

Follow-up seminar for ICHARM graduates

ICHARM 卒業生のためのフォローアップセミナーの開催

ICHARM was established in March 2006. One and a half years later, the Disaster Management Policy Program (master's program) was launched in October 2007, followed by the Disaster Management Doctoral Program in October 2010. As of September 2022, 170 students completed the master's program, and 15 received a Ph.D. ICHARM has been organizing the follow-up seminar annually primarily to support graduates from its educational programs with their current work by providing advice and information on the latest knowledge and good practices. This year, the seminar was held on February 22, 2023, with 17 graduates who came to Japan to attend ICFM9, faculty members, current students, and other invited guests.

The seminar began with opening remarks by Ms. MUTSUYOSHI Emiko, the director general of JICA Tsukuba, and Emeritus Professor TAKEUCHI Kuniyoshi of Yamanashi University, who was also the founding director of ICHARM.

In the first session, Executive Director KOIKE Toshio of ICHARM delivered the keynote address about transformative steps, highlighting five principles to keep in mind as a scientist; he encouraged young scientists to keep scientific curiosity, respect diversity, cherish a reciprocal relationship with fellow scientists, work together, and be humble by always reflecting on one's actions. He concluded his speech by imparting a valuable message to the graduates, current students, and researchers of ICHARM on the path to becoming respectable scientists or practitioners in the field of water-related issues.

The next session was set to listen to voices from graduates. The voices were collected from the participants beforehand, and four selected alumni, Mr. Akshay Kowlessar from Mauritius, Mr. Rafael Silva Araujo from Brazil, Mr. Muhammad Masood from Bangladesh, and Mr. Roshan Kumara Jayasinghe from Sri Lanka, spoke about their work experiences, challenges they faced, and how they solved them using the knowledge gained at ICHARM.



Discussions among participants
参加者同士の議論の様子

The third session featured an interaction between former and current students. An enthusiastic discussion took place in response to questions raised by current students, which were mainly related to the experiences the graduates had in practicing what they had learned at ICHARM in their countries or organizations. Mr. Asif Naseer from Pakistan, Mr. Ravindra Vitthal Kale from India, Mr. Robin Kumar Biswas from Bangladesh, and Mr. Seenipellage Chaminda Sugeeshwara from Sri Lanka shared

their experiences. The seminar was held on February 22, 2023, with 17 graduates who came to Japan to attend ICFM9, faculty members, current students, and other invited guests.



Group photo
集合写真

ICHARM が設置されて一年半後の2007年10月に Disaster Management Policy Program (修士課程) が創設、さらに、2010年10月には Disaster Management Doctoral Program (博士課程) が創設され、2022年9月時点において170人の修士取得者および15人の博士取得者を輩出してきました。この修了者および ICHARM のさらなる発展を願い、2023年2月22日にフォローアップセミナーを開催し、ICFM9に参加するために来日した卒業生17名、ICHARM スタッフ、現役学生等が参加しました。

セミナーは、JICA つくばの睦好絵美子センター長、ICHARM 前センター長の竹内邦良名誉教授による開会の挨拶から始まりました。ICHARM 小池俊雄センター長による基調講演では、自身が大切にする科学者としての5つの心構え、すなわち、科学的好奇心の最大化、多様性の尊重、相互のつながりの理解、共に働くこと、謙虚であること、それぞれのテーマに基づいて、水問題の分野で科学者や実務の専門家として活躍する ICHARM の卒業生、現役学生、研究者に向けてのメッセージを伝えました。

続いてのセッション「卒業生の声」では、事前に参加者から声を募り、卒業生を代表してモーリシャスの Akshay Kowlessar 氏、ブラジルの Rafael Silva Araujo 氏、バングラデシュの Muhammad Masood 氏、スリランカの Roshan Kumara Jayasinghe 氏が、仕事の経験、その中で直面した課題について述べ、それぞれが ICHARM で得た知識を用いてこれらの課題にどう向き合ったかについて発表し、ディスカッションが行われました。

続いてのセッションでは、「卒業生と在校生の交流」をテーマに、「ICHARM で学んだことをどのように自分の国や組織で実践したか」といった在校生からの質問に基づいて、活発な議論が交わされました。パキスタンの Asif Naseer 氏、インドの Ravindra Vitthal Kale 氏、バングラデシュの Robin Kumar Biswas 氏、スリランカの Seenipellage Chaminda Sugeeshwara 氏らが話題提供を行い、現役学生が将来のキャリアや ICHARM での研究をより良くするためのアイデアなどについての貴重な提案が行われました。最後に、小池センター長の挨拶により、フォローアップセミナーの午前の部は終了しました。

午後の部では、竹内前 ICHARM センター長による、昨年出版された著書「統合洪水リスク管理 (Integrated Flood Risk Management)、- 基本的な考え方と日本の経験 -」に基づいた特別講演が行われました。今回のフォローアップセミナーでは、多くの重要な点が話し合われ、参加者同士の親睦を大いに深めることができました。

参加者の声

参加者 A (ICHARM 在学中)

ICHARM の卒業生の意見を聞くことができる、とても良い機会でした。卒業後、各自が母国に戻って直面するであろう課題や、ICHARM で得た知識を活かすための様々なアイデアを知ることができました。

参加者 B (ICHARM 卒業生)

このイベントに参加できたことは、とても良い機会でした。このような ICHARM フォローアップセミナーを継続的に実施し、卒業生だけでなく、各国の関連組織やひいては国の状態を向上させることができれば、より有益だと思います。専門家同士の繋がりをより活発にし、最先端の科学的知見を共有するために、大変有益な機会でした。

参加者 C (ICHARM 卒業生)

ICHARM の在校生に会えたことが良かった。ただ、彼らと議論する時間が少なかったため、次回は 5 ~ 8 人の小グループでディスカッションする時間があればより良いと思う。

their valuable ideas, suggestions, and experiences to help current students with future careers and studies at ICHARM. Finally, the morning session of the follow-up seminar ended with the concluding remarks by the executive director.

In the afternoon session, Emeritus Professor Takeuchi delivered a special lecture based on his recently-published book, "Integrated Flood Risk Management: Basic Concepts and the Japanese Experiences."

This year's follow-up seminar was another excellent opportunity for the participants to gain valuable insights and advice and foster camaraderie among themselves through extensive discussions on various issues.

Voices from participants

Participant A (current ICHARM student)

It was a very nice opportunity to listen to the views of ICHARM alums in an interactive session. We came to know the challenges that we can face upon returning to work as well as the different types of actions we can undertake to utilize our newfound knowledge gained at ICHARM.

Participant C (ICHARM graduates)

It was good to meet the current students at ICHARM. We had little time to discuss with them. I think a less formal setting and more time to discuss in small groups of 5-8 people would be helpful for the next meeting.

Participant B (ICHARM graduates)

It was a great opportunity to participate in this event. It would be more beneficial to conduct this type of ICHARM follow-up seminar on a continuous basis to enhance the state of not just alumni, but also their organization and country in relevant sectors. Furthermore, it helps in the renewal of existing connections, the formation of new connections among technical expertise, and the sharing of experience for cutting-edge scientific relevant development.

(Written by Jayasekara Sachintha and HARADA Daisuke)