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IDRiM Lecture Series

Date: 27th February 2026
Time: 11:00 (UTC)
Lecturer: Prof. Yasuyuki Sawada
University of Tokyo, Japan

Title

On the Roles of Market, Government, and
Communities in Building Disaster
Resilience

Guest Lecturer



Yasuyuki SAWADA

Professor Yasuyuki Sawada is a Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Director of Center for Research and Education in Program Evaluation (CREPE), University of Tokyo. He is also a council member of the Science Council of Japan. From March 2017 to August 2021, he held the position of Chief Economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and served as the Director General of its Research Department. His primary research areas encompass development economics, empirical microeconomics, economics of disasters, field surveys & experiments, and economic analysis of Asian countries. He previously served as an AJRC Research Associate at the Australian National University, an Adjunct Professor at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and Korea University, and a SCID Visiting Professor at Stanford University. He has collaborated with various research and policy organizations, including JICA, RIETI, ERIA, IDE-JETRO, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), BRAC Bangladesh, and the World Bank. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University.

Email: sawada@e.u-tokyo.ac.jp
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-4167-7697

Website:
<https://sites.google.com/site/yasuyukisawadapage/main>

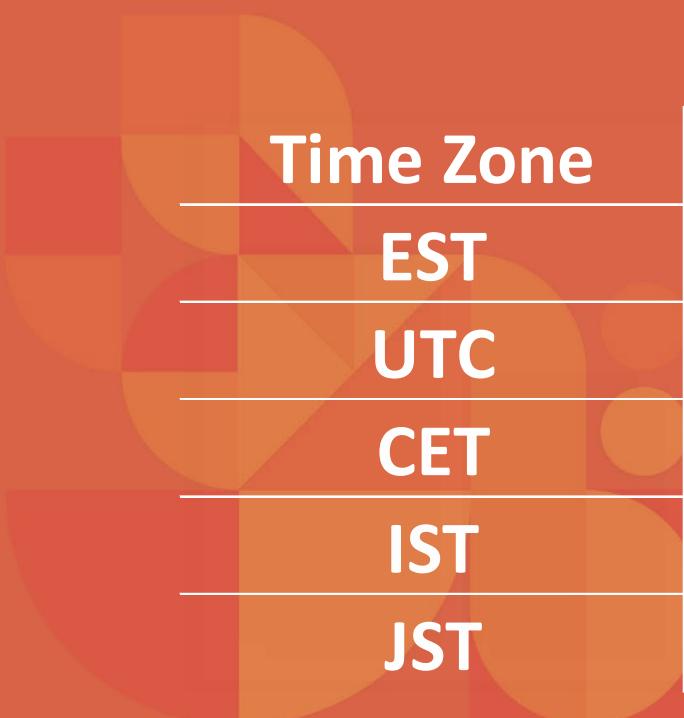
Abstract

This lecture discusses how markets, governments, and communities function as core mechanisms for resource allocation in disaster resilience. While market mechanisms are powerful, market failures (e.g., asymmetric information) and government failures (e.g., poor governance) often limit their effectiveness. Disaster insurance markets often fail due to adverse selection and moral hazard, underscoring the need for public-private partnerships. Communities play a crucial complementary role by fostering social capital such as trust, mutual aid, and informal insurance, which support both markets and public goods provision. The lecture illustrates informal insurance against disaster risks, using evidence from field studies and experiments in Japan and the Philippines. Empirical findings, particularly from post-disaster surveys in Iwanuma City and Futaba Town, highlight how social capital mitigates mental health impacts and supports recovery differently. Innovative community infrastructure, such as “Ibasho” in Japan, Nepal, and the Philippines, demonstrates how physical and institutional investments can enhance post-disaster resilience. Ultimately, the lecture emphasizes that strengthening the “trinity” of market, state, and community mechanisms, especially through social capital, is vital for disaster risk reduction and long-term recovery.

Zoom & Time

[https://kyoto-u-
edu.zoom.us/j/86421964775?pwd=nBhM7C
CvK4E32PnuiTXzYxYPI3bkrJ.1](https://kyoto-u-edu.zoom.us/j/86421964775?pwd=nBhM7CCvK4E32PnuiTXzYxYPI3bkrJ.1)

Meeting ID: 864 2196 4775
Passcode: 684978



| Time Zone | Time |
|-----------|----------|
| EST | 6:00 AM |
| UTC | 11:00 AM |
| CET | 12:00 PM |
| IST | 16:30 PM |
| JST | 20:00 PM |