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【Subject of Research Project】

Promoting "Tsunagaru" to Build A Culture of Safety in Schools: A Lesson Learned From The Japan Earthquake to Strengthen A Disaster-Resilient Community for Sustainable Development in Thailand

The research project “Promoting *Tsunagaru* to Build a Culture of Safety in Schools: A Lesson Learned from the Japan Earthquake to Strengthen a Disaster-Resilient Community for Sustainable Development in Thailand” has been completed. *Tsunagaru*, in a philosophical perspective, means “to connect” or “to be linked,” reflecting a form of social network among stakeholders towards community-building initiatives (*Machizukuri*). Additionally, *Tsunagaru* reflects a strong sense of solidarity in its response to the disaster. Often, *Tsunagaru* embodies the spirit of Japanese collective actions, reflecting a tangible model of disaster response and recovery that draws on the experiences of the 1995 Kobe Earthquake and the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. The research team visited Kobe and Kumamoto to conduct observations with relevant stakeholders, including residents, academic experts, non-profit organizations, and local government officials. In Kobe, the observations led to the emergence of strong grassroots movements among local people and the young generation, initiated by Kobe University students who organized the legendary Nada Challenge festival. This gathering brought together various individuals to reduce trauma while maintaining a continuous effort in disaster preparedness. Simultaneously, this voluntary movement has expanded its presence to support disaster response, particularly in the aftermath of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. In fact, the *Tsunagaru* in Kobe launched a milestone of the government's disaster preparedness program, “Bokomi,” following the model of *Iza Kaeru! Caravan!* by NPO. In addition to Kumamoto, the *Tsunagaru* is significantly initiated by government agencies. The initiative to link the social network is heavily influenced by the authority, engaging other stakeholders, including the local community, private companies, and academic experts. From the observation in Kumamoto, a technological device contributed an important presence to building the social network during the disaster strike. However, the *Tsunagaru* in Kumamoto is led by authority or a top-down approach. Lessons learned from *Tsunagaru* in both Kobe and Kumamoto are relevant for Thailand, as the strong bond and solidarity stimulate rapid disaster recovery by understanding local needs, a key aspect of *Tsunagaru's* approach from Kobe deriving from bottom-up approach, while from Kumamoto deriving from top-down approach. In addition to this research, it recommends that *Tsunagaru* can be implemented in a hybrid approach to enhance its effectiveness. From two cases—the 1995 Kobe Earthquake and the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake—*Tsunagaru* has evolved into a solidarity movement, characterized by continuous action to help beyond its immediate areas. Both case studies influenced education institutions, especially universities represented by Kobe University and Kumamoto University, to take a vital role in building capacity towards a safety culture, especially for schools. ‘Bokomi’ is implemented in schools, along with the Kumamoto local government program, which has also been applied in schools. Furthermore, *Tsunagaru*, which stimulates community building initiatives, enhances disaster resilience. *Tsunagaru* aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goals priority 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.) 1) 21-22 December 2023, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, The Japan-ASEAN Scholar Summit 2023 on the 50th Anniversary of Japan-ASEAN Relations, “Promoting Tsunagaru to Build a Culture of Safety for School Children: Lessons Learned from Kumamoto (Japan) to Chiang Rai (Thailand)” 2) 19-22 November 2024, Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia, ASAIHL Conference 2024, “Strengthening School and Community Resilience: University Roles in Climate Crisis Management”
Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.) 1) Thammasat Review, “Post-Earthquake Recovery and Social Solidarity in Japan: The Role of Tsunagaru in Kobe and Kumamoto”, Maya Dania, Reni Juwitasari, Wanwalee Inpin, & Yuki Miyake 2) Journal of Humanities & Social Science Research (JHSS), “Strengthening School and Community Resilience: University Roles in Climate Crisis Management”, Reni Juwitasari (<i>on-going</i>)
Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)