

Creation of Trans-disciplinary Research on Resilience of Mongolia in Rapid Development

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Mongolia faces a rapid urbanization as well as land development in the last few years, although its measures for disasters and environmental management are far behind. In addition, the nomadic lifestyle as well as the social structure have changed dramatically as liberalization progressed, and the society is gradually losing its resilience (or flexibility and adaptability) to disasters and social change. Therefore, time demands for reconsideration of traditional resilience as well as determining a long term vision for the future of Mongolia, which takes into account the detailed hazard evaluation. In 2014, Nagoya University and National University of Mongolia launched together the Project Office for the Resilience Research Center in Ulaanbaatar and held the first "Pre-Open Symposium" on September 15.

In this Center, we first attempt to introduce a variety of research findings: geographical research of active faults and cases of severe winter that causes deaths of large number of livestock due to starvation and/or the cold (so-called "dzud"), anthropological research on changes in traditional culture and social structure, and environmental research such as atmospheric pollution. We showcase these findings at regular seminars for students and the public of Mongolia in an attempt to provide them with insights for discussion of resilience. We encourage participation of students in our research projects so that they will be trained to find out solutions for the way in which the resilience of Mongolia should be. The key topics for the seminars include (1) urban planning, in consideration of the measures for hazards, (2) redevelopment of the "ger area" in Ulaanbaatar, and (3) an expansion plan of the metropolitan area.

In addition, this research will contribute to the research agenda C: Transformations towards Sustainability in Strategic Research Agenda 2014 of the Future Earth, in particular, C3: Transforming development pathways and C3-2: What are the potentials and possibilities for adapting and transforming infrastructure and services in urban and rural areas, in diverse socio-economic contexts, given the constraints and interdependence of these systems? What types of running processes and tools can contribute to integrated urban and rural sustainable development?

Keywords: resilience, disaster, Mongolia, Trans-disciplinary Research