

Open Symposium

From New Orleans to Tokyo—Lessons from Hurricane Katrina

The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP), the Kyoto University Disaster Prevention Research Institute, and the Meiji University Research Center for Crisis and Contingency Management will jointly conduct a public symposium entitled “From New Orleans to Tokyo—Lessons from Hurricane Katrina.”

One year has passed since New Orleans was hit by the massive storm surge and flood caused by Hurricane Katrina. CGP will invite a group of nine professionals from New Orleans to promote academic and practical policy dialogue and to foster mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. During their stay from October 15 to 22, 2006, the delegation will visit areas devastated by the Hanshin-Awaji earthquake and emergency facilities in Tokyo and will meet their Japanese counterparts to discuss disaster prevention and recovery policy.

In the symposium, the participants and audience will share the experience in New Orleans—the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, citizens’ response to the devastation, and the current state of the reconstruction process—through which CGP hopes to encourage greater awareness of disaster preparedness in Japan. They will also discuss Japan’s disaster recovery experiences and preventive policies, which should be of great interest to the citizens of New Orleans as well.

Date and time: **Friday, October 20, 2006, 13:00 to 17:00**

Venue: **Japan Foundation International Conference Hall**

Language: Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and Japanese.

Admission and booking: Admission is free. **Media booking is required.**

Program:

Session 1 (30 min.): Keynote speech

Speaker: Prof. Yoshiaki Kawata, Executive Director, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, and Director, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University

Session 2 (70 min.): Experiences of New Orleans followed by Q&A session

Speakers: Chief Joseph Matthews, Director, New Orleans Office Emergency Preparedness; Dr. Douglas Meffert, Deputy Director, Center for Bioenvironmental Research; Mr. Oliver Thomas, Jr., President, New Orleans City Council

Session 3 (100 min.): Panel discussion followed by Q&A session

Moderator: Mr. Yasushi Aoyama, Professor, Graduate School of Governance Studies, Meiji University

Panelists: Prof. Norio Maki, Associate Professor, Kyoto University; Mr. Noboru Yamazaki, Director, Sumida Ward, Tokyo; Mr. Yoshihiro Hayakawa, Member, Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly; Dr. Ralph Thayer, Professor Emeritus of University of New Orleans; Rev. Vien The Nguyen, Pastor, Mary Queen of Viet Nam Church in New Orleans East; and others

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