

ICHARM Open Day joined by local high school students

ICHARM held the annual "ICHARM Open Day" on April 17, 2015, as part of the open house event of the Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) during the Tsukuba Science & Technology Week in April. ICHARM's foreign researches and students studying in its master and doctoral degree programs worked hard to prepare oral and poster presentations for this event. This year, 64 high school students and four teachers were invited; 41 from the Ibaraki Prefectural Takezono High School and 23 from the Ibaraki Prefectural Namiki Secondary School. In this event, communication was all in English, including presentations and questions and answers.

The ICHARM Open Day began in the ICHARM auditorium, where ICHARM Advisor Kuniyoshi Takeuchi welcomed students from the local schools. Two speakers followed, each delivering a presentation that tapped into students' curiosity. The first speaker was Research Specialist Liu Tong from China, outlining water-related disasters and projects on which ICHARM is currently working. Ahsan Md Nasif, a doctoral course student from Bangladesh, spoke about water-related and other natural disasters that his country faces after explaining its geography and relevant conditions.

The second part of the event took place in a casual atmosphere, providing the students with an opportunity to encounter a more diverse range of people from ten different countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Venezuela. The students moved upstairs to an open space, where ICHARM's master and doctoral students prepared posters mainly to share disaster-related information about their countries. High school students were so eager to communicate with them, asking questions and getting answers in



Presentation by doctoral student
Nasif Ahsan

English, that they hardly had enough time to finish the conversation.

In the post-event questionnaire, many students commented that the event was fun because everyone there was friendly and easy to talk to, although many also wished for more time to talk. Thanks to people who helped this event happen,

4月のつくば科学技術週間に開催された土木研究所の一般公開に合わせ、ICHARMは今年も「ICHARM Open Day」を2015年4月17日に開催しました。ICHARMの外国人研究員と博士課程及び修士課程の外国人学生が一丸となり、つくば市の茨城県立竹園高等学校・茨城県立並木中等教育学校から64名(竹園41名、並木23名)の生徒の皆様及び各校先生方合わせて4名を招待しました。このイベントは、講演、発表及び質疑応答などすべて英語で行っています。

まず ICHARM 講堂において、竹内顧問の挨拶の後、専門研究員の Liu Tong 氏(中国)による水災害に関する概要説明及び ICHARM が取り組んでいるプロジェクトの概要に関する講演の後、博士課程の学生である Ahsan Md Nasif 氏(バングラディッシュ)による母国の地理などの概要、水災害、自然災害に関する講演を行い、生徒の皆さんの興味を引きつけました。

続いて ICHARM2 階に移動し、バングラディッシュ、コロンビア、フィジー、グアテマラ、インド、ケニア、ミャンマー、パキスタン、スリランカ、ベネズエラからの10カ国の学生によるポスターセッションを行いました。質疑のために設けた時間を利用し、生徒の皆さんはそれぞれ英語を駆使し、予定時間を越えるほど、とても熱心に研究員達に質問されていました。

参加者にお願したアンケート結果においては、「皆、明るく接してくれたので、気軽に話しかけることができ、楽しかった。」「もう少し話をしたかった」という意見が多く、生徒の皆さん、そして研究員の双方にとってとても有意義なイベントになったと思います。次世代の水文学研究者及び技術者を輩出すべく「ICHARM OpenDay」は来年も行う予定です。



Students and ICHARM staff at the entrance hall

Information Networking

the ICHARM Open Day this year was another success for both ICHARM and the participants, just like the previous ones. We are planning to hold it next year, hoping that someday young participants will join us as researcher or engineer to study and practice hydrology.

(Written by Takashi Shirai)