



# OUIK Newsletter

January 2018

## 2018 New Year's Message

The year 2018 marks the 10th anniversary of Operating Unit Ishikawa Kanazawa (OUIK). In the past 10 years, we have been communicating to the world and providing policy recommendations through our research on *satoyama*, *satoumi*, and biocultural diversity. As we anticipate our next 10 years, it will be important for OUIK to consider its role as a UN organization located in a rural area.

Last year I happened upon a number of people in Kanazawa who told me it is significant that there is a blue UN flag waving in Ishikawa. Their words sunk deep into my mind. Given the current global situation, there is a myriad of issues which have to be tackled by both regional communities and global society in order to achieve peace, conservation of the global environment, safety and security, and the creation of a society where people can hope for a brighter future. At the same time, however, it is the regional areas where we can bring about change to each of these issues, from the periphery to the center.

At the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, countries adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which had been carried out by the UN to be achieved by 2015, were primarily aimed towards solving hunger and poverty in developing countries. However, SDGs consisting of 17 goals are expected to be achieved by whole member nations of the UN, including developed countries. The Japanese government established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters in 2016 and it affirms that regional revitalization would be the key to achieve these SDGs.

There is little doubt that the true essence of regional revitalization is making regional communities sustainable economically, environmentally, and socially. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated explicitly that such regional activities would contribute to SDGs, the common goals set by the international community. As a prefecture where the UN flag prominently waves, Ishikawa will be able to take the lead in regional revitalization. By doing so, Ishikawa may be able to demonstrate a regional model that will make international contributions to achieving SDGs. Keeping this big objective in mind, we will proceed with our activities this year.

Tsunao Watanabe,  
UNU-IAS OUIK Director

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## Featured Events

In October 2016, OUIK held the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity in collaboration with Ishikawa Prefecture, Nanao City, UNESCO, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), at which the Ishikawa Declaration was adopted. To commemorate the one-year anniversary of the conference, international forum series to further promote the declaration were held.

### *International forum series 1: Biocultural diversity and satoyama: learning about worldwide efforts toward societies in harmony with nature*

*4 October, 2017, Kanazawa*

This forum was held in conjunction with the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) Steering Committee in Ishikawa. At the forum, discussion was made on topics such as how *satoyama* had been maintained in different countries and how the relationship between biological diversity and cultural diversity was helping people's livelihood in such *satoyama* environment.

Takakazu Yumoto (Director of Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University) gave his general view on how *satoyama* concept, a society in harmony with nature, from Japan could be understood and implemented internationally. He also outlined the history of *satoyama* in Japan and issues which had to be dealt with in the future.

It was then followed by the chair of IPSI Steering Committee, Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Chair of Ghana National Biodiversity Committee), describing the principles behind the activities of IPSI and introducing some examples of biocultural diversity in Ghana.



At the case presentations session, Anil Kumar (Senior Director of M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation) introduced the efforts in India on conserving traditional varieties of rice to move toward sustainable consumption. Senka Barudanovic (Professor of University of Sarajevo) described how people's connection to biological diversity and cultural diversity in Eastern Europe had been playing a role in maintaining the identity of people in that region where counties had been divided.

### Field Excursion

At the field excursion, which was held prior to the symposium, participants learnt how the traditional culture in Noto had been connecting nature, including regional topography, climate, and ecology, to people's livelihood and how such culture had evolved. They learnt about the various efforts by the local people to deal with changes in modern society such as depopulation. At Kirimoto Wooden Craft Workshop in Wajima, Taiichi Kirimoto introduced the process of making Wajima lacquerware which had been handed down for 150 years. He also explained their strategies to find their way into the global market, their novel application to different products, and their cooperative research into functions of lacquerware beneficial to food and health. In addition, participants visited a site of lacquer tree planting activities which had been carried out by Taiichi Kirimoto in cooperation with foresters to secure local lacquer production. They learnt how they drew sap from a lacquer tree and what kind of tools they used.



Subsequently, they made a visit to Okunoto Endemura (Salt Farm Village) and observed the site of *agehama* style (upshore field) salt production which uses traditional techniques to make concentrated salt water called *kansui*, by scooping up sea water and using sand and sun light. It was explained that there had been a period when



they had used scrap wood instead of natural wood as firewood. However, in order to make sustainable products which maintain the link between *satoyama* and *satoumi*, they are currently using natural wood from *satoyama* as firewood for boiling *kansui* a whole day and night. After that, participants made a visit to Senmaida (A Thousand Rice Paddies). Domae from a local volunteer organization, which takes care of the Senmaida, described the ownership system and management of the rice paddies.

## *International forum series 2: Preserving biocultural diversity for future generations: partnership of East Asian countries*

*15 October, 2017, Kanazawa*

This forum was co-hosted with Japan committee for IUCN. Together with IUCN committee members and youth participants from Japan, China, and Korea, how to conserve biocultural diversity for future generations was considered.

In the keynote speech, Masahito Yoshida (Professor of University of Tsukuba) gave a lecture on the linkage between nature and culture, including international systems.

At section 1, cases on biocultural diversity in Japan, China, and Korea were introduced. Yoshihiko Iida (OUIK Research Associate) described some activities related to biocultural diversity in Ishikawa and related issues. He pointed out the importance of “diversity” approach to achieve conservation of biocultural diversity through regional initiatives. Xiuling Guan (Director of International Department of Chinese Society of Forestry) presented a case on oak forest management in China and Sun-kee Hong (Professor of Institution for Marine & Island Cultures, Mokpo National University) advocated the need for a global initiative on island biocultural diversity to achieve sustainable development. Yoshino Ando (Joint Representative of Ramsar Network Japan) introduced their activity to improve biodiversity in rice paddies (Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade).

At Q&A session of section 1, various questions were asked from the audience on topics such as: forest management and conservation method; use of U-shaped gutter or herbicide and biodiversity conservation in rice paddies; building “links” between individual learning; co-existence of nature and livelihood; biocultural diversity and regional revitalization; and issues on legal systems. Participants from Japan, China, and Korea discussed these topics from various viewpoints.

At Q&A session of section 2, youth participants discussed how to make primary industry attractive to young people. Participants pointed out the need for a system which guarantees adequate payment and improving social status. Another participant mentioned the importance for consumers to buy the products considering producing areas and production method. It was also discussed how we could expand our activities to develop links between young people to pass on our nature and culture to future generations.

At the end, Ambassador Masahiko Horie (IUCN Councillor, Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs) closed the forum by mentioning the importance of expanding the already existing valuable activities of young people, raising awareness of and mainstreaming biocultural diversity, and building up cohesion and cooperation among global communities.

### Field Excursion

Thirty-one participants from Japan, China, and Korea attended the field excursion which was held prior to the forum.

Participants visited Team Maruyama in Wajima and learnt about their activities from the team organizers: Kiichiro Hagino (an architect), and Yuki Hagino (a designer); as well as Koji Ito from Kanazawa University who supports their activity. They outlined their efforts to protect the connection between local tradition, culture, and biodiversity and pass them on to future generations.



Kiichiro Hagino described the reasons why they had moved to Noto and outlined their activities. Yuki Hagino explained how they had arranged the local traditional ritual, *Aenokoto*, into an original ritual to appreciate biodiversity and how they had been carrying out the ritual every year with a wide variety of participants. She also introduced her original booklets and educational materials such as a seasonal calendar which contains information related to local wisdom, culture, and biodiversity. Koji Ito introduced Satoyama Satoumi Meister Training Program of Kanazawa University which had given the opportunity to start Team Maruyama's activity, and also about plant monitoring activity which had been carried out by Team Maruyama every month.

Participants were impressed by their inventive programs and educational materials to deliver their messages to general public and children. Participants asked questions enthusiastically, holding and seeing the details of her handmade puppets and booklets. After the visit, some of the participants expressed their interest in starting similar activities in their own countries.

After that, they visited Shiroyone Senmaida (A Thousand Rice Paddies) and learnt why these terraced rice paddies had been created in this place and also about the ownership system to protect the landscape of these rice paddies. Participants had a stroll around the Senmaida and fully enjoyed the beautiful landscape of the terraced rice paddies at the seaside.

## Topics from July to December 2017

### *Establishment of locally initiated international cooperation program based on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)*

*20 November, 2017, Kanazawa*

Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa University, Ishikawa Prefectural University, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), JICA Hokuriku Branch Office, and the United Nations University Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) signed a memorandum on 'International Cooperation Through GIAHS in Ishikawa'.

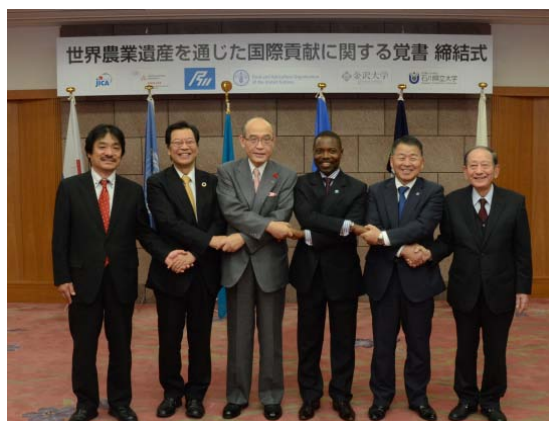
Noto's *satoyama* and *satoumi* which stretches over nine municipalities in Noto Peninsula of Ishikawa was designated as GIAHS in 2011 together with Sado Island. They were the first designations from developed countries. Since then, UNU-IAS has been carrying out various activities together with Ishikawa Prefecture, nine municipalities, and local people of the region.

At the GIAHS International Conference 2013, it was suggested to strengthen the cooperation between the GIAHS in developed countries and those in developing countries by Noto Communiqué. In the following year, 2014, Ishikawa Prefecture established a training program through which participants can learn about conservation and utilization of Noto's *satoyama* and *satoumi* and its regional development. It has accepted trainees from six different countries so far, including Bhutan, Indonesia, and Laos.

This program has just taken a step further and an international cooperation program was established to bring about mutual-learning: to enable trainees from developing countries to learn 'sustainable regional development' in Noto's *satoyama* and *satoumi* on site; and also to enable people in Noto region to realize the global values of sustainability through their contribution to this training program. FAO, JICA Hokuriku Branch Office, Kanazawa University, Ishikawa Prefectural University, Ishikawa Prefecture, and UNU-IAS have joined the program as implementing bodies.

### *Receiving the visit of trainees from Brazil and Malaysia*

As first training course under the international cooperation program, we received nine FAO trainees from Brazil, including national and local government officials and community practitioners (29–30, November). They had a lecture in Tokyo, visited Gifu, and visited Noto Chirihama Roadside Station and Shunran-no-sato in Noto, where they exchanged views about spurring growth in agriculture through the integration of di-



verse industries and creating local livelihoods respectively. In the roundtable session on the last day, they made a presentation of the GIAHS candidate site in Brazil and discussed the steps toward designation. Yoshihide Endo (GIAHS Coordinator from FAO Headquarters), and Mbuli Charles Boliko (Director) and Kae Mihara (Deputy Head) of the FAO Liaison Office in Japan, expressed high expectations on the potential of interactive learning between GIAHS sites.



Under the same program, OUIK hosted a high-level study tour from four government departments related to GIAHS in Sabah state, Malaysia (10–15 December). The tour focused on how GIAHS is utilized, like in the case of Noto Wine and regional development through the satoyama hotel initiative in Wajima. Sabah has rich experience in international certification systems like the World Natural Heritage, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, and the Ramsar wetland sites. The participants as policy makers were able to have meaningful discussions with the hosts on creating local livelihoods.



*Launch of new partnership to promote SDGs business in Kanazawa  
30 August, 2017, Kanazawa*

OUIK and several organizations, including Junior Chamber Kanazawa (JC Kanazawa), Kanazawa Institute of Technology (KIT), and JICA Hokuriku Branch Office signed a memorandum of understanding to set up a framework to promote SDGs business in Kanazawa.

At the signing ceremony, the parties to the agreement spoke enthusiastically about creating further opportunities to achieve SDGs through collaboration. Tsunao Watanabe (OUIK director) stated that he expects this public-private-academic partnership to be a driving force that will move the world toward sustainability.



The activities under this scheme will be taken place to eventually lead to the promotion of sustainable businesses on a national and worldwide scale.

*The first Kanazawa forum on education & LGBT: SDGs as a tool for learning and inclusion  
23 November, 2017, Kanazawa*



OUIK co-hosted a forum on education & LGBT as part of the social dialogue to promote SDGs in the region.

Session 1 “Thinking about what children want from teachers’ perspectives” was moderated by Hiroyuki Taniguchi (Professor of Takaoka University of Law). He presented the current situation of LGBT children. Other speakers included: Shigeyoshi Suzuki, a primary school teacher who has come out as gay; Sumiko Doniwa (Teacher of Kanazawa Nisui High School), who promotes better understanding of LGBT at local schools; and Kazuya Morita (Student of Kanazawa University School of Medicine), who works on raising high school students' awareness of STDs and gender identity. They pointed the importance of fostering inclusiveness to accept LGBT children.

Session 2 “Toward 2020: Education through sport and culture” was moderated by Fumino Sugiyama (Representative of Tokyo Rainbow Pride and former member of the Japan’s Olympic fencing team). Speakers discussed how to better disseminate information and promote understanding about LGBT through sport and culture. Hiroshi Hase (Member of the House of Councilors/ President of the Diet members’ league for understanding LGBT related issues) pointed out that the spirit of fair play in the Olympic and Paralympic

Games has something in common with the SDGs that focus on inclusion. Naoki Ota, who runs the Yaruki-Arimi website focusing on LGBT, and Kazushi Fujihara, a YouTuber, both shared their activities to send out LGBT topics to a broader audience.

In the roundup session titled “SDGs x LGBT at local levels — Creating venues for citizens' learning,” a discussion was held from various standpoints on how to solve the issues pointed out in the former two sessions through approaches that suit Hokuriku and Kanazawa. Takeyoshi Iwamoto (Associate Professor of Kanazawa University) mentioned based on his studies that Hokuriku is not very inclusive of LGBT people compared to other parts of Japan, though systems in universities and other schools are gradually changing. Shinnosuke Kawakami (JC Kanazawa) commented that his firm and JC Kanazawa both wish to move forward on LGBT issues. Gon Matsunaka (Good Aging Yells) shared his own experience and talked about the NPO and its activities to raise awareness and promote better understanding of LGBT. The forum received 104 participants.



## *Biocultural Diversity and Kanazawa, a Sustainable City*

### *Project to enhance the resilience of ecosystem services and communities in Kanazawa*

This project led by Juan Pastor Ivars (OUIK Research Associate) aims to promote, conserve, and restore ecosystem services<sup>1</sup> in many valuable historic gardens in Kanazawa. They offer a wide range of benefits, including beautiful landscape, a venue for relaxation and cultural exchange for local people, urban ecosystems conservation, and a good potential as a tourism resource. To utilize the gardens sustainably and to ensure their conservation, the project focuses on three pillars of activities: (1) providing a venue for study and discussion through seminars; (2) experiencing cultural service of the gardens through visits and tea ceremonies; and (3) participating in management activities such as cleanups. Two cleanups, four study visits, and one seminar were organized in the second half of 2017, with more than 100 participants in total. Activities have been conducted in cooperation with Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Branch of the Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture, Kanazawa-based universities, and the gardens owners.

<sup>1</sup> Ecosystem services supported by biodiversity can be divided in four categories: provisioning services of freshwater, food, and fuel; regulating services of climate, atmospheric components, and population of organisms; cultural services like offering mental fulfillment and opportunities for recreation; and supporting services like producing oxygen, soil formation, and nutrient and water cycling.

### ◆ *Sustainable conservation of gardens - creating nature in cities (27 November, 2017)*



This seminar was held at Rinshotei, a private garden, through the cooperation of Hokuriku University. Presentations were made on: results of the study on heat island effect in Kanazawa (Motofumi Marui, Associate Professor of KIT); spatial structure of Kanazawa as a garden city and a folkloristic enquiry (Tadao Kobayashi, Former Professor of Hokuriku University); and design features of traditional Japanese gardens and how they relate to elements of gardens (Takahiro Tsuba, Professor of Kanazawa College of Art). Participants studied cultural and historical background of the garden as they looked

out on *Goninbuchi no Matsu*, a famous 500-year-old pine tree. They also viewed the garden's location in the context of city's topography, and exchanged ideas about the role of green areas in a city.

◆ *SDGs workshop: SDGs and the Japanese gardens (11–12 November, 2017) and other events*

A cleanup of Shinrensha Garden and a workshop to discuss how Japanese gardens can contribute to achieving SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) was co-organized by Aida Mammadova (Associate Professor of Kanazawa University) and OUIK. At the Garden's tea house, a tea ceremony was hosted by Keita Ogawa (Professor of Hokuriku University). Participants of the international symposium on livelihoods, nature, and cultural landscapes also came to observe this garden. The various groups led by Juan Pastor Ivars visited other gardens in Kanazawa from October to December including Nishida Family Garden, Gyokusen-en Garden, Kurando Terashima's House, Senda Family Garden. At the Senda Family Garden, Noriko Senda, the owner, hosted a Japanese tea ceremony, and the participants enjoyed refined green tea.



◆ *Japanese garden cleanup and workshop on management system (10 October, 2017)*

In cooperation with Takahiro Tsuba (Professor of Kanazawa College of Art) and his students, a cleanup of the Senda Family Garden, which was built in Meiji period, was organized. While regular cleanup and maintenance are essential for garden management, the cleanup involves a heavy burden for the Garden's owner. This event was organized as an experiment whereby students participate in the cleanup while using the garden as a place for learning. The event had secondary benefits; (1) the owner recognized the value of the Garden anew and (2) interaction between students and older generation in local community took place, which does not happen very often.



*International symposium on livelihoods, nature, and cultural landscapes  
August 27, 2017, Kanazawa*

This event was co-organized with Kanazawa University Center for Urban and Regional Studies. Urban and rural landscape specific to a region, strongly tied with local livelihoods and regional industries, can be considered as cultural landscape. How can we maintain Noto's rural landscape, *satoyama* and *satoumi*, and Kanazawa's urban landscape deeply tied with traditional craftwork? How can we achieve that while tackling depopulation and promoting tourism? Kenneth Peter Yocom (Professor of University of Washington, U.S.), Valentina Orioli (Professor of University of Bologna, Italy) and Masato Dohi (Professor of Tokyo Institute of Technology) were invited as keynote speakers, and the policies to conserve cultural landscape in various cities were discussed. Juan Pastor Ivars made a presentation about his project that explores sustainable cities through a new management method of Japanese gardens in Kanazawa. Aida Mammadova (Associate Professor of Kanazawa University) and Yuki Hagino (Team Maruyama) shared their activities.



*Workshop on citizen monitoring of biodiversity  
September 21, 2017, Kanazawa*

OUIK organized a workshop on citizen monitoring of biodiversity in Kanazawa. In 2016, Kanazawa City developed a regional biodiversity strategy that highlights the link between the City's nature and unique local culture such as crafts and food. The strategy includes the perspective of biocultural diversity, through which the nature in the region is conserved along with the culture that has been practiced by citizens in their daily life.

The strategy embraces key projects to be carried out with citizens. Among them is the Resident Watchers Project, which promotes citizen monitoring. As one of the supporters in preparing the strategy, OUIK held a workshop in collaboration with the Environment Policy Division of the Kanazawa City Hall to establish a data platform that would allow more people to participate in the Project in the future.

Shinichi Suda (Chuo University) was invited as the lecturer. As an entomologist, he has participated in citizen-based Wildlife Monitoring Survey jointly implemented by Chuo University, the University of Tokyo, and Pal System Tokyo (Co-op) to monitor butterflies in Tokyo. Eiji Ikoma and Junko Hattori from DIAS/the University of Tokyo, where the application and data platform for the survey were developed, joined this workshop as commentators.

First, Shinichi Suda explained the background that citizen monitoring is important for regional biodiversity conservation. He presented how they could have many Pal System members participate in butterfly monitoring covering a wide area of Tokyo, and tips to make it fun to continue. Then, Toshimitsu Muto of Kanazawa City Hall presented the data of animals and plants reported through the Resident Watchers Project. He expressed present concerns that the number of people who contribute the data is limited, and that a mechanism must be developed to involve more citizens.



Participants included citizens groups involved in nature watching and environmental activities, universities researchers, government officials, and city councilors. They actively exchanged opinions and expressed their views such as: “Issues related to biodiversity are hard to identify until data is accumulated to a certain extent, so it may be difficult to monitor specific species from the outset”; “Positional information of data is essential for research”; “Successful cases must have been built on the efforts of the people involved, so simply replicating the butterfly monitoring system developed in Tokyo wouldn't work”; and “More collaboration with other environmental related projects is needed.”

#### Join us in welcoming our new staff member! Sayako Koyama

She completed BSc Zoology and MSc Conservation Science at Imperial College London in the UK. After working at an environmental consultancy in Tokyo and experienced conservation related work as a park ranger in Ogasawara Islands, she also worked as a freelance translator. Since 2015, she has been based in Noto and was entrusted to support OUIK's research in 2016. From the same year, she started working part-time for Kanazawa University on the Satoyama Meister Training Program. Since 2017, she works as a research associate based in Noto focusing on biocultural diversity and GIAHS.



#### New Publication

Kanazawa City has been conducting the habitat survey of fire flies since 1987. OUIK and Kanazawa City published the pamphlet to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this survey.



#### Please download at:

<http://www4.city.kanazawa.lg.jp/data/open/cnt/3/13112/1/kanazawahotarumap30noayumi.pdf>

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