



Preliminary report on the 7th International Conference for Universal Design in Bangkok 2019



Video-message from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the Opening Ceremony

The 7th International Conference for Universal Design in Bangkok 2019 was successfully held over three days from March 4 (Mon.) through 6 (Wed.) at Convention Hall of King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) in Bangkok, Thailand, marking the first holding of this event overseas. It received many participants from countries worldwide and ended as a resounding success.



Venue: Convention Hall of KMITL

The theme on this occasion was “Universal Design and Sustainable Development” which is in line with the “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” that the United Nations has set as targets for achievement by 2030. The aim of holding an international conference in Thailand on this occasion was to communicate to Thailand and the rest of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as the world, that universal design (UD) can contribute to achievement of the SDGs.

The sub-themes were set as “UD for Industrial Promotion,” “UD for Regional

Planning,” “UD for Aged Society,” and “UD for Tourism,” and the outcomes of the research and activities that have been carried out thus far were shared through the keynote addresses, sessions, and paper presentations featuring experts from countries worldwide.

Furthermore, UD workshops with content easy for ordinary citizens to follow were held, and this served as a very good opportunity extensively raises awareness regarding UD.

As for ensuring the reliable provision of information during the conference, participants could listen to simultaneous interpretation in English, Japanese, or Thai during all sessions using receivers; simultaneous subtitles in English, Thai, and Japanese were shown on a front screen; and Japanese sign-language interpretation was offered on stage platforms.

Furthermore, on this occasion, a subtitle-distribution service was provided utilizing a smartphone app called “OMOTENASHI Guide App,” which features a UD support system for sound named “SoundUD.” This made it possible to provide conference information translated in 13 languages in real time.

The general reception desk at the venue was staffed by a large number of Thai personnel from KMITL, and shuttle vans provided transportation between the venue and the nearest train station and hotel during the conference.



The reception desk at the venue



Shuttle van operated during the conference

March 4 (Monday)

Opening Ceremony

The event was opened with an address by Mr. Hisafumi Koga, President, Organizing Committee. This was followed by a guest greeting by Mr. Surayud Chulanont, Privy Councilor to King Vajiralongkorn, and the showing of a video message from Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister. Prime Minister Abe provided a very encouraging message, stating, “It is my sincere high hope that you participants from all over the world engage in

meaningful dialogues and in mutual exchanges toward the share goal of realizing a sustainable UD that the outcomes of this Conference are communicated to the world and make a tremendous contribution to the future of human kind.”

Furthermore, a guest greeting was given by Mr. Shiro Sadoshima, Japanese Ambassador in Thailand, and, on behalf of the local area, welcome speeches were given by Mr. Suchatvee Suwansawat, President of KMITL (video message), and Ms. Thanaporn Promsuwan, Director-general, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Following this, Ms. Akiko Yamanaka, Special Advisor to the President, ERIA, gave a greeting on behalf on the conference cosponsor, and then Ms. Yoko Takahashi, President, Japan Philanthropic Association, gave an address to close the ceremony.

General moderation was provided by KYO (voice actor Mr. Yu Miyazaki), who is the leader of a three-man unit called “ZOLA Project, ” which uses “VOCALOID, ” a Yamaha technology that enables singing voices to be created by inputting melodies and lyrics.



Moderator KYO (ZOLA Project)



Mr. Koga, Gen.Chulanont, Mr.Sadoshima, Mr.Suwansawat and Ms.Promsuwan



Ms. Yamanaka and Ms.Takahashi

Opening Ceremony

Open Symposium

The open symposium welcomed experts promoting UD in various countries worldwide, and two keynote addresses were given and a panel discussion took place. Voice actor Mr. Yu Miyazaki served as the general moderator.



Keynote Address 1

Universal Design and Sustainable Development

In line with the theme on this occasion, “Universal Design and Sustainable Development,” Mr. Roger Coleman, Professor Emeritus, Royal College of Art, spoke on the social changes that UD has brought about thus far and the roles of UD. Prof. Coleman established the Royal College of Art Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design, and he proposes new designs that are compatible with aging societies to governments and companies.



Keynote Address 2

SOCIAL RESILIENCE: From Humans to Infrastructure

Ms. Akiko Yamanaka, Special Advisor to the President, ERIA, spoke about the handling of emergencies and crises, such as natural disasters, from a UD perspective. Ms. Yamanaka is engaged in the development of human resources for peace-building, human security, and risk reduction and damage mitigation regarding human and natural disasters.



Panel Discussion: Regional and Urban Development on Universal Design

In regard to the topic of enhancing accessibility in urban infrastructure and urban living, a panel of five UD experts introduced cases of regional development based on UD.

Panelists:

Valerie Fletcher (Executive Director, Institute of Human Centered Design: USA)

Francesc Aragall (President, Design for All Foundation: Spain)

Rama Gheerawo (Director, Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design, Royal College of Art: UK)

Antika Sawadsri (President, Council of Deans for Architecture School of Thailand – CDAST / Dean for Faculty of Architecture, KMITL: Thailand)

Thomas Bade (President, IUD Institute of Universal Design AG: Germany)

Coordinator: Toshimasa Yamanaka (Professor, Tsukuba University/ Councillor, IAUD: Japan)



Ms. Fletcher, Mr. Aragall, Mr. Gheerawo, Ms. Sawadsri and Mr. Bade

IAUD International Design Award 2018 Presentation/Awards Ceremony

Upon carrying out strictly neutral examinations of the 22 entries received from both within Japan and overseas, the IAUD International Design Award 2018 Selection Committee selected “Universal Disaster Prevention Solution supporting consistently from prevention headquarters to residents ” (Fujitsu Ltd. / Fujitsu Design Limited) as the winner of the “Grand Award .”



Furthermore, the 11 winners of the “Gold Award” and 4 winners of the “Silver Award” in various categories, as well as the 6 winners of the “IAUD International Design Award” were announced, and Mr. Roger Coleman, Chair, Award Selection Committee, offered a critique.

Following this, Mr. Coleman and Mr. Satoshi Kose, Chair, Executive Committee, presented award certificates to Grand Award and Gold Award winners, and these winners then gave presentations.

Also, at the Convention Hall Foyer inside the venue, a video introducing the award-winning initiatives was shown.

Welcome Reception

This reception was held in order to extend a welcome to the conference attendees and pray for the success of the conference.

Following an opening address by Mr. Hisafumi Koga, President, Organizing Committee, Mr. Anan Srikiatkachorn, Professor, Dean for School of Medicine, KMITL, and Ms. Antika Sawadsri, Dean, Faculty of Architecture, KMITL, gave welcome speeches, and then Ms. Akiko Yamanaka, Special Advisor to the President, ERIA, offered a toast.



Furthermore, Mr. Hiroki Mitsumata, President, Japan External Trade Organization Bangkok, and Ms. Aiko Akiyama, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, gave guest greetings.

Friendly chats then took place among the participants, and Mr. Yukio Ohta, Former President, Sign Center, gave an address to close the reception.



Ms.Koga, Mr. Srikiatkachorn, Ms. Sawadsri and Ms.Yamanaka



Mr. Mitsumata, Ms.Akiyama and Mr.Ohta

Exhibition

In the Exhibition Hall, panels showing explanation of the IAUD Research and Development Division and activities of seven groups[※] were displayed over the 3 day period.

※ Seven groups: Standardization Study Working Group G, Living Space Project, UD Project for Leisure, UD Project for Media, UD Project for Clothing Work Style Project and Sign Language Terminology Sub Working Group.



March 5 (Tuesday)

Session 1: Keynote Speech

Universal Design for Aged Society 1-Population aging, SDGs and Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative

Ohshuke Komazawa (Special Advisor to the President for Healthcare and Long Term Care Policy, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia: ERIA)

Coordinator: Masayoshi Kubo (Osaka University of Art: Japan)



Session 2: Panel Discussion

Universal Design for Industrial Promotion 1-Innovation for All



Ms. Crolius, Ms. Eikhaug, Mr. Gheerawo and Ms. Sawadsri

Willa Crolius (Director, User/Expert lab, Institute for Human Centered Design: USA)

Onny Eikhaug (President, EIDD Design for All Europe: Norway)

Rama Gheerawo (Director, Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design, Royal College of Art: UK)

Coordinator: Antika Sawadsri (Director, Inclusive Designed Environment and Research Unit, KMITL: Thailand)

Session 3: Panel Discussion

Universal Design for Industrial Promotion 2-User-friendly Design and Service



Mr. Bade, Ms. Nakao, Mr.Ohyama and Mr.Mori

Thomas Bade (President, IUD Institute of Universal Design AG: Germany)

Yoko Nakao (Panasonic Corporation: Japan)

Shigeki Ohyama (Senior Editor, Nikkei BP: Japan)

Coordinator: Hideo Mori (Chair, UD for Clothing, IAUD: Japan)

Session 4: Panel Discussion

Universal Design for Regional Planning - Sustainable Inclusive City



Mr.koresawa, Mr. Srisom, Mr.Iwase and Mr.Masuda

Atsushi Koresawa (Regional Director, UN-Habitat Office for Asia and the Pacific: Japan)

Sawang Srisom (Thailand Accessibility Freelancer, Chulalongkorn University: Thailand)

Daichi Iwase (Professor, Tokyo Zokei University: Japan)

Coordinator: Fumikazu Masuda (President, Openhouse: Japan)

Session 5: Panel Discussion

Universal Design in Architectural Education-Role of Architectural School and Inclusive design



Ms. Sawadsri, Mr. Chutapruittikorn, Ms. Fletcher, Mr. Jitkajornwanich and Ms. Tauyhareun
Antika Sawadsri (Dean, Faculty of Architecture, KMITL: Thailand)
Rittirong Chutapruittikorn (Dean, School of Architecture, Bangkok University: Thailand)
Valerie Fletcher (Executive Director, Institute for Human Centered Design: USA)
Kitchai Jitkajornwanich (Dean for Faculty of Architecture from Walailuck University: Thailand)
Nuanwan Tauyhareun (Faculty of Architecture, Kasetsart University: Thailand)
Coordinator: James Harrison (Centre for Architectural Education, University College Cork: Ireland)

UD Workshop 1: Product Design

Universal Design of Product in Collaboration with Various Users

Workshop leader: Toshiharu Arai (Professor Emeritus, Kanazawa College of Art: Japan)



UD Workshop 2: Contextual Inquiry Research

Contextual Inquiry Research with User/Experts to Inform Universal Designing

Workshop leaders: Valerie Fletcher (Executive Director, Institute of Human Centered Design: USA)
Assistant: Willa Croluis (Director, User/Expert lab, Institute for Human Centered Design: USA)
James Fuschetti (Design Fellow, Institute of Human Centered Design: USA)



Oral Sessions

23 papers that passed a strict selection process from among a total of 40 papers submitted from both Japan and overseas were presented separately by topic in five sessions on 5th and 6th.

On the 5th, sessions were held on the themes, “Urban Design”, “Building Design”, “Housing” and “Ergonomics”. Then, on the 6th, sessions were held on the topic of “Ergonomics”.



Poster Session

Among the papers received from within Japan and overseas, the seven papers most suited for poster presentations were put on display. The presenters then gave briefings and answered questions while standing next to their posters.



March 6 (Wednesday)

Session 6: Keynote Speech

Universal Design for Tourism 1-Inclusive Tourism in Thailand

Trirat Jarutach (Director of Universal Design Center, Chulalongkorn University: Thailand)

Coordinator: Antika Sawadsri (President, Council of Deans for Architecture School of Thailand –CDAST / Dean for Faculty of Architecture, KMITL: Thailand)



Session 7: Panel Discussion

Universal Design for Tourism 2-Tourism for All



Mr.Aragall, Mr.Seto, Mr.Miyazaki, Mr.Arai and Ms.Matsumori

Francesc Aragall (Design for All Foundation: Spain)

Yuki Seto (Secretary-General, SoundUD Consortium: Japan)

Yu Miyazaki (ZOLA Project voice actor / Vocaloid: Japan)

Toshiharu Arai (Professor Emeritus, Kanazawa College of Art: Japan)

Coordinator: Karin Matsumori (Chair, UD for Leisure/Director, IAUD: Japan)

Session 8: Panel Discussion

Universal Design for Aged Society 2-Barrier-free Design through Universal Design



Mr. Harrison, Ms. Akiyama, Mr. Sawangchareun, Ms. Thongkuay and Mr. Kose

James Harrison (Centre for Architectural Education, University College Cork: Cork, Ireland)

Aiko Akiyama (UN-ESCAP: Japan)

Choomkhet Sawangchareun (Universal Design Center, Thammasart University: Thailand)

Saowalak Thongkuay (Regional Development Officer at Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific: Thailand)

Coordinator: Satoshi Kose (Chair, Board of Directors, IAUD: Japan)

Session 9: Closing Session

Panel Discussion: Universal Design and Sustainable Development

In order to summarize the overall program of the international conference, the representatives of UD-related organizations and experts from various countries served as panelists and provided their opinions and thoughts regarding the conference theme on this occasion, “Universal Design and Sustainable Development,” and lively discussions took place regarding the future direction of UD activities.



Mr. Coleman, Ms. Fletcher, Mr.Aragall, Ms.Takahashi and Mr.Kose

Roger Coleman (Professor Emeritus, Royal College of Art: UK / Councilor, IAUD)

Valerie Fletcher (Executive Director, Institute of Human Centered Design: USA / Councilor, IAUD)

Francesc Aragall (President, Design for All Foundation: Spain / Councilor, IAUD)

Yoko Takahashi (President, Japan Philanthropic Association: Japan / Councilor, IAUD)

Satoshi Kose (Chair, Board of Directors, IAUD: Japan)

Coordinator: Keiji Kawahara (Executive Director, IAUD: Japan)

UD Workshop 3: Sustainable Design

Universal Design for Sustainability

Workshop leader: Fumikazu Masuda (Co-chair, Award Selection Committee: Japan)

UD Workshop 4: Sustainable Tourism

Universal design for sustainable tourism

Workshop leader: Daichi Iwase (Professor, Tokyo Zokei University: Japan)



Closing Ceremony

The last official event of the conference was started by the opening address from Mr. Satoshi Kose, Chair, Executive Committee, followed by the farewell message from Ms. Antika Sawadsri. Mr. Yu Miyazaki was the moderator of the ceremony,

Following on, Ms. Valerie Fletcher, Co-chair, Scientific Committee, announced an

excellent paper among 40 papers submitted from both Japan and overseas. The excellent paper is “Development and Implementation of a VR Device Program to Encourage Squat Movements for Rehabilitation” (Kiyomi Yoshioka, Meisei University).

The three- day conference was officially closed after Mr. Kose read the “International Universal Design Declaration 2019” and Mr. Keiji Kawahara, Co-chair, Executive Committee, delivered the closing address.



Mr.Miyazaki, Mr.Kose, Ms. Sawadsri, Ms. Fletcher and Mr.Kawahara

International Universal Design Declaration 2019

After six conferences organized by IAUD in Japan since 2002, we have come together here in Bangkok for the 7th International conference for Universal Design 2019, to have serious and informed discussions on our theme:

“Universal Design and Sustainable Development”

Universal Design is more than the designing of products, environments and services. It has a vital role in designing future societies that are both inclusive and sustainable. In Thailand, the sustainability challenge is starkly clear as the nation shifts from a rural to an urban society and where there is a significant opportunity to model inclusive economic development.

At the same time, we are distressed by the adverse tides of division and exclusion gaining ground in today’s world. We will therefore strive to join together against the global waves of intolerance, seek equity, celebrate diversity, and bring all our combined forces to bear against these negative threats.

This Conference will expand new links and networks in Asian countries and with other parts of the world and lead us to richer dialogues to create societies for all based on celebrating human diversity.

The working sessions evidenced that UD has a fundamental role to play in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. We therefore commit our empathy, passion and experience to realizing these goals.

Let this conviction be our Conference Declaration.