

# OUIK Newsletter

Spring 2020



UNU academic students foraging for mushrooms@Shunran-no-Sato, Noto cho (p9)

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## IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030: SDGs Café 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

We continued to hold SDGs Café, a program begun in April 2019 in partnership with local community members. Part of the IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030 project, SDGs Café is a forum where various stakeholders take part in imagining Kanazawa in 2030. The last newsletter covered the first five events. Here we summarize events 6 through 10.

In the 6th event, participants explored development that draws on Kanazawa's unique cultural heritage. Jun Ura (President, NPO Syuto Kanazawa) spoke on the theme "Community Development with Culture," a concept vital to plans for implementing the SDGs authentically. Kanazawa has a rich heritage of traditions and culture, including many properties and buildings developed by the Maeda family. Despite their high concentration along the Japan Sea, such properties "aren't being used to their potential," said Ura, noting that the first step in grassroots development is when citizens take a fresh look at their local culture.



In the 17 SDGs, there is just one goal that addresses the topic directly, and that's Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. "I think there should be more. After all, it's hard to do development and sustainability together," said Ura. He suggested, "Maybe we should become more familiar with the culture that makes the region special."



The traditional crafts of Hokuriku and Kanazawa are one aspect of the region's culture attracting attention today, as indicated by plans in 2020 to move the National Craft Museum to Kanazawa, making it the first national museum on the Japan Sea coast, and also to host the International Hokuriku Kogei Summit. Ura expressed his expectations: "The crafts of places like Komatsu and Kanazawa could continue to exist sustainably if local communities rediscovered their value. I hope moving the museum here will make the region a national hub for

crafts. I also would like to see Kanazawa create new demand for crafts as the heart of Hokuriku."

The 7th event was on a popular theme: "Kanazawa's Action for Climate Change."

Three speakers led a discussion on what citizens can do to address climate change: Kanako Oku (President, Association for Re-Designing Earth's Future), who shared how she imagines Kanazawa in 2030, Ikuho Kochi (Kanazawa University), who introduced the topic, and Mariko Aoumi (Kanazawa Eco Life Club), who led the second half.

Oku, a mother of two and co-operator of an inn alongside her husband, talked about how student climate movements overseas got her to recognize her own responsibility to take action, leading her to launch the association with community members who resonated.



Kochi, who teaches environmental issues at Kanazawa University, had just participated in a Climate Reality Leadership Corps training in Tokyo organized by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. She shared the current data on climate change she learned there along with Al Gore's moving message. She also reviewed the current state of climate change while looking at data, which showed that fossil fuel use is the greatest source of greenhouse gases, and made suggestions on the kinds of solutions that should be executed going forward. She stated that we need to "do what we can now" before it's too late for future generations.

Responding to Kochi's talk, Aoumi commented, "We need to respond as a big team, not just each person doing it on their own. I would like to hear the wisdom you all



have about what we can do to bring the different movements together." She then led a discussion with participants about what entire communities can do. OUIK Office Manager Mikiko Nagai, who served as facilitator, commented: "Perhaps the best method is to switch the energy we use to renewables. In 10 years we

don't want to be asked, 'Why didn't you do anything?' Don't we want to hear, 'Actually, there's this amazing café called SDGs Café, and I heard it began there'? For that to happen, I think we need to monitor the community's greenhouse gas emissions and reduce them together."

The 8th theme was "What is Needed to Connect with Others and Help Each Other? -Thinking About a New Form of Partnership." Aya Kasama (Kanazawa City Government), who worked on preparation of the Kanazawa Future Scenarios (Kanazawa SDGs Action Plan), shared how she imagines Kanazawa in 2030, and Takushi Hiroishi (Representative Director, K.K. Empublic) gave useful input to the discussion.



Every one of the SDGs is broad in scope, unachievable through the efforts of any one person. This makes partnership essential, "So important that partnership has its own goal, Goal 17," said OUIK Office Manager Mikiko Nagai, beginning the café by speaking on the importance of partnerships for achieving the SDGs.

Kanazawa City, JCI Kanazawa and UNU-IAS OUIK launched IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030 in March 2019, advancing a process of thinking about action plans from 2020 onward in true partnership with local citizens. Kasama asserted, "We really want to follow a process where everything is considered from a first-person perspective, where everyone can believe that 'the Kanazawa SDGs are *our* goals'—the targets we set, the action plans we made, all the way to checking whether we are following through on the actions." She said, "My biggest wish, or dream, is that in 2030, Kanazawa becomes the place where it's natural and easy for everyone to join hands when a problem needs to be solved."

Next, Hiroishi, who works on various partnership projects, introduced problem-solving processes and methods. "What is a problem-free situation? And is it really a good approach to solve



problems one by one? At the end of the day it might be quicker, and cheaper overall, if we try to create the conditions in which everyone is happy," he said. Using Paris's urban farms and San Francisco's water bottle refill stations as examples, Hiroishi explained how a single initiative can solve problems on multiple fronts and how people with different ideas working together can change entire social systems. When individuals are overwhelmed, the important thing is cooperation, or partnership. Ideally, partnership grows as more people decide to share an actual problem and work together, he said. Hiroishi closed his talk with the observation: "Changing society is a challenge, and this café is a fantastic forum for taking on such a challenge."



The 9th theme was "Thinking about Kanazawa's Public Transport in 2030." Participants discussed the question "How do we want transportation in Kanazawa to be in 2030?" from a citizen's perspective, especially as it related to well-being and town attractiveness. Providing ideas was Derk Loorbach (Director, Dutch Research Institute for Transitions and Professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam), pioneer of transition management and visiting from the Netherlands, and imagining Kanazawa in 2030 was presented by Masahiro Kagishi (Nihonkai Consultant Co., Ltd.), the mastermind and secretary of Kanazawa's "machinori" bicycle rental system.

#### What is transition?

In the context of sustainable development, transition is a concept that recognizes the need not only to build consensus at the grassroots level, but also to develop problem-solving methodologies that anticipate structural changes.



When traveling to Barcelona, Spain, three years before the event, Kagishi had conducted a mobility survey where he interviewed local transport businesses

about public transit. One interview question was "Why is



mobility necessary?" The answers that came back said "Happiness" and "Our mission is to support human activity and orchestrate happy urban living. To do that, we provide mobility services." Taking this as a key concept, Kagishi said he wants to realize "mobility (public transit) as a vehicle for people to access happiness." To achieve this means that stakeholders such as citizens, businesses, local government, and retailers must share a common vision, like "happiness."



Derk, who is involved in both research and real-life applications, next offered ideas on ways to rebuild mobility systems and make the transition.

"For example, climate change and biodiversity loss are recognized worldwide, but there is no real action. People are aware of it and they even know the solution. How can we make a big change there? That's what we focus on," he said. According to Derk, transition research is about recognizing that sometimes we need to bring critical thinking to the questions of why things don't change, and what kind of change is possible. "When I talk about transition, some people take a negative stance and call me an idealist or a dreamer, saying it can't be done, or it costs money. But that's not true. It isn't easy to believe in the future, but increasing the number of people who believe in change and the future is a part of the transition process," he said. Transition begins when those people connect in useful ways and start experimenting and trying different methods. As it grows, the shape becomes visible. In Kanazawa, for example, the number of bike lanes has increased considerably the past few years. Likewise, things that will be considered normal in the future but aren't common now will gradually become the norm.

In the closing Q&A session, there was a lively discussion centered on tourism in Kanazawa and the bicycle situation in the Netherlands.



The 10th event was dedicated to "SDGs x Sports" and invited Sachi Haida (Deputy General Manager, Business Planning Department, and head of Hometown



Promotion Office, Zweigen Kanazawa Football) to imagine the Zweigen Kanazawa football team's identity and activities in 2030. Joining to introduce the topic was Cosmo Takagi (Research Associate, UNU-IAS OUIK and Project Research Associate, Keio University), who played football in Brazil as part of a study-abroad program. Zweigen Kanazawa is a J2 League football club that counts all of Ishikawa Prefecture, including Kanazawa, as its hometown. Their club philosophy means "Making 'fight' local tradition," which expresses their desire to make the fighting spirit a new tradition in Ishikawa, where many things are described as traditional. The club also strives to be a beloved member of the community, holding soccer classes and many other hometown activities. According to Haida, the club hopes to "become the pride and symbol of Ishikawa residents by 2030" and to "join everyone in the region in making Ishikawa and Kanazawa an exciting place to live." Haida closed by saying, "We plan to carry out SDGs projects and community partnerships and more activities with our stakeholders to make Ishikawa a place where you can feel more alive."



Next, Takagi presented examples of football teams working on the SDGs and environmental and social issues in different countries. One example was the UK's Forest Green Rovers FC, which is recognized as the world's greenest football club, certified even by the United Nations. They installed solar PV panels on their stadium which help supply all of the electricity the stadium requires with solar power. Kawasaki Frontale in Japan has contributed to SDGs Goal 4: Quality Education by donating math workbooks so kids can learn arithmetic through counting football game scores. Takagi said, "It would be great if we could create 'Goal 18: Fostering a Rich Sports Culture' or something to make SDGs action useful and fun while protecting Kanazawa's

culture," suggesting how Kanazawa could implement the SDGs in a manner that fits its identity.

The closing group discussions produced many ideas, such as "Incorporate traditional crafts into sports merchandise" and "To connect with the goal of reducing food loss and waste, athletes could visit schools and help students eat all of the food, or enjoy a meal together while talking about nutritional balance."



### SDGs Mii's Feast Project 6<sup>th</sup> - Final

OUIK has been supporting educational activities that use GIAHS Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi to promote sustainability. In May 2019 the Maruyama Group, which conducts community educational activities in Wajima City, Ishikawa, in cooperation with Mii Elementary School, started an environmental education project called the SDGs Mii's Feast Project. For the last year, participants have been learning about local nature and traditions, and their connections, through the process of preparing tasty foods based on the picture book *Let's Make a Harvest Feast!* Getting out of the classroom to listen to the stories of local people, make food with friends, think on their own, and get their hands dirty nurtures the children's creative thinking, pride in community, and appreciation for nature in satoyama. Continuing from the previous newsletter, here we summarize the 6th to the final event.



The 6th event, held in October, offered a full taste of satoyama in autumn, everything from chestnut

gathering to insect observation. Chestnut (*kuri*) trees are plentiful in this region, in part because they were traditionally used in daily living, to make firewood and charcoal, for example. This time, participants prepared a dish called *kachiguri*, made from boiling chestnuts from a wild species called *shibaguri*.



While the chestnuts were boiling, children learned about snakes by looking at photos and a shed skin.

Exploring the satoyama demands caution in autumn, when vipers (*mamushi*) come out to mate and are more prone to bite. The children learned that some snake species have a fixed number of rows of scales on their body, and that by counting scales on the thickest part of a snake skin, one can determine its species. The children were fascinated by the snakeskin, something they don't often see.

After that, they looked at water insects and azuki beans planted between the rice fields, giving a full-sensory experience of autumn satoyama and lessons about their connection to various lifeforms. They even found rare *Cybister chinensis* diving beetles, making it a memorable time.

The 7th event, held in November, was a "roundup" session focused on international food issues, tasting food from various countries, and desalinating the *warabi no shiozuke* (salt-cured bracken fiddleheads) which they made in the spring.

First, Yoko Tomita from OUIK talked about global food issues from an SDGs perspective. They then discussed hunger issues while looking at the UN WFP's *Hunger Map*. The students checked different countries on a globe placed on their table, saying things like "It's serious in Africa" or "Japan is completely fine." The children seemed to understand that people who live in developed countries need to be serious about fighting hunger, because climate change and the economic activities of developed countries are causal factors.





Next, they looked at food spreads around the world, using the book *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio. They gave presentations on the things they noticed in the photos of families in different countries with one week's amount of the food they eat. Lots of ideas emerged: "There's a lot of bread. Maybe bread is their staple?" "There are a lot of vegetables but no meat." "Big family! Their clothes are so different from those in Japan." The types and amount of food varied widely between countries and regions, as did family personalities, and many of the foods seemed foreign to the children.

Next, Yuki Hagino (President, Maruyama Group) taught how to desalinate the salt-cured bracken fiddleheads everyone made in May. According to Hagino, using a copper pot when boiling and desalinating vegetables is a wisdom passed down from older generations. Copper ions attach to the chlorophyll,



which keeps the ingredients from changing color. At the end, it was time to taste some international food. Mr. Suzuki (Maruyama Group) cooked a dish called *tô*, which he often ate in Burkina Faso, OUIK's intern Felix cooked *rösti* from Switzerland, and Tomita prepared toast with Vegemite, a popular condiment in the UK and Australia. Food varies widely with the location, environment, and culture where people live. Hagino closed with the comment, "Nowadays, you can eat food from all over the world wherever you are. But please don't forget the taste of the local foods you grew up with."



In the 8th and final event, students participated in an ancient festival in Okunoto (northern part of Noto Peninsula) called Aenokoto. Every year on December 5, farmers give thanks to the year's rice harvest by inviting the deities of the rice field into their house, where they draw a bath and offer food to give the deities a break

until spring. The same ritual is performed in February 9 of the following year to send the deities out and pray for an abundant harvest. Because they had helped gather ingredients at previous events over the last year, 12 students from 4th, 5th, and 6th grades participated in the ritual of offering food.



When the festival ceremony began, the host drew the deities in from the fields, saying, "The rice field *kami* has come back! Let's welcome them!" calling to members of the house and directing the deities to the hearth. After offering some warm amazake (sweet mild sake), they then guided the deities to the bath for some relaxation. The feast followed. At the table, two meals were prepared, one each for the husband and wife deities. Forked daikon, a *masu* box heaped with red rice, and a stew (*nishime*) of bracken and osmund fiddleheads, daikon, carrots, konjac, and deep-fried tofu. There was even a side dish called *aimaze*, with sautéed daikon, carrots and crushed soybeans (*uchimame*). Many generations ago when there were no refrigerators and meat and fish were harder to come by, *uchimame* were a valuable protein source. And a majestic sea bream—complete from head to tail—and large balls of *ohagi* mochi. Soup and pickles. Such an elaborate meal signifies that "rice farming is laborious and tiresome, so please eat your fill!"



Five 6th graders spoke on behalf of the group. "Kami of the rice fields, these are the salted fiddleheads we foraged in May in Maruyama. This is the *agodashi* we made in July in Suzu. These are the chestnuts we gathered and then dried and pounded in October in



Maruyama." After a hearty "Thank you!" from everyone, the event closed with a taiko performance. The deities of the rice field must certainly have enjoyed this year's feast prepared by Mii Elementary School students.

Satoyama in places like Mii offers a buffet of choices for delighting in nature's gifts and making things by hand. It's important that adults create an environment for elementary school students and other children in the height of their receptivity to come in full-sensory contact with local nature and wisdom derived from the land.



### Symposium "How Can Creative Culture Help Sustainability of the Cities"

Date: 2019/10/16

Venue : Kanazawa Bunka Hall

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network is a network of cities worldwide that aim to use cultural resources, or creativity, as a driving force for sustainable development. The network includes more than 180 cities focused on crafts and folk art, music, media art, and other creative fields. Kanazawa, designated as a Creative City of crafts and folk art in 2009, held the UNESCO Creative Cities Network Crafts and Folk Art Subnetwork Meeting 2019 to commemorate its 10th anniversary. This symposium was hosted by UNU-IAS OUIK as a side event.

OUIK Director Tsunao Watanabe opened the event with a review of the previous decade and an invitation to the attendees to explore answers to the event's theme.



Bernard Catrysse (Director, Arts Flanders Japan) gave a keynote speech titled, "Voice of the SDGs Played by the Music Creation City, Ghent." Ghent, Belgium, a sister city of

Kanazawa, joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the music field in 2009, the same year as Kanazawa. A self-described "pocket-sized metropolis," Ghent is a small but ancient city focused on achieving the SDGs in its aim to be an enjoyable place to live and work. Catrysse introduced several examples of city initiatives, many linking problem-solving to cultural activities. These included Ghent en Garde, a project for sustainable food

production and consumption; a "plastic-free month"; and a campaign where neighboring cities competed in SDGs implementation. Catrysse closed with the comment, "I said that culture connects people, but music especially so. It is the universal language of all countries. It can transcend language barriers and differences in culture and background. And incorporating the SDGs into public policy is essential for making our towns a warm place for future residents, for creating a place for all people to live in security."



This was followed by a panel discussion. The theme was "Creativity Bridging Craft and SDGs" and was moderated by Mikiko Nagai, OUIK Office Manager.

To start, Yukina Yasue (Senior Managing Director, Universal Design Ishikawa) spoke on the role of craft art in enhancing inclusion and on projects and outcomes in Kanazawa, citing tea ceremony with tea bowls made by people with disabilities and Dialogue in the Dark as examples.

Next, Worolun Boonyasurat (Director, Institute for Social Research, Chiang Mai University) introduced examples of sustainability in



crafts and folk art from Chiang Mai, Thailand. According to Boonyasurat, the arts and culture are a centerpiece of Chiang Mai's vision, and the city is planning events and developing action plans focused on its uniqueness and diversity. She emphasized that "strengthening the Creative Cities Network and transmitting it to the next generation is vital for our city."



Lastly, OUIK researcher Juan Pastor-Ivars gave a talk on traditional Japanese gardens as a platform for the SDGs and how they can be used to achieve the SDGs targets. Pastor-

Ivars said that Japanese gardens bring together three elements: people, crafts, and nature. He gave numerous examples of how gardens are tied to arts and crafts, serving as a studio or providing resources to lacquer artisans and silk dyers, or as a space for tea ceremonies. "Gardens connect people with nature. By preserving gardens, we can maintain that connection," he said. After the three presentations, a discussion involving the audience was held. One person asked a question about initiatives in Chiang Mai, another told a story from experience, and another talked about the importance of having shared values and collaborating as a network.

### Green Infrastructure Starting from Gardens in Temples and Shrines – Vol. 1

Date: 2019/10/22

Venue : Shinrensha Temple

This workshop held at Shinrensha Garden combined the regular garden cleaning with a seminar taught by Kota Maruya (Kanazawa University) and Kei Sakamura (Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology). Special guest Tamano Hayashi (Ryukoku University) gave the keynote speech.

OUIK Research Associate Juan Pastor-Ivars began with an explanation of the day's activities. Most of the extant traditional gardens in Kanazawa, of which there are many, face conservation challenges, and this cleaning workshop was proving effective as a new garden management system. Some 340 volunteers had participated thus far, and the activities were becoming increasingly integrated into the daily lives of local residents. Pastor-Ivars asked participants to fill out a questionnaire before and after the cleaning. The results showed that positive emotions increased and negative emotions decreased as a result of cleaning the garden, suggesting that cleaning benefits participants as well as garden owners.

Next, Hayashi, visiting from Ryukoku University in Shiga prefecture, spoke on envisioning cultural

landscapes of the past. If the cultural landscape and biodiversity of Japanese gardens in Kanazawa is a micro perspective, Hayashi's talk was more about the macro perspective. Using a map of the area around Lake Biwa in Shiga, participants observed connections between people and nature from a macro level. Most of Japan's natural landscape is what's known as "secondary nature," or nature that has been deliberately managed by humans. This type of nature has continually changed with changes in human lifestyles and social order. Hayashi's research focuses on the natural environment and cultural landscapes of the past, and investigating



changes in land use and the natural environment. "Investigating ways of using the natural environment that exist unchanged from long ago can reveal how people can relate to nature sustainably, or industries that fit the environment of the local land," she said. The talks were followed by a garden cleaning. Breaking into three groups, the participants got to work, mostly gathering fallen leaves that had accumulated with the passing autumn. Garden architect Tsukasa Nakami, who happened to be present, shared some expert knowledge and techniques that the public don't often learn about, such as how to care for moss. With more than a dozen participating, the garden was clean in about an hour. Participants got a physical sense of how challenging it would be for the owner or manager to do this work all by themselves.



After the cleaning, participants filled out the usual questionnaire and had a discussion session where they made suggestions for future activities and ways to utilize the garden. Spending time in a garden surrounded by nature gave these urbanites the chance to connect with nature, talk to other people, and deepen relationships through a common purpose. The participants seemed enjoyed learning in the beautiful garden, and everyone seemed satisfied.

### International Conference "Achieving SDGs Through the Conservation of GIAHS"

Date: 2019/10/30

Venue: Kanazawa Bunka Hall

UNU-IAS has been conducting a three-year (begun in January 2018) comparative research project with the National Institute of Agricultural Sciences of the Korea Rural Development Administration (RDA) on FAO-designated Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (NIAHS) around the world. This conference was held to share experiences from both countries on the GIAHS designation's impact and conservation challenges, with a particular focus on the relevance of GIAHS conservation to achievement of the SDGs.





Reporting on GIAHS and NIAHS activities in Korea were Dr. Dae Yong Hwang (senior agricultural researcher, RDA), Dr. Myeong Cheol Jeong (researcher, RDA), Jong Gon Kim (head of the Hadong Tea Producers Association, Hadong County), Dr. Hag Yeo You (research committee member, Chungnam Institute), and Yoo Jick Lee (Vice President, Korea Rural Heritage Association). They spoke on the many functions of traditional tea farming in Hadong, and on the sustainability of the Geumsan Traditional Ginseng Agricultural System.

From Japan, Dr. Osamu Saito (Academic Program Director, UNU-IAS), Junko Owada (Japan GIAHS Expert Committee member), Naoyuki Kaneda (Director, Planning and Finance Section, Suzu City), and Tomoe Aota (Deputy Director, Agriculture and Fisheries Department, Shiga Prefecture) shared their analysis of natural capital and ecosystem services in the integrated social and ecological systems of Noto; the linking of art, GIAHS and SDGs in Suzu; and the Lake Biwa System, which is undergoing GIAHS application.

Dr. Evonne Yiu (UNU-IAS Research Fellow) moderated a panel discussion on the revitalization of GIAHS regions and their contribution to achievement of international goals such as the SDGs. Lee said that in Korea, the SDGs are still mainly taken up by the central and provincial governments, so he was impressed by Suzu City's efforts at the municipal level. He hopes to see the SDGs used as monitoring indicators for the GIAHS action plan in Korea. Given that the low public profile of GIAHS is a challenge shared by Japan and Korea, Aota suggested that the SDGs could be helpful in raising GIAHS awareness, since the SDGs have gained wider recognition among companies and civil society in Japan.

Koji Nakamura (Kanazawa University Emeritus Professor and Japan Chairman, East Asia Research Association for Agricultural Heritage Society (ERAHS)) summarized the conference discussions. He stressed that the challenge of GIAHS conservation only gets harder after designation, and that the cycle of monitoring, action plan revision, and upscaling must be pursued with all stakeholders in the region. Human resource development is therefore crucial, he said, highlighting the success of the GIAHS Meister program in Ifugao, Philippines, which he has worked on for many years.

Closing remarks were then delivered by Shinji Terasaki (Director, Ishikawa Prefecture Satoyama Promotion Office). He thanked the RDA and all of the attendees, expressed future aspirations, and drew the four-hour conference to a close.



### GIAHS Academic Programme 2019

Date: 2019/11/9-11

Location : Noto area

The second GIAHS Academic Programme was held. Its aim is to contribute to sustainable development by providing capacity development training to candidates from mainly developing countries who will support GIAHS designation and regional revitalization in their home countries. As in the previous year, the three-day trip was co-organized by Ishikawa Prefecture, UNU-IAS academic programme, and OUIK. Seventeen international students from UNU, Kanazawa University, Nagoya University, Tohoku University, and Tokyo University of Agriculture and representing 13 countries visited the Noto region to study development initiatives that utilize Satoyama and Satoumi.



On the first day they visited the Maruyama Group, dedicated to land-based living in Wajima City; an agricultural volunteering activity; and an oyster farm in Anamizu. They listened to the stories of people who moved to the region, and saw various examples of collaboration with local people.





On the second day, the group learned about a system in which low-valued local timber can be exchanged for local currency, and visited a "timber station" where these exchanges take place. Next, they visited Shunran-no-Sato, a farm inn where visitors can get a taste of real satoyama life, and foraged mushrooms with

guidance from its director-general, Kiichiro Tada. In the afternoon, they returned to Wajima and visited the Nigyou Washi studio, where they make paper using traditional methods. Here, the students tried their hand at papermaking using materials gathered from nearby satoyama.

On the morning of the final day, the group toured a morning market in Wajima. Then they moved to a conference room at Noto Airport and listened to a talk by Koji Ito (Associate Professor, Noto School, Kanazawa University) on the Noto Satoyama Satoumi SDGs Meister Training Program. This program seeks to develop young leaders who will play a role in utilizing natural resources to revitalize the Noto region, which struggles with population aging and decline. Because graduates are also involved program lectures, students can conduct research and gain knowledge in a range of fields.



A student presentation and a discussion session were held in the afternoon. This academic programme is part of the UNU-IAS Trans-disciplinary and Graduate Research Seminar (TGRS). Students conduct three months of preliminary research on the main theme, population aging and decline, and on one of three sub-themes, education, sustainable livelihoods, and tourism.

In their presentations, the students presented their research with additional insights into Noto's satoyama gained over the previous three days, along with strategies and ideas for addressing regional challenges. The ideas were plentiful, including how to increase visitors to the region, a joint program for engaging domestic and international students in local activities, and a promotional strategy for eco-tourism. Local community members also participated, and a lively discussion unfolded for three hours. The students will continue doing research to give shape to their ideas.

## Hokuriku SDGs Stakeholder Meeting 2019

Date: 2019/12/17

Venue : The Kanazawa Theatre

This meeting was held as a regional version of the Stakeholders Meeting for Revision of the SDGs Implementation Guidelines hosted at the UNU Headquarters on September 6, 2019. Businesses, local governments and citizens involved in SDGs action across Hokuriku discussed the region's future and presented a sustainable plan for the next generation.

In his opening remarks, Kazuhiko Takemoto (Senior Visiting Professor, UNU-IAS) spoke on the importance of the meeting being held in a rural area when the SDGs Implementation Guidelines were set to be revised around the same time.



Next, special guest Kentaro Endo, Counselor of the Cabinet Office Regional Revitalization Promotion Secretariat, gave a greeting and



explained national policies for achieving the SDGs and regional revitalization.

Tokutaro Hiramoto (Associate Professor and Director, SDGs Promotion Centre, Kanazawa Institute of Technology) shared information and explained the purpose of the meeting and how to proceed with the breakout sessions.

The meeting was divided into five subsequent sessions, and each group produced a specific plan for Hokuriku in 2030 in the form of a scenario.

1. What kind of city is livable for everyone?
2. Innovation: Production in our local communities and transmission to the world
3. Education: Careers and learning in a 100-year lifetime society



4. Partnership: A mechanism that brings together people's strengths in our local communities
5. Diversity: Diversity and inclusion in decision-making



During the session, members first looked over materials such as the NRI Future Chronological Table 2020-2100 and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' TECH Strategy for the Future. Then they drew up a vision of what work styles and lifestyles might be like in 2045. Next, members created a "persona," a hypothetical person whose life they would simulate through an example scenario, including specific details of their life story and turning points. After the afternoon breakout sessions, the scenarios were reported to and received feedback from students who joined the meeting on their way home from school. Many ideas were shared, such as the systems that will be enabled by technological advances and changes in family structure.



Tsunao Watanabe (Director, OUIK) then gave the closing remarks, expressing his hopes for future promotion of the SDGs in Hokuriku. He also gave words of

appreciation to the participants and the students who joined the final sharing session.

### IFLA the Cultural Landscape Working Group International Symposium

**Date: 2019/11/16-20**

**Location: Seoul, Korea**

OUIK Research Associate Juan Pastor-Ivars attended the Cultural Landscape Working Group international symposium of the International Federation of



Landscape Architects (IFLA) in Seoul, Korea. The theme of the symposium, hosted by Seoul National University, was "Historic Cultural Landscapes: Succession, Sustenance and Sustainability."

Pastor-Ivars presented his research on the sustainable conservation of Kanazawa's Nagamachi district, traditional gardens and other historic cultural landscapes, and exchanged ideas with researchers from other parts of the world.

On his final day, he visited cultural and historic heritage sites from Korea's Silla period, including gardens and sacred mountains, which are recognized as candidates for the UNESCO World Heritage list.



### New Staff Member

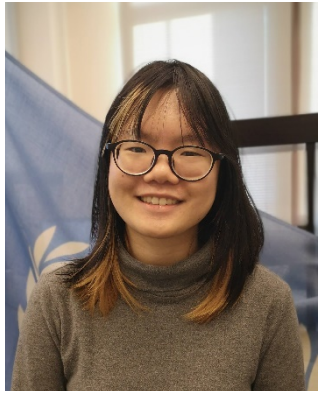


**Sayako  
Koyama**

#### Research Associate

She completed 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 worked as a freelance translator especially in the field of environmental conservation. She then moved to Ishikawa Prefecture and was entrusted to support OUIK's research. She also worked as a staff member of Kanazawa University on the Satoyama Satoumi Meister Training Program. At present, she works as a research associate of OUIK focusing on biocultural diversity in Noto region and Noto GIAHS (the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems). She also supports Noto SDGs Lab. in Suzu City as a collaborative researcher.



**Maythawee  
Ratchatawijin**

**4th year student,  
Department of  
Transdisciplinary Science  
and Engineering, School of  
Environment and Society,  
Tokyo Institute (Internship:  
Dec 2019 – March 2020)**

Three months as an intern at OUIK help me understand about 1) activities in OUIK, 2) biocultural diversity in Ishikawa and Kanazawa and 3) career path as a researcher. By participating as a staff in “Hokuriku SDGs stakeholder meeting 2019” and “SDGs café #9 – Kanazawa transportation in 2030”, I learned about inclusive decision-making in city level. I found Kanazawa citizens active and well-aware of biocultural diversity reflecting the result of UNESCO designation of Kanazawa as creative city. My main contributions at OUIK are 1) designing new look of OUIK website including blogs extracted from booklet’s chapter to boost online access and 2) producing video promotion for Japanese garden research project. From mentioned work, I gained deeper understanding of Japanese garden’s role in biocultural diversity conservation that it serves the city not only through aesthetic elements but also through ecological services. As I got to join team meeting and see the research progress from proposal planning, report writing to public outreach, my career path as a researcher becomes clearer. Since my interest falls between science communication and community-related research, I see how both interests meet in real situation and got highly motivated. The opportunity to be in the city that is rich in biocultural diversity and surrounded by talented and inspiring people also induces my personal growth in many ways. I deeply appreciate this chance and encourage those who are interested in similar experience to pursue this internship opportunity.

### Dear Readers

Thanks for your support and collaboration with OUIK. During the last fiscal year, we were able to conduct our research activities with the cooperation of local communities and various partners. This fiscal year, we will continue our work on conserving biodiversity and creating a sustainable society in Ishikawa and Kanazawa. Due to the spread of COVID-19, a state of emergency has been declared in Ishikawa Prefecture. We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to those who have been

affected and whose lives have been affected by the spread of the virus.

OUIK decided to postpone or cancel several events and activities, including the event "Japanese Garden and SDGs" scheduled for 29 February in Tokyo. We appreciate your understanding in this decision to prioritize the health and safety of everyone involved. We will continue to shift our activities to online until the spread of the virus is contained.

More information can be found on the website and OUIK's Facebook page.

We hope that this situation will be resolved as soon as possible, and that everyone will stay safe until then.

OUIK Staff

Published: April 2020

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