

## The 17th ACP International Field Study Program in Kobe was Successfully Completed with Students from 7 ACP Universities

The 17th ACP International Field Study Program was held at Kansai University of International Studies (KUISs) for 12 days from February 2nd. 19 students from 7 universities in 4 countries came to Kobe to learn “The Japanese Safety Management and Japanese Culture” with KUISs students. The program was held at the Kobe Yamate Campus of KUISs, located in the center of Kobe City. The students used this campus as a base for lectures and fieldwork. They also not only visited World Heritage sites in Kyoto, but also enjoyed Japanese culture through a experience with a volunteer family.



A Group photo at Sorakuen Garden gate directly in front of Kobe Yamate Campus

### Participated Universities

[Indonesia]

- Universitas Gadjah Mada
- Universitas Lampung
- Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta

[Thailand]

- Thammasat University

[Malaysia]

- Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman
- Management and Science University

[Vietnam]

- The University of Danang

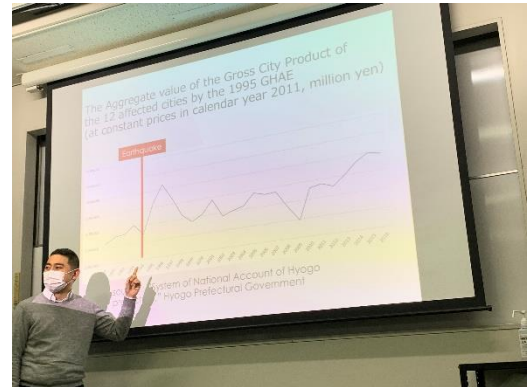
The program was led by Associate Professor Dr. HAYASHI Mampei of the University's School of Business Administration. The following column is contributed by Dr. HAYASHI.

## Long-term Recovery Issues: Lessons from Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

In early February 2023, the ACP International Field Study program "The Japanese Safety Management and Japanese Culture" was successfully completed with a total of 21 students participating from Kansai University of International Studies and ACP partner universities.

The program was designed to study the policy response in Japan at each stage of the crisis management cycle during a large-scale disaster: emergency response, recovery and reconstruction, and mitigation, with a focus on the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. The program specifically addressed policy issues related to the long-term recovery of Kobe city, which is one of the most devastated cities by the earthquake, and severely affected communities in the city.

The program consisted of two parts. In the first part, Dr. Mampei Hayashi from KUIS delivered comprehensive lectures on policy issues related to the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. In the second part, a field study was conducted in the disaster-stricken areas, including Nagata ward, Higashinada ward and Sannomiya area, to observe the current situation of the long-term recovery. In addition, visits were made to the Kobe city local government office of disaster management and the HEM21, which is the disaster policy research institution. During the field study, Dr. Hayashi and guest speakers provided explanations on the current situation of local communities, the current disaster management policy of the Kobe city local government, and research about the coming Nankai Trough Massive Earthquake.



Lecture by Dr. HAYASHI



Nagata Station Area



Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution 2



One of the highlights of the visits was the comparison between residential areas. They visited the Taisho-suji shopping district in Nagata Ward, where the recovery process heavily depended on urban redevelopment projects led by the local government were implemented, and the Okamoto area in Higashinada Ward, where recovery efforts were primarily led by the private sector. In the former, issues with economic vitality and population decline were observed. On the other hand, in the latter, not only did the land prices rise due to population concentration, but also residents were seen to enjoy a rich cultural life.

After 28 years since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, Kobe City, where large-scale recovery policies were implemented, still suffers from population decline and economic stagnation today. Previous studies indicates that the main cause lies in the insufficient progress of the industrial shift through the comprehensive recovery policy. Furthermore, in his book, Dr. Hayashi points out that similar problems

are occurring in Aceh prefecture in Indonesia, the area severely devastated by the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, and emphasizes the need to promote long-term disaster recovery. In addition, as the recovery process in a case of large-scale natural disaster is a step towards a new history for both the affected city and the victims, Dr. Hayashi argues that it is important not only to support the life recovery of affected people but also to pursue sustainable economic development through disaster recovery process.

On the final day of the program, participants were required to conduct group presentations. The theme was “A comparison between Japan's disaster policy and disaster policies in other Asian countries.” Despite differences in nationality, language and academic background, participants had actively engaged in discussion with their team members for the preparation. Each presentation was insightful, and lively discussions and questions followed. **[Comments from Dr. Hayashi]**

## Japanese Cultural Experience

On the first weekend during the program, they went to Kyoto to visit Fushimi Inari, Kinkakuji Temple (World Heritage Site), and Nijo Castle (World Heritage Site) and enjoyed Japanese culture. On the following weekend, they visited a Japanese home and had a great time with their host families.



Fushimi Inari



Nijo Castle (World Heritage Site)

## Program Completion Ceremony

On the last day of the program, students presented the results of their studies. Dr. HAMANA Atsushi, the president of KUISs attended the Program Completion Ceremony and listened intently to each group's presentation. Each presentation was evaluated by the professors attended the ceremony based on a rubric. After rigorous evaluation, the Best Presentation Award was given to the mixed group of UNILA and UAJY.

Following the presentation of the best presentation award, President HAMANA handed each student a certificate of completion of the program.



The best presentation

## Words from participants

The program was great in my opinion there are so many new things and experience to learn on this program and the all of the lecture on this program have a really high competent and KUISs really gave us the best human recourses to taught us about the Kobe earthquake and I'm so happy to experience this learning program, and from the recovery policy we have quite some different policy such as the way Indonesia government response for the disaster, and also Indonesia and Japan have different way to rebuild the city such as what we mention on the power point.

It was totally a satisfaction for me because I have experienced so much of the knowledge from Great Hanshin earthquake during lecture class, in terms of emergency response, recovery works, policies have been implemented, and basically how Japanese deal with the crisis preparation. The field trips are memorable, the restored buildings, monuments, parks and especially The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction & Human Renovation Institution. The field trips inspire me a lot on the understanding of natural disaster.



With President HAMANA