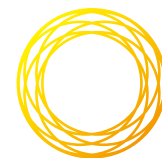


# RENKEI

## Annual Report

April 2018 - March 2019



RENKEI

# Contents

**RENKEI Activities in 2018**

Forum . . . . . 7

Researcher Workshop . . . . . 11

RENKEI Organising Committees on Climate Change and Health . . . . . 17

RENKEI Steering Committee Meeting at Kyushu University . . . . . 19

**RENKEI Associate Activities in 2018**

University of Leeds - Kyoto University International Symposium . . . . . 21

Newcastle University . . . . . 25

**RENKEI Activities in 2019**

RENKEI Researcher Events and Steering Committee Meeting 2019 . . . . . 26

# From British Council

RENKEI - or 'collaboration' in Japanese - has been a constant in the education relationship that has existed between the UK and Japan for over 160 years. This relationship - a relationship that provides a strong foundation from which all other bilateral relationships in trade, and security, for example, can prosper - is predicated on a tradition of innovation. The consortium of twelve higher education institutions that make up the RENKEI group continues to uphold this tradition and plays a vital role in the sharing of knowledge and ideas leading to deeper levels of trust, prosperity and security between the two countries.

In 2018, RENKEI refreshed its strategy to respond more clearly to the challenges common to both the UK and Japan. Working hand in hand with government and industry to address the grand challenges of our time, the consortium opted to focus on two thematic areas: climate change and health - both of which respond to key government priorities in each country.

I have been pleased to witness a more strategic approach to the work of the RENKEI consortium over the year. As you will see from this report, the 2018 RENKEI Forum and Researcher Workshop, for example, focused on the area of climate change, bringing researchers, business and government together through discussion and debate leading to concrete bilateral research plans. I am grateful to the indefatigable efforts of the member universities for the work they have done in driving the consortium in a more strategic manner. The British Council, as RENKEI's secretariat, is committed to strengthening ties between institutions and people in both countries through this programme.

Matt Burney  
Director Japan, British Council



The Japan-UK Research and Education Network for Knowledge Economy Initiatives (RENKEI), a partnership of twelve leading universities in the UK and Japan, was established in March 2012 with the British Council as its secretariat. Member universities have established a close relationship and delivered multiple international workshops, mostly for young researchers, in Japan and the UK. Japan and the UK have a long history of partnership and share many common interests and concerns. The two countries have strong economies and are among the world's foremost producers of cutting-edge research and technology. They face similar demographic, political, social and industrial challenges, and thus are ideal partners in meeting these demands with innovative solutions.

In autumn 2018, RENKEI was relaunched with the aim of developing a new platform for collaborations among researchers from the member universities and with industry, government, and wider stakeholders in Japan and the UK, specifically to address some of the most pressing common challenges.

RENKEI has identified "Climate Change" and "Health" as its themes for research collaboration. Both of these were included in the "Japan-UK Joint Declaration on Prosperity Cooperation" released jointly by the Japanese and UK Prime Ministers in September 2017 as part of the key framework of cooperation. RENKEI universities plan to join forces with stakeholders in the government, industry and non-profit sectors to develop innovative solutions to realise low carbon societies and to tackle dementia, patient safety, and other related challenges.

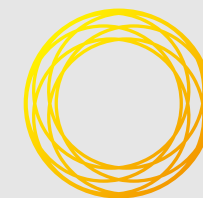


## About RENKEI

RENKEI



# Japan



RENKEI



Ritsumeikan University



Kyoto University



KYUSHU  
UNIVERSITY

Kyushu University



Osaka University



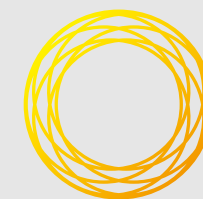
Tohoku University



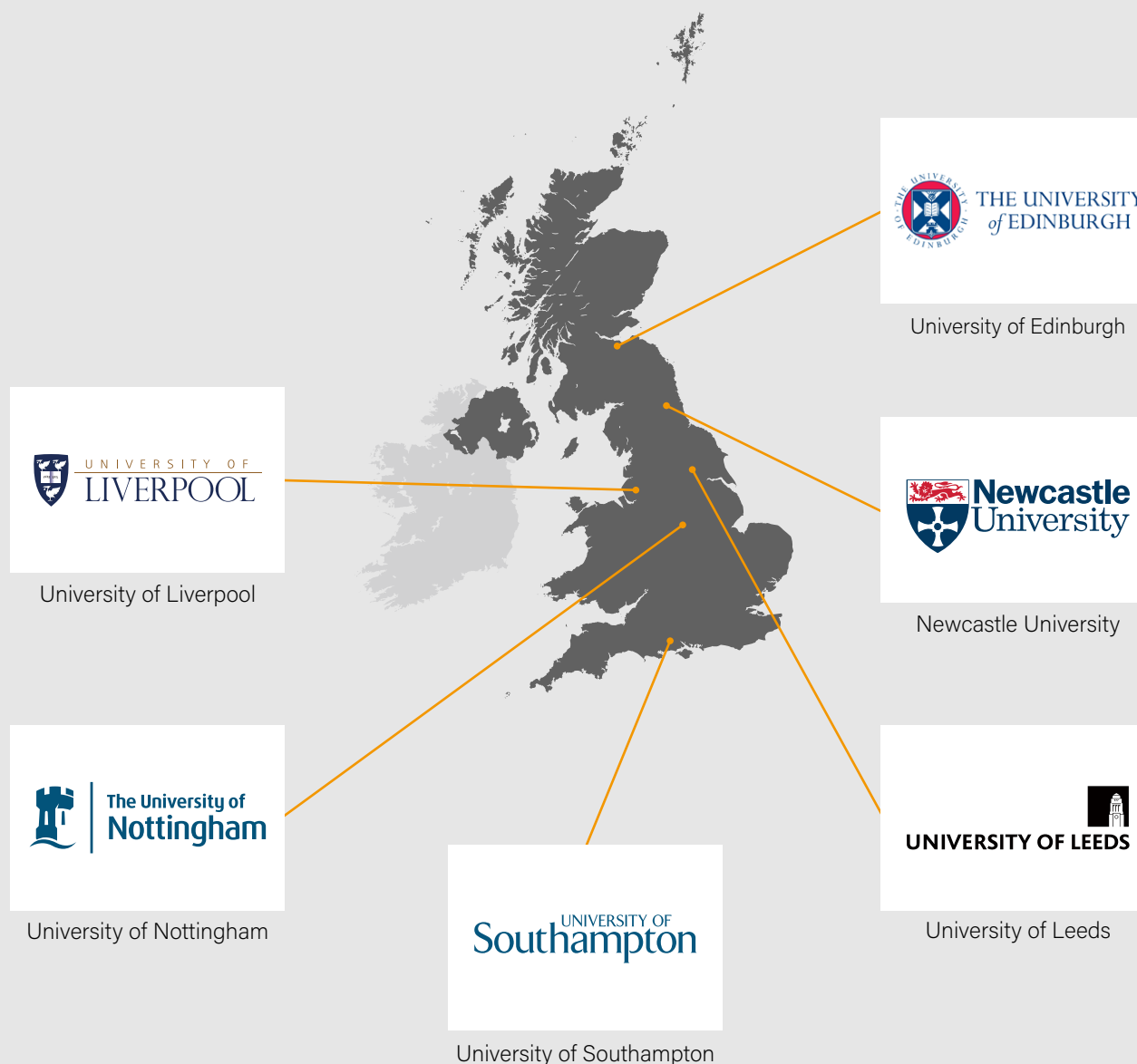
Nagoya University

## RENKEI Member Universities

# UK



RENKEI





# RENKEI Activities in 2018 Forum

## Addressing Global Challenges through Japan-UK Research Collaboration

Researchers and leaders from the 12 RENKEI member universities met with representatives from the Japanese and British governments as well as from industry for RENKEI's first external-facing forum.

Held at the British Embassy in Tokyo on 28 November 2018, the forum introduced to partners from government and industry RENKEI's new direction, which is to create research collaborations to address global challenges facing us today: climate change and health.

Speaking on behalf of the RENKEI network, Professor Selina Stead (Newcastle University) stated that the future success of both the UK and Japanese economies in the global marketplace will rely on the relationship of mutual trust between the UK and Japan. RENKEI, with support from the British Council, aims to contribute to this success using systems thinking and open innovation spanning different

disciplines and sectors to tackle the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Open innovation is about engaging with industry and governments and offering thousands of academics who can develop comprehensive solutions.

Representatives from both the Japan and UK governments celebrated the effort of RENKEI to come together to address global challenges through research collaborations. Dr David Ellis, Chargé d'Affaires, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Tokyo, drew attention to the fact that the UK and Japan are among the countries which have remained steadfast to their commitments under the Paris Agreement. Ms Keiko Nagaoka, State Minister of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), stated that international collaboration is the key to success in facing these global challenges, and that RENKEI will play a significant role in further deepening exchange and collaboration in research.



Presentations by Mr Mitsuyuki Ueda, Director of the International Science and Technology Affairs Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, MEXT and Mr Griff Jones, Head of Section and First Secretary for Science and Innovation, British Embassy Tokyo, both highlighted the strategic importance of Japan-UK research collaborations for the national research strategies of both countries.

Our keynote speaker, Dr Nobuhiko Kubota of IHI Corporation, a leading Japanese manufacturer of industrial machinery, addressed how industry is responding to climate challenges and reducing CO2 emissions by converting to renewable energy and reducing the environmental impact of fossil fuel usage. Collaboration with universities will be vital for industry to invent and introduce new forms of renewable energy, new energy storage systems, and methods for the efficient conversion of CO2.

Presentations by six researchers from RENKEI member universities introduced existing examples of collaborative research in the areas of climate change, health, and digital humanities, as well as institutional initiatives to tackle global challenges. The forum closed with an introduction by Dr Jon Turner (University of Edinburgh) of the first RENKEI Researcher Workshop, to be held over the following days, which was to mark the start of the next phase of RENKEI, addressing global challenges through research collaborations between the two countries.



# RENKEI Activities in 2018 Forum

# RENKEI Activities in 2018 Forum

## Presentations by Member Universities



*"Establishing an Interdisciplinary Platform for Bioethics"*

### **Dr Tatsuya Ito**

Senior Lecturer, Institute for Advancement of Clinical and Translational Science, Kyoto University Hospital  
Dr Keiko Sato, Associate Professor,  
Department of Patient Safety,  
Kyoto University Hospital



*"Open Digital Cultural Heritage: How international research networks can facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations to explore new open technologies such the blockchain"*

### **Eleonora Gandolfi**

Digital Scholarship Manager,  
University of Southampton



*"Resilience to natural hazards and Climate Change"*

### **Professor Raul Fuentes**

Professor of Infrastructure Engineering /  
Pro-Dean International (Engineering),  
University of Leeds



*"International Research Collaborations are flourishing: Contributing to Betterment of Society and Educational Development"*

### **Prof Kazumasa Hirata**

Professor / Associate Executive Director for Global Engagement,  
Osaka University



*"Entry to and exit from stable mode of climate: two geological case studies and duration of human-friendly era"*

### **Dr Ikuko Kitaba**

Associate Professor,  
Vice Director of Research Centre for Palaeoclimatology,  
Ritsumeikan University



*"Beacons of Excellence: University of Nottingham's responses to global challenges"*

### **Prof Michèle Clarke**

Associate Pro Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement) Asia-Pacific,  
Professor of Environmental Change, Faculty of Social Sciences,  
University of Nottingham



# RENKEI Researcher Workshop

## Building Japan-UK Research Collaboration on Climate Change

Dr Jon Turner, Director, Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh



This unique Japan-UK workshop brought together 50 of the brightest researchers from different backgrounds, generations, disciplines and sectors within RENKEI member universities in Japan and the UK in order to explore the potential for collaboration across academia, government and industry in tackling grand challenges in climate change.



Held in Tokyo on 29 and 30 November, the workshop was organised as part of a programme of events designed to kick-start the transformation of the UK-Japan academia-government-industry partnership. A major objective for this event was to take advantage of the strong RENKEI network and build new collaborative relationships between individuals and organisations. Workshop participants gained insights into the challenges faced by the UK and Japanese governments and industry.



The workshop began with presentations by representatives from three leading Japanese businesses about key challenges they face. Dr Motohiro Honma from Japan Weather

Association (JWA) introduced JWA's approach as well as new challenges such as preventing food loss and risk assessment for food production. Mr Daisuke Kato from Tokio Marine Research Institute explained how recent extreme weather has affected the insurance business and outlined their research to create a more advanced approach to climate change and weather assessment. Ms Ikue Imahori from IHI Corporation spoke about how technological solutions for climate change, such as the conversion to renewable energy and the reduction of the impact of fossil fuels, could be brought about by collaboration between university and industry.

The participants also gained insights into Japanese and UK government perspectives on climate change research priorities. Professor Yasuto Tachikawa (Kyoto University) talked about the recent flood disasters in Japan and introduced an adaptation strategy by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. Professor Selina Stead (Newcastle University) gave an overview of the UK government's commitment to reducing emissions and



adapting to climate change and presented a government-funded project on the change in coral reefs due to climate change and effects on livelihoods. The workshop also included presentations by Dr Dajana Dzanovic (Newcastle University) and Ms Kei Ayukawa (Kyoto University) on research funding opportunities in Japan and the UK and the necessary steps in order to access these.

During the two-day workshop, participating researchers explored research themes of relevance to Japan and the UK and identified areas where partners could develop new research projects and collaborations between institutions and individuals. The workshop engaged researchers in discussions and activities in a non-traditional style and adopted design methodology to identify research problems. The research themes identified during the group discussions included resilience in city planning, interdisciplinary flood management, food security and sustainable agriculture, health management in climate change, adaptive policy-making under uncertainty, communicating uncertainty with regard to climate change predictions, communicating the importance and impact of science in remote areas, and the application of future design methodologies.

A better understanding of the research strengths of institutions in Japan and the UK and networking with potential collaborators were among the clear outcomes of the event. One UK researcher commented, "I have become much better aware of the research and expertise in my field in Japanese universities, and I have been able to identify individual academics who would be key contacts if resources become available for joint efforts."



## RENKEI Researcher Workshop

Building Japan-UK Research Collaboration on Climate Change

# RENKEI Researcher Workshop

## Building Japan-UK Research Collaboration on Climate Change

The workshop facilitated the creation of expert partnerships ready to respond to both industry and government needs in collaboration with RENKEI's universities. The results of the workshop include:

- **Nagoya University and the University of Liverpool are moving towards a research partnership agreement on sustainable development**
- **Dr Faith Chan from the University of Nottingham, Ningbo and Dr Daisuke Komori from Tohoku University plan to further develop research collaboration on coastal flood risk management**
- **Ph.D student mobility is being planned**

The workshop also contributed to the development of early career researchers, in terms of developing networking and collaboration skills in an international research setting, becoming more aware of challenges, and gaining opportunities for interdisciplinary work.

Finally, the workshop enabled researchers to identify six themes in climate change to further develop research collaborations between the member universities. These themes are:

- **Low carbon societies and green infrastructure**
- **Future risks and adaptation in floods and water shortage**
- **Future risks and adaptation in food production and security**
- **Managing future risks and building resilience in urban areas**
- **Future risks and adaptation in ecosystems**
- **Future risks and adaptation in human health**

Building partnerships today means we will be better positioned tomorrow to collaborate in creating solutions to the problems of climate change.

Researchers from RENKEI's 12 member universities will meet in the UK (Newcastle University) in December 2019 and engage in dialogues aiming at new collaborations.

# Perspectives on Collaboration

RENKEI Researcher Workshop 2018



RENKEI

Japan-UK  
Research and  
Education  
Network for  
Knowledge  
Economy  
Initiatives



# RENKEI Researcher Workshop

Building Japan-UK Research Collaboration on Climate Change



**Yukari Osakada**

2nd year PhD student,  
Kyoto University

"My research theme is about the projection of future changes in heavy rainfall and disasters caused by global warming in Japan. I aim for adaptation to climate change and the building of a society safe from disaster which will survive until the next generation. The group discussions were especially interesting because I could learn about each topic from the many and varied perspectives of each researcher. I expect us to start research collaboration by holding more such workshops on more specific topics. In order to pursue my research goal, I also need to learn about the connection between research and practical policy. In that sense, the UK is at the cutting edge globally; thus, I need to learn much from them and undertake some collaboration with them."

**Professor Yasuto Tachikawa**

Deputy Executive Vice-President  
for International Affairs  
Graduate School of Engineering  
Kyoto University



"Climate change research encompasses broad disciplines such as natural sciences, social sciences, and various fields of engineering. Discussions with researchers from multiple disciplines, policy-makers, and representatives from industry enabled us to expand our perspectives and helped us to develop interdisciplinary research projects. Sharing experiences of climate change and how we mitigate and adapt to challenges in both countries will become a foundation for researchers to create collaborative research projects and funding proposals."

# comments



**Dr Faith Chan**

Assistant Professor,  
University of Nottingham (Ningbo, China)

My research focuses on international water management policies, in particular on sustainable flood management and planning practices, and flood risk assessment practices in British, European, and East Asian coastal cities and deltas and their applications in both developed and developing countries. I enjoyed the workshop a lot and met with many researchers from Japan and the UK. The round table discussions on research directions and scope were useful, and led me to plan a follow-up visit to Tohoku University in August 2019 and further develop research collaboration on coastal flood risk management with Dr Daisuke Komori and his colleagues. I will also meet with Professor Hitoshi Tanaka during my visit to Tohoku University.

The most important message that I want to share is this: the RENKEI workshop was very useful for my future research, as I believe working in close collaboration with Japanese colleagues is vitally important for my research. A lot of valuable lessons and experience can be learnt from Japan. We also need to strengthen collaboration and exchange ideas to create synergies for developing climate resilience and policies that specifically fit the Asian context.

# comments

## Alistair Ford

Research Associate and Policy Academy Fellow,  
School of Engineering,  
Newcastle University



I attended the RENKEI workshop to broaden my knowledge of climate change in the Japanese context, something that I certainly achieved. I research the impacts of climate change on cities and urban strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving resilience. The workshop enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of the particular challenges facing Japanese cities, which are very different to those in the UK. The workshop gave excellent opportunities to meet Japanese researchers at all career stages and gain an appreciation of the research being undertaken at each institution. It also helped me to understand the governance and policy contexts in Japan and the priorities for government and business.

The highlight of the programme was the opportunity to discuss, in small groups, particular aspects of the climate change challenge and understand how my research could be applied in the Japanese context. These discussions helped me to think about the transferability of my own research, but also to better understand the work being undertaken in Japanese institutions that was complementary to my own. This has had an impact on my research and that of my institution by opening up new avenues for investigation and new potential collaborations.

Since returning from Japan I have spoken to a number of colleagues at my home institution about the potential for working with Japanese partners on climate change impact assessments, particularly in the very different megacity context of urban areas. We have also had discussions about applying our transport impact assessment approach to high speed rail networks in Japan. We look forward to welcoming RENKEI colleagues to Newcastle in December 2019 and to the opportunity to broaden and deepen these discussions towards genuine research collaboration.

## RENKEI Researcher Workshop

Building Japan-UK Research Collaboration on Climate Change

## Laura Hunt

1st year PhD Student,  
University of Nottingham



"My research aims to understand how a group of crater lakes in western Uganda have responded to human and climate driven hydrological change over the past 2,000 years, with the view that this will aid future management of water resources in the region in the context of increasing climate and anthropogenic pressures on the lakes. In the absence of long term environmental monitoring in the region, I aim to infer hydrological change in the crater lakes through the interpretation of isotope signals recorded in lake sediments. Participating in the RENKEI Researcher Workshop on Climate Change during the very beginnings of my own research career was incredibly enlightening, giving me insight into the nature of large scale research collaborations and the early processes of defining and establishing international research projects. This perspective is one that is not often achieved through PhD study alone, and so my participation in this RENKEI initiative was immensely valuable in building my understanding of the nature of research collaborations far beyond the scale of those involved in my own work."



## Professor Selina Stead

Professor of Marine Governance and  
Environmental Science,  
Newcastle University

"The workshop led to productive knowledge exchange between researchers at different stages of their careers. Participants gained a better idea of urgent topics in climate change from industry, policy, and research perspectives in Japan and the UK, and thus became able to identify where there was an overlap in mutual areas of interest with opportunities to develop future working partnerships to tackle similar priority issues relevant to both Japan and the UK."

# RENKEI Organising Committees

on Climate Change and Health formed

## Climate Change



**Professor Yasuto Tachikawa**

Deputy Executive Vice-President for International Affairs  
Graduate School of Engineering  
Kyoto University



**Dr Jon Turner**

Director,  
Institute for Academic Development  
University of Edinburgh



**Professor Nobuya Mizoue**

Professor of Forest Sciences,  
Department of Agro-environmental Sciences,  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Kyushu University



**Professor Jouni Paavola**

Professor of Environmental Social Science at the  
School of Earth and Environment;  
Director of the UK Economic and Social Research Council  
funded Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy  
University of Leeds



**Dr Daisuke Komori**

Associate Professor,  
Department: Graduate School of Engineering  
Tohoku University



**Philip James**

Director of the Newcastle Urban Observatory and  
Senior Lecturer in GIS  
School of Engineering  
Newcastle University



**Dr Faith Chan**

Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences  
University of Nottingham



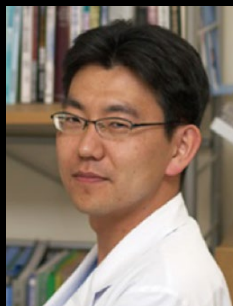
**Professor Andy Cundy**

Professor, Director of Internationalisation,  
School of Ocean and Earth Science  
National Oceanography Centre Southampton (NOCS)  
University of Southampton

# RENKEI Organising Committees

on Climate Change and Health formed

## Health



**Professor Seiji Sumigama**

Associate Professor,  
Graduate School of Medicine  
Nagoya University



**Dr Jon Turner**

Director,  
Institute for Academic Development  
University of Edinburgh

**Professor Atsushi Nakagawa**

Director, Institute for Protein Research  
Osaka University



**Dr Spencer Hazel**

Senior Lecturer in Applied Linguistics and Communication,  
School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences  
Newcastle University



**Professor Izumi Tabata**

Professor, College of Sport and Health Science  
Ritsumeikan University



**Professor Nigel Mongan**

Professor of Oncology,  
Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences  
University of Nottingham

# RENKEI Steering Committee Meeting

at Kyushu University



Leaders and coordinators from RENKEI partner universities met at the Ito Campus of Kyushu University for the annual Steering Committee Meeting and celebrated the start of the new phase of RENKEI. The location had special significance, as it was at Kyushu University that discussions to form Japan-UK strategic partnerships began in 2010. The meeting was hosted by Professor Masato Wakayama, Executive Vice President (Kyushu University), and Professor Koichiro Watanabe, Vice President (Kyushu University), and served as a unique opportunity for members to strengthen relationships and discuss strategic issues to bring about further research collaboration between member institutions, as well as to learn about the international strategy and research strength of Kyushu University.

RENKEI Steering C  
Meeting at Kyushu Universi

# RENKEI Associate Activities in 2018

RENKEI partner universities are highly active in promoting research and education collaborations between institutions by leveraging the strength of the RENKEI partnership. We are pleased to introduce some of the best examples of activities between individual institutions from 2018.

## University of Leeds - Kyoto University International Symposium

Advanced Engineering for Natural Disaster Identification, Mitigation, Prevention and Response

Leeds, UK 17th to 19th September 2018

Tetsuo Sawaragi, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Science, Kyoto University

Yasuto Tachikawa, Professor, Department of Civil and Earth Resources Engineering, Kyoto University

Claire Freeston, International Marketing Manager for East Asia, University of Leeds

Dr Karen Steenson, Engineering Research & Innovation Service Manager, University of Leeds

Raul Fuentes, Professor of Infrastructure Engineering and Pro-Dean International (Engineering), University of Leeds



The Symposium was held to enhance research collaboration between the University of Leeds and Kyoto University in the fields of science and technology, especially civil and mechanical engineering; robotics; and, computer, environmental and social sciences.

Both Leeds and Kyoto wish to promote higher education collaboration, working together with other RENKEI partners, in particular to address strategic issues of common concern to both Japan and the UK. The specific goals of the meeting were to identify, draft, and develop joint research projects; and to develop ideas for joint publications.

The Symposium was one of a series of Kyoto University International Symposiums to facilitate closer cooperation between institutions around the world and Kyoto University.

The participants from Kyoto University comprised Executive Vice-President Kayo Inaba, eighteen faculty members, one university research administrator and one staff member for international affairs. The delegation managed to travel to the UK to participate in the symposium despite severe travel difficulties caused by Typhoon Jebi, including the closure of Kansai International Airport.

Academic sessions held during the Symposium included areas such as:

- **Economics and Social Science;**
- **Robotics;**
- **Hydrology and Nature Based Solutions;**
- **Geotechnics and Structures; and,**
- **Remote Sensing, Data Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence.**

# RENKEI Associate Activities in 2018

## University of Leeds - Kyoto University International Symposium

The keynote lectures were "Novel design methods and strategies for seismic hazard mitigation" by Professor Ioannis Anastasopoulos (ETH Zürich), "The inclusive approach to assessment of resilience of cultural heritage assets" by Professor Roko Žarnić (University of Ljubljana) and "On the role of agency in design of complex systems" by Professor Sebastiaan Meijer (KTH Royal Institute of Technology).

An interdisciplinary session saw the University of Leeds' Dr Raul Fuentes and Dr Natalie Van der Wal present a conceptual framework to consider cities using a trans-disciplinary approach. Professor Tachikawa from Kyoto University presented his pioneering work on flooding prediction, prevention, and response in Japan and Professor Sawaragi from Kyoto University presented the ground-breaking approach to research and student education being taken by the Kyoto University Design School in order to integrate multiple disciplines to solve complex problems.

Thematic Group Sessions were convened in the following four areas:

- **Group 1: Data-centric & human-centric design of resilient socio-technical systems using participatory systems approach and AI**
- **Group 2: Robotic innovation for disaster management and human-robot collaboration**
- **Group 3: Advancement of structural and geotechnical engineering for natural disaster identification, mitigation, prevention and response**
- **Group 4: Interdisciplinary approach to mitigate/prevent water-related disasters**

Research gaps and need in each area were discussed, and a review paper drafted by each group. Each group presented their discussion and new collaborative research, academic exchange, and ideas for new grants and papers were proposed. Grand Challenges, which need to be tackled using a truly interdisciplinary approach, were identified and discussed.

During the event, the delegates also met with representatives from JSPS London to receive information on different existing funding mechanisms to promote combined research between Japan and the UK, as well as between Kyoto and Leeds. The Japanese delegates visited laboratories at the University of Leeds in the Faculties of Engineering and Environment, including: EPSRC National Facility for Innovative Robotic Systems, the Robot Manipulation Laboratory, the Sorby Environmental Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, and the Rocks Mechanics, Engineering Geology and Geotechnical (RMEGG) Laboratory.



# RENKEI Associate Activities in 2018

## University of Leeds - Kyoto University International Symposium

Following the Symposium, an application has been submitted for joint funding in order to continue the collaboration between the University of Leeds and Kyoto University, including for a graduate student secondment scheme, amongst other things. This scheme will enhance international educational collaboration opportunities between the two institutions and strengthen the internationality of Kyoto and Leeds' graduate school students.

Travel grant money has also been set aside to encourage the engagement of academic staff from Kyoto and Leeds, to allow academic exchange and cooperation of staff to write joint grants proposals, deliver combined workshops at conferences, and write joint papers.

Professor Tachikawa from Kyoto and Professor Fuentes from the University of Leeds have also taken the opportunity to meet, face-to-face, at events such as those organised by the RENKEI network. One such opportunity was at the networking event held at Kyushu University in November 2018, where they were able to continue their discussions of the next steps required to strengthen the relationship between Kyoto and Leeds in the coming years.

The second Kyoto University - University of Leeds International Symposium: Advanced Engineering for Natural Disaster Identification, Mitigation, Prevention and Response will be organized in June 2020 in Kyoto. A fund of approximately £5,500 has been allocated to foster further interactions between researchers in the run-up to this event.

Furthermore, Kyoto University has prepared an application to the International Research and Education Program at the Ministry of Education, MEXT, in Japan. If granted, this funding will provide travel expenses for researchers and PhD exchange between both institutions. The proposal was submitted in April 2019.



# RENKEI Associate Activities in 2018

University of Leeds - Kyoto University International Symposium



# RENKEI Associate Activities in 2018

# RENKEI Associate Activities in 2018

## Newcastle University

Newcastle University hosted two Japan/ RENKEI themed events in the last year, both aimed at raising the profile of RENKEI as well as encouraging Japan/ RENKEI research collaborations.

On 2 May 2018, colleagues from the JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) London office visited Newcastle University and showcased some of the funding opportunities that are available via JSPS. Professor Nobuo Ueno, Director JSPS London, and Ms Polly Watson provided an overview of the JSPS London and the JSPS funding opportunities. Drs Adam Brandt, Spencer Hazel and Chris Leyland from Newcastle's School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences showcased their research collaborations with Japan and Professor Selina Stead gave an overview of RENKEI. This was followed by a number of brief one-to-one sessions with colleagues from JSPS London where Newcastle researchers discussed research ideas for funding applications, including a subsequently funded JSPS fellowship with Osaka University. The event was open to all UK based RENKEI member universities and we were delighted that a colleague from the University of Edinburgh, a recent addition to RENKEI, attended the event. Newcastle University has convened a RENKEI Working Group whose aim is to keep promoting RENKEI and to provide support and guidance for 'Climate Change' and 'Health' related activities. The working group members include the Early Career Researchers who attended the RENKEI 'Climate Change' workshop in Tokyo in November 2018. The group has organised and run a 'Connect on ... Japan' event which took place on 3 May 2019, bringing together a group of approximately 20 researchers from across Newcastle who share a common interest in Japan.



# RENKEI Researcher Events

## and Steering Committee Meeting 2019



The next RENKEI researcher networking event on climate change will be held in Newcastle University from 2 to 4 December 2019. Researchers of different generations and with varying experiences will gather to discuss research ideas and identify areas of collaborations. Save the date!

Newcastle University is delighted to be hosting the next Steering Committee Meeting on 5 December and to continue forging new collaborations to bring us better understanding of and solutions to our common challenges. The organising committee members on health will also meet in University of Nottingham on 3 December 2019 to discuss new RENKEI programmes on health. Researcher events on health will be held in spring 2019 in Japan.

# RENKEI Researcher Events

## and Steering Committee Meeting 2019

# RENKEI Steering Committee Members



**Dr Kayo Inaba**

Executive Vice-President for Gender Equality,  
International Affairs, and Public Relations  
Kyoto University



**Professor Genta Kawahara**

Executive Vice President  
Osaka University



**Professor Masato Wakayama**

Executive Vice President  
Kyushu University



**Professor Yoko Matsubara**

Vice President /  
Professor, Graduate School of Core Ethics  
and Frontier Sciences  
Ritsumeikan University



**Professor Hideki Kasuya**

Presidential Advisor /  
Professor, Graduate School of Medicine  
Nagoya University



**Professor Toshiya Ueki**

Executive Vice President  
Tohoku University

# RENKEI Steering Committee Members



**Dr Jon Turner**

Director,  
Institute for Academic Development  
University of Edinburgh



**Philip James**

Director of the Newcastle Urban Observatory and  
Senior Lecturer in GIS  
School of Engineering  
Newcastle University

**Professor Raul Fuentes**  
Professor of Infrastructure Engineering  
and Pro-Dean International (Engineering)  
University of Leeds



**Professor Michele Clarke**  
Professor of Environmental Change,  
School of Geography  
University of Nottingham



**Professor Anthony Hollander**

Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation  
University of Liverpool



**Professor Peter G.R. Smith**

Pro Vice-Chancellor (International Projects)  
Head of Optical Engineering & Quantum Photonics  
University of Southampton

# RENKEI Coordinators



**Yuka Yano**  
Administrative Staff,  
International Affairs Division  
Kyoto University



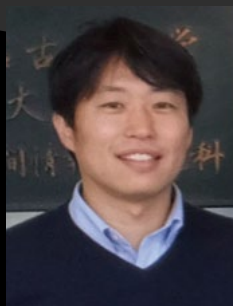
**Saori Obayashi**  
Associate Professor,  
Center for Global Initiatives  
Osaka University



**Saori Suenaga**  
Liaison Officer,  
International Affairs Department  
Kyushu University



**Professor Ryota Kanayama**  
Director, Division of Global Planning and Partnerships /  
Professor, College/Graduate School of Letters  
Ritsumeikan University



**Professor Ko Nomura**  
Professor,  
Graduate School of Environmental Studies  
Nagoya University



**Taeko Misumi**  
Specially Appointed Associate Professor,  
Office for International Initiatives  
Tohoku University

# RENKEI Coordinators



**Grace Guan**

Regional Director – East Asia,  
Edinburgh Global  
University of Edinburgh



**Dr Dajana Dzanovic**

EU and International Research Funding Manager,  
Research Strategy and Development  
Newcastle University



**Claire Freeston**

International Marketing Manager (East Asia),  
International Office  
University of Leeds



**Dr Elizabeth French**

Head of Research Strategy, Policy,  
Performance and Impact, Research & Innovation  
University of Nottingham



**Christine Bateman**

Director, International Development Office  
University of Liverpool



**Maria K. Norton**

Senior International Partnerships Manager  
(Networks & Development)  
University of Southampton

**RENKEI Secretariat** Ayako Towatari, Programme Manager (Education) and Mai Inui, Programme officer (Education), British Council, Japan