



ADRC Highlights

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TOPICS

Participation in International Conferences

¶ ADRC and IRP Participate in Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Panel in the US

¶ IRP Participates in Pre-Conference Forum of the 2016 ASPA Conference

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● Participation in International Conferences

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The 2016 American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Conference was held in the US city of Seattle, Washington, on March 18-22, 2016. The conference theme was “New Traditions in Public Administration: Reflecting on Challenges, Harnessing Opportunities,” to emphasize ASPA’s commitment to new frameworks and new opportunities. More than 150 panel sessions and 12 workshops focused on the growing interest in collaboration, creating smarter governance, and changes in public-sector ethics. More than 600 experts attended the conference.

The panel session, entitled “What’s Being Done to Prepare for ‘The Big One?’” featured four presenters and one discussant focusing on the anticipated challenges to the US Northwest in the event of a magnitude 9.0 or greater earthquake. This venue for sharing Japan’s experiences with US experts was an important opportunity to strengthen the sister–state relationship between Washington State and Hyogo Prefecture.

Mr. Shingo Kouchi, Senior Recovery Expert of International Recovery Platform (IRP), Kobe, Japan, gave a talk on the disaster experiences of Japan and Hyogo Prefecture in the context of the ongoing learning about preparedness and recovery on both sides of the Pacific. His presentation, entitled “How Can We Prepare for the Big One? Sharing Japan’s Experience,” provided important information about the ways that Japan’s ongoing prevention and recovery efforts could apply to the US Northwest. Mr. Kouchi’s presentation highlighted the value of strengthening the relationship between Washington State and Hyogo Prefecture for future risk reduction. IRP has been working hard to ensure that the lessons taught by Japan’s experiences with large-scale disasters are learned globally. The attendees gained insight into the ways that disaster-related challenges are currently being addressed in Japan and how Japan’s solutions could be applied in the US context. IRP would like to be engaged in sharing lessons on disaster recovery in close cooperation with ADRC.



IRP Participates in Pre-Conference Forum of the 2016 ASPA Conference

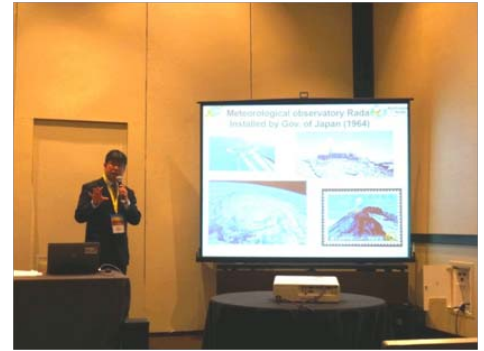
A Pre-Conference Forum was held on March 18 as an outgrowth of the 2016 ASPA Annual Conference theme – Reflecting on Challenges, Harnessing Opportunities. This one-day practice-oriented forum was comprised of moderated roundtable discussions and applied presentations addressing current global issues related to natural disasters, humanitarian crises, and conflict resolution. The emphasis was on practices that support synergistic governmental responses. The forum brought together practitioners and applied academics to illuminate the

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current challenges and share promising and successful examples. The topics included all phases of planning, mitigation, response, and recovery in emergency disaster management as well as crisis management and conflict resolution. Special attention was paid to engaging citizens and communities and to regions that are war-torn, confront continuing terrorist threats, are burdened with massive refugee resettlement, and face public health risks with respect to pandemics.

The forum was organized into four sessions that included global, regional, and local perspectives. Session 1, entitled “Disaster Preparation, Recovery, and Reconstruction in Japan and other Countries in the Far East” highlighted global climate and other influences on disaster responses in Japan and the Far East. Session 2 was entitled “Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Management at the State and Local Levels in the US Northwest.” Refugee resettlement issues in the US were presented to illustrate the challenges of managing refugees and immigrants in today’s context of massive human migrations. After the lunch break, Session 3 on “Getting to Yes in Pre- and Post-Conflict Circumstances” considered responses to conflicts in the African and Latin American contexts. The final session on “Emergency Management Support: Collaboration at the Federal, State, and Local Levels,” addressed the important issues of collaborative responses across jurisdictions for effective emergency management support.

ASPA Evergreen Chapter, co-sponsor of the Forum, organized Session 1, and invited Mr. Shingo Kouchi, Senior Recovery Expert of IRP to participate. He gave a talk on Japan’s disaster experience in the context of global disaster management with a presentation entitled “A Global Perspective of Disaster Management.” As a knowledge hub, IRP has been working hard to ensure that the lessons taught by Japan’s experiences with large-scale disasters are learned globally. These lessons could affect global perspectives on disaster management, and IRP is a key communicator for transmitting Japan’s knowledge of disaster management acquired through its extensive experience handling tragic disasters. The attendees gained insight into ways that disaster-related challenges are currently being addressed in Japan and in the global community, from emerging democracies with immature economies to those with more advanced political and economic systems.



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