

***Activity Report submitted on the 19th of April 2023 for SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities,
within the IAU HESD Cluster
University of Tsukuba***

Lead: University of Tsukuba, Japan <https://www.tsukuba.ac.jp>

Satellites in Subcluster:

- Bologna University
- University of São Paulo
- University Putra Malaysia
- Universiteit Utrecht, The Netherlands

In the academic year of 2022, the University of Tsukuba has continued reconstructing its satellite network through consultation with IAU in having the participation of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, India. The University of São Paulo has also expressed interest in joining the network and SDG 10 is finally completing a network covering all the continents. Once the network has been stabilized and settled, the University of Tsukuba will plan to organize timely workshops with its satellites. (Global time difference constraints are making a convenient time among all universities in different time zones difficult, and the University of Tsukuba will investigate how to arrange such a meeting.)

Aside from the reconstruction of the network, the University of Tsukuba has been active in its own activities in accelerating discussion about issues regarding SDG 10 and the SDGs in general. A new project with the local municipality of Tsukuba city is underway with involving and informing local stakeholders on the role of innovation within the SDGs framework through SNS platforms. The "Tsukuba SDGs and Innovation"ⁱ community and has been increasing followership on multiple SNS platforms during this period since 2022.

The University of Tsukuba has also continued supporting its SDG centric pre-strategic initiative by the Empirical Social Science Research Center for Policy Solutions to Disparities and Inequalities (DDPI) headed by Hidehiro Yamamoto, where numerous seminars and conferences have been hosted. During the 2022 Tsukuba Global Science Week, the session "Gender Inequality and Social Actions"ⁱⁱ discussed the position in which women are placed into and the social activities for their improvement. Three case studies were discussed, namely, employment in highly skilled jobs (Europe), media representation of women politicians (Japan), and women leaders of labor unions (Japan). It was highlighted that although women's participation in society has been raised as a principle, there are structural barriers that prevent it. At the same time, the importance of social movements and social activities to improve this situation was reaffirmed.

Professor Daniela Bolzani revealed that despite the increasing demand for highly skilled jobs in European companies, women are at a disadvantage, especially women with other attributes, such as immigrants, are compounded by discrimination. She then discussed ways in which highly skilled immigrant women can overcome barriers. Other presentations discussed the situation of women politicians in the Japanese media and revealed how powerful women who do not conform to the role expectations for women are portrayed. This segment discussed how barriers to women's advancement in society are constructed and maintained. Another presentation discussed issues surrounding the training of female leaders using the case of a delivery driver's union in Japan. The training curriculum is male-centered and that career paths are limited. At the same time, however, she discussed the need to increase the number of female leaders to improve the situation. The intersectional and compound discrimination is a serious problem, and the significance and potential of social movements and activities for social change was confirmed. Through the conference with Prof. Daniela Bolzani, we confirmed that we will continue to collaborate with the University of Bologna on SDGs 5 and 10.

The Empirical Social Science Research Center for Policy Solutions to Disparities and Inequalitiesⁱⁱⁱ has also hosted numerous seminars during 2022 through 2023 as follows. In the 9th DDPI Seminar "Can Deliberative Democracy Solve Disparity and Inequality?" Prof. Wataru Miyasaka of the University of Tsukuba spoke about deliberative democracy, which is attracting attention as a method to solve the insecurity about science and technology that cannot be solved by the current representative democracy and the resulting disparities, including its advantages and challenges, using a variety of concrete examples from its history dating back to ancient Athens and its continued attempts in the modern era. In the 10th DDPI Seminar "Intra-Generational and Inter-Generational Fairness Regarding the Environment" Professor Soko Aoki of Nagoya University presented topics on various disparities surrounding the environment, including intra-generational and inter-generational disparities, based on various examples from Japan and around the world. She also discussed how such injustice can be overcome and gave a detailed report on the case of the opposition movement for a nuclear power plant in Mie Prefecture and examined various angles to solve the complex problem. In June, Mr. Kenichiro Fukushima, the Representative Director of Code for Kanazawa and Representative Director of i-Publishing Co. was the speaker for the seminar titled "Building a New Civil Society Created by Technology" where he explained his involvement in civic tech activities to create the society that citizens need, through case studies and the future directions of civic tech. In July 2022, during the 12th DDPI Seminar and Extension Lecture "Correction of Health Disparities through Measures against Loneliness and Isolation: A Social Epidemiological Perspective", Professor Naoki Kondo of Kyoto University talked about tackling the issue of health disparities from various perspectives from the approach of social epidemiology, and spoke about various health disparities,

countermeasures against them, and community building, including actual efforts and the post-COVID-19 outlook. This seminar was coincidentally the first face-to-face seminar since the beginning of the pandemic.

In fall 2022, Professor Jun Imai of Sophia University talked about the inequality surrounding contemporary Japan and how it has affected the expansion of non-regular employment, the subsequent re-regulation of the labor market, and the formation of limited regular employees, based on the concepts of industrial citizenship and company-specific citizenship. Later that fall in November 2022, Professor Yuichiro Mori of Hokkaido University was the speaker for the 14th DDPI Seminar "What is Equality? An Introduction to Contemporary Justice Theory" in which he began with an introduction to the various positions on justice theory, and explained how the debate over equality has developed in the modern era, addressing the fundamental question, "What is equality?"

In winter 2022, Professor Kazunori Kawamura of Tohoku University explained the problems associated with the social implementation of electronic voting in Japan from the perspective of digital inclusion, which includes those who are reluctant to manage and utilize government elections. He also introduced the voting implementation experiment currently being conducted in Tsukuba City through his seminar titled, "Voting Rights Guarantee and the Future of Electronic Voting in Japan." In the same month Professor Taiyo Fukai of the University of Tsukuba gave an overview of the economic approach to the effects of childcare policies, and then spoke about the actual effects of Japan's childcare policies based on his own research results in the 16th DDPI Seminar "Empirical Analysis of Childcare Policies: Results of Recent Economic Studies." To end the academic year of 2022, Professor Yoshiaki Kubo of Kwansei Gakuin University talked about the Okinawa prefectural government regarding U.S. military bases and security. He also discussed the issue of inequality between regions with U.S. military bases and other regions in his seminar titled "Security and Local Autonomy: An Approach from the Study of Elections in Okinawa."

ⁱ https://instagram.com/tsukuba_sdgs/

<https://www.facebook.com/tsukuba.sdgs>

ⁱⁱ <https://tgs.w.tsukuba.ac.jp/TGSW2022/sessions/55/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://ddpi.icrhs.tsukuba.ac.jp>