

Community and Safety

In this session we will discuss safety, security and well-being in Sumiyoshi-ward, the location of Osaka City University. We especially would like to focus on urban disaster prevention from a scientific and cultural point of view, whilst looking at ‘community revitalization’, ‘city redevelopment’ and ‘regional industrial promotion’, all problems that are common in modern societies. Sumiyoshi-ward is located in the Sumiyoshi area, which started to develop already from around 1800. It accommodates many different lifestyles and has experienced various disasters.

Nowadays, although it still is a prime residential area of Osaka, problems such as isolation of individual inhabitants, decline of local industries and insufficient disaster prevention capacity are becoming increasingly obvious. We will discuss a variety of topics, including disaster prevention by the city and by the community, and people’s lifestyles, history and culture.

Program 1: sightseeing tour of Sumiyoshi Shrine, National Treasure (16:00~17:00)

Program 2: symposium (18:00~20:30)

Safety, security and well-being of people in urban settings

Carolyn Whitzman (Associate Professor, University of Melbourne, Australia)

Dr. Whitzman obtained her Ph.D. from McMaster University, Canada and she won the Canadian Association of Geographers prize for best dissertation in human geography. She also worked for the City of Toronto on healthy city initiatives. Dr. Whitzman has an international reputation for her work on the prevention of violence. Her current research interests include the development of integrated violence prevention initiatives at the local government level, increasing independent mobility for children, and the policy implications of planning for healthy cities. She started to teach at University of Melbourne in 2003, and became associate professor in 2010. She is the lead editor of *Building Inclusive Cities: Women’s Safety and the Right to the City* (Earthscan, 2012) for which she received an outstanding book award from the Association of American Geographers this year.

(Source: <http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/associate-professor-carolyn-whitzman>)

The idea of the “inclusive city” in which ideally all residents (including children, people with disabilities, elderly etc) live safely and in affluence, will be introduced. Furthermore, the “inclusive city” world trends will be described using examples from the US and Australia.



Overview of Sumiyoshi Shrine

Michihiro Takai (Chief Priest, Sumiyoshi Shrine)

Michihiro Takai was born in Sumiyoshi, and he has been serving in Sumiyoshi Shrine for nearly 40 years now. His focus is to pass 1,800 years of the shrine history and tradition to the next generation, and to keep the shrine continue to be a place of comfort for residents in Osaka.

The chief priest of Sumiyoshi Shrine will give a talk about the history of the shrine and its implication to our modern societies.



Safety and Security Initiative of Sumiyoshi-ward

Yasuto Yoshida (Director of Sumiyoshi-ward)

He has been the director of Sumiyoshi Ward since August, 2012. He believes people live very closely with tradition, culture, and history in Sumiyoshi Ward, a fact illustrated by the presence of Sumiyoshi Shrine and Abiko Kannon. He supports the community building effects of local organizations, authorities, and others for a harmonious Sumiyoshi.

We will discuss the efforts of Sumiyoshi-ward, a prime residential area of Osaka, to overcome problems regarding its residents’ life and perception of the future.

A case report of “Life-saving lesson” at Ozora Elementary school

Yasuko Kimura (Principal of the Osaka Municipal Minami-Sumiyoshi Ozora Elementary School)

The Ozora Elementary School, since its establishment in 2006, has always been a ‘local school’ built on solidarity with the motto –a school for everybody, a school made by everybody–, guaranteeing the right to learn for each child.

The school aims to give its pupils four strengths: ‘to value other people’, ‘to think for yourself’, ‘to express yourself and ‘to challenge yourself, and teaches them one rule ‘Do not do unto others what you do not want others to do unto you’.

The principal of Ozora Elementary School will give a case report about “life-saving lesson” practiced at the school and involving the local residents to participate. Its outcome and future progress will be discussed.

A Concept of “Inochi-rabo network” and implementation of disaster education in the community

Muneki Mitamura (Professor, Osaka City University Graduate School of Science)

Professor Mitamura graduated in Geology from Osaka City University Graduate School of Science in 1983 and joined Kawasaki Geological Engineering Co. Ltd. as a technician. He became research associate at Osaka City University Graduate School of Science in 1985, subsequently lecturer, assistant professor and associate professor and was appointed professor in 2010.

Since the Kobe earthquake in 1995 he has been doing research on liquefaction and deformation of artificial ground and has been active in disaster education, giving lectures to the general public and at primary and high schools.

The concept of “Inochi-rabo network” which was developed mainly by OCU will be explained. Also, implemented disaster education in the community, based on the same concept, will be discussed.

Chair



Kazuhiko Mori (Professor, Osaka City University Graduate School of Human Life Science)

Professor Mori graduated in Building Engineering from Toyohashi University of Technology Graduate School of Engineering in 1982 and joined Yamashita Sekkei Inc. After working as research associate at Toyohashi University of Technology from 1986, he became assistant professor at Tsukuba University of Technology in 1995 and at Osaka City University in 1999. He was appointed as professor in 2005. His main field of research is welfare environmental design. He is involved in local community design projects such as the Senboku New Town renewal project and the Osaka City University Disaster Reduction Research Project.