

# Public Relations

## The 12th ICHARM Open Day held online, first in its history 第12回「ICHARM Open Day」～初めてのWeb開催～

4月14日に第12回目となる「ICHARM Open Day」を初めてWeb方式で開催しました。竹園高等学校の生徒81人、並木中等教育学校の生徒28人がオンラインで参加しました。

「ICHARM Open Day」は、毎年4月の科学技術週間の行事として、一昨年までは両校の生徒が ICHARM を訪問し、ICHARM で研修中の博士・修士課程の学生との国際交流の機会として対面方式で開催してきました。昨年はコロナ禍で中止し、今年も土木研究所の科学技術週間一般公開は中止となりましたが、「ICHARM Open Day」は Web 方式で開催しました。

一昨年までの対面方式では、各国紹介のポスターを前に博士・修士課程の学生1人が10人程度の生徒から質問を受けていましたが、Web方式では学生1人が100人を超える生徒から質問を受けることで質問が出にくいことが予想されたことから、一昨年までよりも学生の発表時間を減らし、双方向となる質疑応答の時間を可能な限り確保しました。また、質問が出やすいように、両校の先生に事前に学生の発表資料を送付し、生徒が予習し、質問を事前に考えて参加してもらうように依頼しました。

当日は、小池センター長の基調講演「Climate Change and Floods」に続き、7カ国（トンガ、マレーシア、ミャンマー、バングラデシュ、ブータン、モーリシャス、エチオピア）の博士・修士過程の学生10人が東から西の順に、各国の地理、歴史、文化、水災害の特徴などを発表しました。7カ国のうち、トンガ、モーリシャスからの2名は、コロナ禍で来日できていないため、本国からのオンライン参加となりました。学生は、両校の生徒から「水道水は直接飲めるか?」「災害復旧にかかる時間は?」「災害時の非常食は?」などの質問を英語で受けました。

一昨年までの対面方式では、生徒は3カ国程度のポスターを回るのが限界でしたが、今回は、7カ国の学生全員の発表を聴講することができました。また、対面方式では引率の先生のみ参加でしたが、今回は在校のまま参加できたため、両校で9人と多くの先生が参加できました。

一方、Web方式のため、生徒の質問の意図が学生に通じにくい場面がありました。また、特定の生徒が何回も質問する場面も見られ、質問ができた生徒の割合は、対面方式に比べて少なくなりました。

Web方式では、対面方式におけるポスター準備・掲示の必要がなくなりましたが、来年は、Web方式を継続するか、対面方式を復活させるか、開催方式への両校の要望や社会状況も考慮して開催したいと考えています。

The 12th ICHARM Open Day was held on April 14, 2021. The event took place online for the first time in its 12th history, gathering 81 students from Takezono High School and 28 from Namiki Secondary School.

The ICHARM Open Day is an annual event held every April during the Science and Technology Week. Up to 2019, local school students visited ICHARM and enjoyed face-to-face interaction with international students studying in the master's or doctoral program at ICHARM. In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, the event was canceled. This year, although other open-house events hosted by the Public Works Research Institute during the Science and Technology Week were canceled, ICHARM decided to hold the yearly event online.

When the ICHARM Open Day is held in person, local students are usually divided into small groups of around ten and have an opportunity to ask questions to a graduate student of ICHARM in front of a poster about their country. However, this year's Open Day was decided to be held in a webinar-style format, in which over 100 junior high and high school students would be watching each speaker delivering a presentation from ICHARM. Worrying that not many students would raise a hand for questions in such a situation, the staff in charge of the event decided to allocate less time for the presentations and more time for the question-and-answer session. They also sent presentation materials to teachers of both schools prior to the Open Day and asked them to have their students look at the materials and think of questions in advance.

The Open Day began with a keynote lecture entitled "Climate Change and Floods" by Executive Director KOIKE Toshio. Then, ten graduate students of ICHARM from seven different countries (Tonga, Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mauritius, and Ethiopia) spoke in an east-to-west order about their countries from various aspects, including geography, history, culture, and water-related disasters. Among them, two master's students attended the event online from their home countries, Tonga and Mauritius, because they had not been able to come to Japan due to the pandemic. Junior high and high school students asked the speakers many questions all in English, such as "Is it safe to drink tap water in your country?" "How long does it take to recover from a disaster?" and "What kind of emergency food would you have in the event of a disaster?"



Presentation by Ph.D. student from Ethiopia  
ICHARM Open Day 2021 参加者  
エチオピア博士課程学生の発表

When the Open Day was held in person, each group of local students could stop at only a few poster presentations to talk with a graduate student of ICHARM. In a webinar-style format, however, all students were able to watch all presentations. Moreover, though only a few teachers came to ICHARM to attend their students when the event took place in a regular way, nine from the two schools together participated because they could do so while at school.

On the other hand, there were a few times when the speakers had a hard time figuring out what junior high or high school students wanted to know. Also, because the same students asked questions repeatedly, other students did not have as many chances to do so in the online event as in the regular face-to-face events.

Compared with the regular-style Open Day, the online event required less preparation; graduate students and the staff did not have to make and put up posters for presentation, for example. Considering such advantages and disadvantages, the requests from local schools about how the event should be held, and other social conditions, ICHARM will plan the next year's event, including whether it should be held online or in person.

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