

Start of Workshop for Nature and Local Infrastructure

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1. Nature and local infrastructure

In accordance with the enforcement of the Law for Development of Tsunami Disaster Prevention Areas in December 2011, individual municipalities are preparing "Plan for Comprehensive Promotion of Development of Tsunami Disaster Prevention Areas" ("Promotion Plan") assuming the inundation that may occur when hit by the maximum level of tsunami.

In order to increase promptly the time and route available for evacuation, it is necessary to use all possible resources effective for disaster prevention, such as natural features such as dune and swamp, features of local scale such as trees, temples and shrines taken good care of by local community, and even human resources and transfer of experience, as well as public disaster prevention facilities. The National Institute for Land and

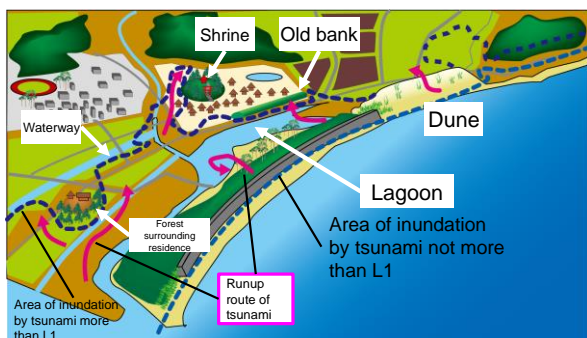


Figure 1. Image of Disaster Reduction by Nature and Local Infrastructure



Figure 2. Workshop concerning of Transfer of Experience in Tsunami Disaster

Infrastructure Management (NILIM), collectively referring to the above as "nature and local infrastructure," has started research in fiscal 2014.

2. Holding cross-sectional workshop

Since nature and local infrastructure include those with various scales and qualities, scientific groups to which researchers belong are various. It is indispensable not only to conduct research individually but also to establish the method of synthesizing the findings of researches ongoing in each field in local plans.

Therefore, NILIM has decided to hold cross-sectional workshops in order to facilitate information exchange between the researchers of various fields studying "tsunami disaster reduction" and between private sector, industry, academia and government. In fiscal 2014, NILIM held "Workshop for Transfer of Experience in Tsunami Disaster" inviting representatives from private sector, academia, and government who study on transfer of experience for tsunami disaster reduction.

In the workshop, Professor SATO Shinji, University of Tokyo, served as coordinator and researchers in Kagawa University and Tohoku University, representatives from the Department of Public Works, Miyagi Prefecture, and representatives of NPOs developing activities in Rikuzen-Takata City presented topics, and they discussed what they can do and how they can collaborate in the positions of private sector, academia, and government, respectively in order to make country-wide activities for transfer of disaster experience more effective.

3. Future development

The aforementioned workshop was held as an internal meeting in the initial year (fiscal 2014) but will be held in collaboration with the Cabinet Office and local Regional Development Bureaus. Details of this project are to be disclosed in the following homepage.

http://www.nilim.go.jp/lab/fcg/lab0/02_07.html

[Reference]

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