

## COMPLETION REPORT

Grassroots ecological knowledge and disaster resiliencies - the folklore of natural disasters in three village communities in Japan(What do ujigami, place names, stone memorials, land forms tell of past disasters in village communities hit by natural disaster in Japan?)

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On the month of May, 2013, Prof. Hernandez and I undertook fieldwork in Awajishima. During this period, I was unable to meet with Prof. Shuichi Kawashima, of the International Research Institute for Disaster Science IRIDeS, Tohoku University because our schedules could not coincide. However, on our part we continued with library work in Tokyo and Kyoto. I had the good opportunity to travel to Sendai, however, in July 2013 to attend the Asia Pacific Research -IRIDeS Summer School Program. After the seminar, I continued to undertake field work and library research. Through the IRIDeS introduction, I could do a 2-day survey in Tagajo City.

From November 2013 to January 2014, all our activities were centered on the dissemination of our results in conferences and workshops. We believe that the culmination of this research work is the sharing of the research results with school children in Northern Mindanao. My lecture to the school children is a simplified version of several papers read/delivered in two conferences and three workshops earlier.

*Mapping Communities, Understanding Disaster* was the theme of our workshop in January 7, 2014. From our research we demonstrated how meanings of place names help mitigate disaster. A lecture-in-powerpoint presentation “Mapping Communities, Understanding Disaster” was attended by at least 84 elementary school children from 10 flood-prone Barangays of Cagayan de Oro City. This workshop was made possible by the Capitol University’s Museum of Three Cultures. Data from Tohoku, Awajishima, Bohol and Tacloban helped illustrate the point. Prof Lilian de la Peña, assisted me enlarging the sample by using her Cagayan de Oro data. We made sure that students relate to current events. For example, the word *Tacloban* means ‘to cover’. Didn’t a large storm surge covered (engulped) almost all of the city of Tacloban when Typhoon Haiyan (Local name Yolanda) devastated Central Philippines in 7 November 2013. This way, the image flashed to the students was graphic and very fresh. Furthermore, I focused on one key the idea, *dumdum* ‘memory’ or things that can retrieve the past. Memory can be retrieved using the approach Japanese utilized to memorialized events. I illustrated the importance of historical materials which were used to create the timeline of the most destructive disasters that occurred in Japan in the past 2,200 years (ca. 864-2011). This timeline used evidence from ancient Japanese paintings, memorial tablets, trees that have been carried from the shore to the hill by tsunamis, oral narratives, archaeological evidence and local people’s recording of events in their lifetime (Asahi Shimbun, 2013.05.26, page 32). These “memorials” were then correlated with place names. Following is an article on the workshop by Ms. Maria Rosalie Zerrudo from the local newspaper.

Dr. Zayas emphasized on the word “dumdum” or remembrance. I am deeply touched by these processes where mere sharing of information from memory can be interpreted in a meaningful symbolic cultural mapping by communities.

The lectures from two Filipino anthropologists and the workshops that followed focused on a very specific goal: to identify the role of schools and students in community-based efforts to reduce the risk of disaster. The mere awareness of the landscape and topography of the place changes one’s perspective (<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cagayan-de-cultural-mapping-and-education-community-disasters-325108>).

We hope to continue this research with more illustrative examples, i.e., good practices from the Kobe and the Tohoku experiences to be shared specially with the children in Tacloban and Bohol, as well as in the development of teaching materials in our course on Cultures of Disaster in our Center.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

<b>Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)</b>				
<b>2014</b>	Capitol University,	Mapping Communities,	Place names & disasters-	<b>Cynthia Neri Zayas</b>
.	Three Cultures	Understanding	Japan & the Philippines	
<b>Jan</b>	Museum	Disaster.	Social Progress and	
			Place-names	<b>Lilian C de la Peña</b>
<b>08</b>	Cagayan deOro City,			
	Misamis Oriental			
<b>2013</b>	Cagayan de Oro City	Capacity Strengthening	Narratives of Filipino	<b>Cynthia Neri Zayas</b>
<b>Dec.</b>		Program on Integration	responses to natural	
		of Climate Change	disasters	
<b>02-</b>		Adaptation and	Anthropologizing Tao,	
<b>03</b>		Disaster Risk Reduction	lupa, hangin & tubig,	
		in Five Provinces in the	andtumao (Japanese &	
<b>2013</b>	Mindanao State	Phils.	Southeast Asia)	
.	Univ. Iligan Ins.t of			
	Tech. Lanao del			
<b>Dec.</b>	Norte			
<b>05-</b>				
<b>06</b>				
<b>2013</b>	Ateneo de Davao,	35 <sup>th</sup> UGAT (Philippine	Disaster experiences in	<b>C. N. Zayas, Viveca</b>
.	Davao City	Anthropological	places names &	<b>Hernandez</b>
<b>Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)</b>				
UGAT Journal. 2015. Disaster experiences in places names and memories in Japan and the Philippines (C. N. Zayas, & Viveca Hernandez); Disaster, Cityhood & Folklore (Lilian dela Pena); The Fortress (Arnold Alamon)				
<b>Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)</b>				