was able to impart what I have learned in my studies overseas and made them deliberate on local issues. I was surprised that even high school students have a proper grasp of the local issues and are thinking about them. I also felt that there is a gap between what the



**New Publications**

**UNU-IAS OUIK Biocultural Diversity Series #5**  
**“Restoring Kinship with Nature through Japanese Garden” 2019-07-06**

Corresponding author and editor Juan Pastor-Ivars  
Published by UNU-IAS OUIK  
Published on 6 July 2019  
Online version is available.  
<http://ouik.unu.edu/en/publication>



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