

Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers
Japan-ASEAN Collaboration Research Program on Innovative Humanosphere in Southeast Asia:
In search of Wisdom toward Compatibility Growth and Community in the World

Dispatch Report

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Place of fieldwork: Philippines

Name: YAMAMOTO Hiroyuki

The frequency of effects of natural hazards, such as weather extremes, climate changes, and geophysical events (such as earthquakes), on human physical and economic well-being has increased alarmingly. The extent to which societies are vulnerable to the negative effects of these hazards and events is largely determined by their social and economic structures. The development of a model for disaster risk management based on present development in Asia with sufficient understanding of local contexts is an urgent task.

The purpose of this study is to examine the ways in which information regarding disasters and disaster risk management are gathered and distributed in societies experiencing rapid social change using the Philippines as a case study. Rapid social change often includes frequent migrations of people, frequent changes in a society's population, and/or flexibility of social roles. Rapid social change refers to vertical and horizontal movements of people and groups among social classes and to the flexibility of large proportions of the population regarding residence, occupation, and community, as has been generally observed in Southeast Asia. In societies experiencing rapid social change, knowledge and/or experiences are not easily shared among or accumulated by all of the society's members.

Field research was conducted at the disaster-affected area on Leyte island in November 2015. A jointly organized International Conference-Workshop titled Toward Building a Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, was held at Ateneo de Manila University on March 2nd and 3rd, 2016. Researchers on disaster risk management from the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan presented 24 papers, which included papers on coastal cities at risk, flood disaster risk management, culturally nuanced mental health and psychosocial support, disaster preparedness among students, supply chain networks, man-made disasters in road networks, and social capital and facebook use after disasters.