

Outreach

ICHARM Open Day 2018 held with local school students / ICHARM Open Day 2018 ～ 茨城県立竹園高等学校・茨城県立並木中等教育学校 ICHARM 訪問～



Students and ICHARM staff at the entrance hall

The ICHARM Open Day 2018 was held on April 16. It is organized annually as the open house event during the Tsukuba Science & Technology Week. Students studying in ICHARM's graduate programs (ICHARM students) and office assistants cooperated to prepare for this event. This year, local students, 73 from the Ibaraki Prefectural Takezono High School and 18 from the Ibaraki Prefectural Namiki Secondary School, were invited, as well as five teachers. The event contained a brief lecture, poster presentations, and Q&A sessions, which were all conducted in English.

The open day started with a lecture on experiences of field surveys entitled "Let's feel a wonderful world!" by Director Toshio Koike. The local students looked inspired a lot by this opening presentation. Then, Mr. Ahmad Tanjir Saif, a doctoral course student, gave a short lecture entitled "Water Related Disasters around the World." He explained water-related disasters such as droughts and floods and the impact of climate change around the world. The local students were inspired with the power-point slides and listened to the speech very earnestly.

After the lecture, the local students enjoyed poster presentations prepared by the ICHARM students from ten countries including Bangladesh, Brazil, Fiji, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Vietnam. The young students had a very exciting time communicating everything in English at each poster presentation.



Doctoral and Master course students explain their home countries' water-related disaster, climate, culture, etc

2018年4月16日、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先立ち、ICHARMは「ICHARM Open Day」を開催しました。2018年は、茨城県立竹園高等学校と茨城県立並木中等教育学校両校をお招きし、今年、生徒91名(竹園文系クラス34名、理系クラス39名、並木中3名、並木高15名)及び教諭5名の参加となりました。本イベントは、ICHARMの博士・修士課程の外国人学生及びICHARMスタッフが協力し、講演、発表及び質疑応答はすべて英語で行われます。

第1部の講演会のICHARM小池センター長による現地調査の体験談 "Let's feel a wonderful world!" では、生徒たちは好奇心を刺激されたようでした。博士課程の学生 Ahmed Tanjir Saif 氏による講演 "Water Related Disasters around the World" では、干ばつや洪水、気候変動による世界各国の災害について紹介しました。皆、パワーポイントに映し出されたスクリーンに目を凝らすとともに、発表に熱心に耳を傾けていました。

第2部のポスターセッションでは、10カ国の修士・博士学生(ブラジル、フィジー、インド、ネパール、パキスタン、フィリピン、スリランカ、タンザニア、ベトナム)が各々パネルを作成し、各国の文化紹介から水災害事情にわたる説明を行いました。生徒たちは、小グループに分かれ、各々のパネルの前で説明を受けるとともに、英語による質疑応答や、外国人学生たちとのコミュニケーションを楽しみました。

イベント終了後に生徒たちに行なったアンケートでは「世界中の様々な地域における洪水、地滑り、土石流などの自然災害について詳しく知ることができた。国ごとに全く異なる文化があることを改めてより現実的に感じる事ができた」「異文化に触れながら英語の学習ができた、とてもためになった」などイベントを評価する声が多くありました。ICHARMの外国人学生も、「日本の生徒たちと交流でき、自国の文化を共有できる良い機会を持つことができた」と、喜んでいました。

「ICHARM Open Day」は、日本の中高生と外国人学生双方にとって、世界の水問題を学ぶとても有意義な機会であり、次世代の水文学研究者や技術者の輩出に貢献すべく、来年も引き続き行なう予定です。

Afterwards, we collected comments from the students who participated in the event. Many students found presentations interesting and very informative. They also mentioned that they could learn deeply about the world's natural disasters such as floods, landslides and debris flows. And they could really feel that each country has its own unique culture. Others commented that it was a valuable opportunity in which they could interact with people from different countries in English while enjoying cross-cultural experience. The ICHARM students were also grateful for having this kind of opportunity to communicate with young Japanese students and share their culture and experience with them.

The ICHARM Open Day is a unique event to learn water issues around the world in English and has been fruitful for both local students and ICHARM. We will continue to hold this event every spring, hoping that young students will be inspired to become hydrologists in the future.

(Written by Mikiko Nakamura)