

## Summary for Overseas Travel WENDI 2018-2019

Name	Ryo TSUCHIDA
School	Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability
Grade	2nd year in Master Course
Supervisor's name	Prof. Kaoru TAKARA
Travel period	08/30/2018~09/20/2018
UN agencies / International organization visited	UN Habitat Sri Lanka, International Organization for Migration in Sri Lanka
Theme of overseas travel	A Case Study of Actual Condition of Damage and its Rehabilitation of Hydro-Meteorological Disasters in Sri Lanka

### Outline of the activities (4 pages including photos, figures, etc.)

#### (1) Global leadership

Nowadays, global issues that society faces are complex. There are also lots of stakeholders whose interests are often different, so it is hard to make the best decision. How could we overcome it? In my view, leaders could be those who can overcome such intricacies and challenges and lead global (sometimes local) society to the next step. Such worldwide leaders should be able to figure out the complicated phenomena fully and make a clear-cut strategy to solve not only by a leader but also with followers. Organizing some facts would enable the leaders to understand the actual needs of each stakeholder and to find a better way to reach their compromise.

With great enthusiasm in this tailor-made overseas dispatch, I could negotiate my research plan and envisage my vision with stakeholders such as local people, UN officers, and national or local government officers. Through communicating with those people and by immersing myself into Sri Lankan society for three weeks, it became a wonderful opportunity to ponder on what “global leadership” means and why it is so importantly discussed in the 21st century.

#### (2) Scientific significance

It is important for us to recognize a gap among UN activities, government policy, and grassroots thoughts (including citizens and those groups) and to take measures to prevent and mitigate next disaster based on their understanding relevant problems and actions in order to bridge the gap after serious disasters and during rehabilitation from them. That is why, I conducted the field survey to articulate the gap among UN agencies, central and local governments, and residents during the flood disaster in Sri Lanka in May 2017.

This work aims (1) to clarify the action and the problem of UN, the governments, and residents in Sri Lanka, and (2) to understand the gap among their perspectives based on the field survey by the first author. Specifically, the research was conducted through a qualitative interview survey to UN officers, government officers, and local residents by utilizing four ideas of disaster ethnography: (a) What you must do for the next disaster, (b) What kinds of problems you can address for the next disaster, (c) What are things you must not do for the next disaster, and (d) What is the most difficult thing for you to decide at the moment (Hayashi et al. 2009). Moreover, the author conducted the field observation such as measuring flood water level into own house and using geographical information system.

Finally, we could observe the gaps what are necessary things and problems from the viewpoints of UN activities, the government, and grassroots in several ways: vulnerabilities, less consideration of supports, and slow implementation of recovery.



Fig.1 Measuring flood water level by their experience and marking it which water came during the flood disaster in May 2017.



Fig.2 Put clothes, chairs electric appliances to mitigate the damage of their livelihood on second or higher floor at own house



(3) Originality/Universality

In Sri Lanka, the seasonal monsoon (mostly in May - September Southwest monsoon, we called “Yala” ) brings a lot of rain southwest of the island. In recent years, problems have become more apparent in affected areas due to heavy rain and cyclones becoming more frequent and larger scale in Sri Lanka.

The author found that in Sri Lanka, flood disaster research was fully conducted by engineers, however, to measure social impacts during and after the flood disaster was less consideration by literature survey. Moreover, there was less case study of flood disaster using disaster ethnography not only in Sri Lanka but also worldwide.

Besides, global warming and climate change are now gaining global attention. Especially, flood disasters, so-called hydro-meteorological disasters are characterized by high frequency and high intensity in globally and locally. Therefore, we need much better disaster prevention and mitigation under suffering disasters by global warming and climate change right now. The results of this research might provide insight into Sri Lankan as well as world disaster management for achieving better flood disaster rehabilitation.

(4) Reasons and motivations for visiting UN agencies / International organizations

In my future, after obtained Ph. D, I am eager to become a researcher and a practitioner both to solve global issues such as disaster problems. I think UN officers and international organization officers are professional people and dedicate his or her time to international society to pursue suitable and sustainable development. In my case, it was a great opportunity and collaboration to visit UN agencies and international organizations. Driven by my enthusiasm for disaster management, I would like to make a great effort to envisage my dream.

Finally, I sincerely appreciate this wonderful support from WENDI and Kyoto University.



Fig.3 Visiting a director at UN-Habitat Sri Lanka Office



Fig.4 Visiting a director at International Organization for Migration Sri Lanka Office