

Sharing Japan–ROK "Reconstruction Knowledge" during the Post-COVID-19 Period

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The Institute of Disaster Area Revitalization, Regrowth, and Governance, Kwansai Gakuin University, holds an international symposium and joint research meeting every year on the theme of "Thinking about New Collaborations in East Asia." On March 19, 2021, a study group was held jointly with the Institute of Japanese Studies, Kookmin University, which is a leading Japanese research institute in the Republic of Korea, titled "Seeking Japan–ROK Relations in the Post-COVID-19 Period: Sharing 'Reconstruction Knowledge' in the Wake of the Damage caused by COVID-19." It was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Toru Nagaoka, Director of the Institute of Disaster Area Revitalization, Regrowth, and Governance, and Dr. Heesik Choi, Director of the Institute of Japanese Studies, Kookmin University, made an opening address. As a guest, Mr. Park Ki-Jun, Consul General of the Consulate General of the ROK in Kobe, also delivered an address. Following this, the deputy director and moderator, Yoshiyuki Yama, explained the purpose of the project.



In Part I, "Japan–Korea Disaster Response and Crisis Management in the COVID-19 Pandemic," three research publications were presented.

Principal researcher Yoko Saito reported on "Issues in Disaster Response in the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case of Torrential Rain in July 2020." Subsequently, Dr. Jong-il Na, Deputy Director of the Disaster Safety Research Center of Hope Bridge Korea Disaster Relief

Association, who has been working with the Institute, reported on the "Role of Rescue Support Organizations with COVID-19." Dr. Eunmi Choi, a researcher of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, presented her study titled "New Coronavirus Infections and Japan–Korea Crisis Management Governance Research."

In Part II, "Japan–Korea Relationships Surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic," two studies were presented. Research Professor Yoon Sunk Jun of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security reported on the "Development of Korean–Japanese Relations in the Wake of the New Coronavirus: Evaluation and Outlook." Following this, Dr. Yoshiyuki Yama presented a report entitled "Japan–ROK Relations from the Viewpoint of Disaster Relief for the Damage Caused by COVID-19."

In Part III, "Comprehensive Discussion," in addition to the above-mentioned presenters, prominent Korean experts in Japan–ROK relations, including Director Toru Nagaoka and Advisor Norio Okada from the Institute, Director Heesik Choi and Professor Won-Deog Lee from Kookmin University, and Specially Appointed Professor Kyu-sun Shim, the former editorial bureau chief of *The Dong-a Ilbo*, participated and engaged in lively discussions. Park Ki-Jun, Consul General, also participated enthusiastically until the end of the discussion. This was an extremely fulfilling learning opportunity.

Kwansei Gakuin University's Institute of Disaster Area Revitalization, Regrowth, and Governance intends to continue to actively promote international research exchanges.

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