

Thank you very much for waiting. We would like to open Japan Symposium, organized and hosted by the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and Tokyo Disaster Risk Management Hub.

I am going to serve as an M.C. today. My name is Hiroko Sugiyama. Very nice to meet you all. Thank you very much. First, this public symposium, organized by the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, GFDRR, and the Tokyo Disaster Risk Management Hub is positioned as a state-setting event of the Understanding Risk 2024 Global Forum, or UR 2024, which will be opened tomorrow at Acre -Himeji in Himeji City Hyogo Prefecture.

Ahead of the 30th anniversary of the great Hanshin Awaji earthquake next year, this forum, with its themes of tradition, innovation, and resilience, will provide a venue to discuss the latest developments in understanding and reducing risk from natural hazards.

Hundreds of government officials, civil society organizations, or CSOs, businesses and experts from Japan and abroad will come together in this valuable opportunity to share Japan's knowledge and experience in disaster risk reduction with a global audience.

The themes of this symposium are cultural heritage and disaster risk management or reduction, and the participants will share their knowledge and experiences on a sustainable future, aiming to develop local communities and their cultural heritage while protecting the value of Himeji Castle a world heritage site.

Himeji Castle is known for its beauty and historical value, but is exposed to the threats of climate change and natural disasters. Through this symposium, we will learn in depth how we can protect our cultural heritage and pass it on to future generations.

Now, if you are utilizing simultaneous interpretation, please use headsets. Now, let me begin with opening remarks from Mr. Niels Holm-Nielsen, GFDRR Practice Manager at the World Bank, the host of UR 2024.

You look like you travelled far, like I have. I'm really pleased that you made it here maybe passed the jet lag that's not insignificant. We're super excited to get started on this week. Before the week starts with the Understanding Risk Conference formally tomorrow, this important symposium on cultural heritage and natural hazards will help us sets the stage in this beautiful city of Himeji. I'd like to thank Mayor Hideyasu Kiyomoto who's also with us here and we'll hear from him shortly, thank you, for hosting us and of course, for joining us today. Mayor Kiyomoto's participation highlights the strong commitment of local leadership to building resilience. I look forward to the exchange and knowledge and ideas to learn

from mayor certainly to learn from all of you during the week. The disaster risk management unit at the world bank, which I manage, we house something called Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery also know as the GFDRR. We dedicated to assisting low- and middle-income countries building resilience to disaster shocks from natural hazards and climate change. And of course disaster risk management is about avoiding losses and damages, building resilience of your economy and your communities, and the very important piece of that is the cultural heritage and cultural resilience because it is the culture that of course influences who we are as people. This symposium today is important to help us understand and learn practices from Japan, from Himeji of how to do exactly that how to preserve all past that defines our people in an environment that is influenced by natural hazards. Himeji castle stands as the symbol of this resilience and resourcefulness of course of the Japanese people. This event this symposium this afternoon underscores the important and maybe can help all of us learn something about how to preserve our all past. We're privileged to have distinguished experts including professor Yoshihiro Senda of the Nagoya City University, who will share insights on the significance of disaster risk management on cultural heritage. And some of the lessons learnt from restoration efforts of the Kumamoto castle and the Maruoka castle. Today's symposium sets the stage for the understanding risk 2024 conference, organized by the GFDRR its Tokyo DRM Hub, and of course, the World Bank, under the theme of tradition innovation and resilience. And this forum will bring together as you just heard, hundreds of government officials, many of you are in the room already, civil society organizations, businesses, and experts from Japan and around the world. We hope to learn some of the latest developments that you have all been spearheading and trying out for how to understanding risk and apply it maybe in your daily work. We hope to learn from Japan, and bring some of the lessons Japan have learnt over many years of living with natural hazards to the world. We also hope that this event will contribute to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. The 30th anniversary will be next year, providing a unique opportunity to share some of the experiences from this particular region of Japan. There is a global growing focus on disaster risk in certainly development finance in most of your countries, I imagine that's why you've travelled this far to come here to discuss these topics with us. It highlights the urgency of our work. People like me, working for multi-lateral development bank, we're certainly seeing and hearing growing interest and a growing need for support. We increasingly called upon to address global challenges related to climate change and disaster resilience and I am hoping that an event like this, Understanding Risk, and this session today...

contributes in some way for all of us to be better able to live with the disaster risks in our societies. So thank you once again for this opportunity to speak briefly this afternoon. Together.

let's continue to build a resilient future that honors and protects our cultural heritage while ensuring the safety and the well-being of our communities. Thank you very much.

That was the message by Mr. Nils -Holmes -Nilsen, Practice Manager.

Next, on behalf of all the guests who are with us today, I would like to call upon Mayor of Himeji City, Dr. Hideo Sekiyomoto, to say a few words, please, at the floor. Mayor, please.

Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to Himeji. I really appreciate and I'm very honored to share this kind of a big meeting Congress here in Himeji. Thank you so much. Many participants, maybe the Japanese people is much larger amount so that my speaking language will change to Japanese, sorry.

This is Kiyomoto Meiya of Himeji City.

First of all, the city of Himeji, which hosts the World Heritage Site. Thank you very much for visiting us here in this town.

This UR2024, hosted by the World Bank, has been decided to be held here. And since then, we are wondering how we can show our hospitality to you, including the Hyogo Prefecture, as well as the older people in Japan.

Japan is prone to natural disasters, and this Himeji is also working very hard on the measures to be taken for preparedness against natural disasters. And I thought that this would be a great opportunity at this U .R.

2024 to share those with you. And I was looking forward to this.

and while protecting the tradition of the cultural properties, at this city, we are trying to find out ways to pass on the historical culture as well as while we are protecting the cultural properties.

That means that we are making a lot of efforts behind the scenes that what I want to share with you 78 or 79 years ago from today when immediately after the end of the World War II, here at the venue, the site where there is the Arcrea Himeji and also around the Himeji Castle, all the land were burned to the ground.

For citizens of the Himeji, Himeji Castle was the only symbol of the town at the time. Miraculously.

bombs were duds, therefore Himeji Castle could survive, therefore it is

still providing us how it looked like 400 years ago, so this is called the Miraculous Castle and registered as the world heritage Site today.

Such.

pride of citizens of the Himeji city who have protected Himeji castle and as the world's treasure how we are able to transfer and pass on this treasure to the future generations. I would like to ask all of you from all over the world to learn what is needed to be done to do so.

Japan, and Taiwan, and East Asia. This edge of the continent is also the edge of the plates. And because of the climate change, there are a lot of risks of the flooding and the tsunami, and as well as the earthquake.

And the house where my father was born was damaged because of the COVID earthquake in 1995. And at the time of the Great East Japan earthquake in 2011, as one of the members of the emergency team of the Tohoku University Hospital, I was engaged in the rescue work after the aftermath of the earthquake.

And UR2024 as a leader of the city of so many people as citizens.

Thank you.

I hope that this will become the first step, as well as the innovative efforts that will be learned among ourselves who are participating in this UR 2024. And today, the fact that I have here with you, and thank you very much, and I would like to extend my heartfelt and welcome to all of you.

After this symposium, I hope that you'll be able to visit Himeji Castle. Sing is believing. Please have a first-hand look at the treasure of this town. And I hope that you also have a time to enjoy the town of Himeji, as well, after visiting Himeji Castle.

With this, I would like to conclude. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Mayor Kiyomoto.

In the next program, we'd like to hear from Mayor of the Himeji City, Mr. Dr. Hideya Sukiomoto, who had just spoken to us, will give a special lecture.

Let me share with you the CV or background of Mayor Kiyomoto. Mayor Kiyomoto is a graduate of the National Kagawa Medical University. After obtaining his medical alliance and MD, he studied abroad as an academic researcher at the University of Texas in the United States.

After returning to Japan and working as a lecturer at Kagawa University Hospital, he moved to Tohoku University School of Medicine in October 2010 and became a professor in February 2012.

Then he dedicated himself to the reconstruction of the disaster -affective areas, and he received the commendation for science and technology from the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

And he was then seconded to Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, or AMET, as a research officer and a program officer in April 2015. He left Tohoku University in May 2018. He was appointed Mayor of Himeji in April 2019, and he was reelected in April 2023.

Today, Mayor Kiyomoto

will speak on the relationship between the city and the castle, the balance between tourism and preservation activities, disaster risk reduction measures, and the management plan of Himeji Castle, and efforts to promote community participation under the title of the Conservation and Promotion of Himeji Castle, Tradition, Innovation, and Resilience.

I am sure that he will be giving us a valuable talk that we can hear only at rare occasions like this. Please listen carefully to what he has to say. Mayor Kiyomoto, please have the floor.

Good afternoon.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Himeji. I am the mayor of Himeji, and it's been only six years since I became the mayor. But when I was a little, until the age of 18, I lived near Himeji, so I went to school, which was very close to Himeji Castle, north of Himeji Castle.

I loved this castle. I became the mayor, and this is the treasure of the world. Now, my question was, how can I carry on this treasure to the next generations, protecting the current lives and yet protecting the future treasure?

So I'm given 30 minutes, so I hope that you will listen to what I have to say. Today, I would like to tell you that we, the citizens of Himeji,

It's the tradition of carrying on the value of Himeji Castle, which is the identity of the citizens. And we have used disaster reduction technology. We have resilience, innovative technology. We have to enhance the value of the treasure.

So we have to carry on the attractiveness and the value of Himeji Castle to the future posterities. Let me introduce myself. As the moderator introduced, when I was a student of Kagawa University, internal medicine, I wanted to become an expert of burn with victims.

So skin transplant was something that I did too. And I was working in ICU to protect the lives. Kagawa Prefecture had a lot of remote islands. Electricity, water supply, infrastructure was in short supply.

And the first aid medicine primary care was very important. I was an expert on that, but something strange happened. And before the major disaster earthquake, all of a sudden from Shikoku Island, I was transferred to Tohoku University in northern part of Japan.

And I was asked to educate young people in Tohoku region about medical science. So in October the 1st, 2010, I went to Sendai. Sendai is a pretty city, easy to live, which was happy for me. I was glad that I went to Sendai.

And then in six months, magnitude 9.1 huge earthquake hit Sendai area, Tohoku area. And then very tragic tsunami hit this area, which took away the lives of more than 20,000 people in an instance. My university, my medical office was damaged to a certain extent.

But fortunately, Tohoku University doctors I led, and then I was the captain of the first rescue core to go to Kesenuma, Minami-Sanriku and Ishinomaki. I searched for the survivors. I tried to rescue survivors. On the third day after the earthquake, the Red Cross Hospital became the key hospital.

From across the country, Red Cross related people came to this place as DMAT members, assisting the victims. And in this context, today, I would like to talk about the gathering of DRR experts. So I will not only talk about the medical science.

For example, the infectious disease and broken bones can be explained, but more than that, as the head of the administration, local municipalities, there are things that you have to do. Speaking from my own experience, staging care unit, SCU, has to be upgraded or improved in order to discharge the responsibility of the head of the cities.

Kesen Numa was sunk in mud. And then three days a week, blood had to be dialyzed. Otherwise, life could not be sustained. Renal malfunctioning people. We had to rescue these people. I went to Kesen Numa, and 80 -some dialysis patients were there.

And they were suffering from a short supply of electricity and water. And then they are doing the blood dialysis.

So, hemodialysis was the system for these patients, and in disaster -stricken areas, to care for such patients would be very difficult with the poor availability of medical resources. Overall, resilience was non -existent at that time.

So

I was instructed by the government, and I went to see 130 transport aircraft was landing at the Matsushima Air Base, and logistics transport aircraft was used, and 80 patients were carried to Hokkaido utilizing this transport aircraft.

So do you think that story is over once patients go to Hokkaido? No. In a very difficult place, one to two weeks, there was not enough food, and dialysis was not done in a full extent. So when you treat these people, then there is a high risk of those people dying.

Because of this situation, the Tohoku University Hospital with 1,300 beds, the 100 beds were secured to accommodate the dialysis patients so that they can have full food and full medicine and self-medical check can be conducted so that these people can be healthy so that they are okay to be transported by aircraft.

So after five days, these people would be aboard aircraft. So staging care unit is very important, the pregnant people, elderly people, the disabled people. For a short period of time, they are evacuated to SCU, and then they go through the medical check, and then they will become safer in terms of the situation.

This is the secondary base, SCU. This is indispensable for the large-scale disaster. And at Tohoku University Hospital was really the hospital with SCU. That's why this operation became successful. Now Hanshin Awaji earthquake happened in only 50 kilometers away from Himeji City.

And my father's house was gone because of the earthquake. And Himeji City, 3160

Civil servants were dispatched to the disaster areas. They accepted patients, victims. And as the neighboring city, 30 years ago, Himeji City walked alone with the victims of this disaster. So six years ago, there was an election.

And somehow, I was able to enjoy the support of the citizens. I was given the mandate of becoming the next mayor. At that time, what I committed to the citizens was that human life is by far the most important.

And then the pain must be felt. In other words, sincerity, compassion, and empathy very important. Fortunately, Himeji did not suffer from any major damages. But in Ishikawa Prefecture, in Noto Peninsula earthquake, in that earthquake, many members, more than 200 people, were dispatched from Himeji.

Today, I'm going to talk about the traditional technique and skills to preserve Himeji Castle, to protect the Himeji Castle.

What is your mindset? I would like you to turn into why the property has to be protected above Himeji Castle.

Five years ago, sister city arrangement was made with the city of Wales of the United Kingdom. Konwy Castle, Konwy Castle, that's the picture you see. Konwy Castle, this is older than Himeji Castle, but it is made of stones.

Therefore, in front of the Konwy Castle, streetcars, trains can pass through and no damage to the castle. But on stone walls, Himeji Castle is created by wood and soil. So protecting Himeji Castle is the history of restoration and repair.

Red line shows you the history of repair of Himeji Castle. If you do nothing about it, then as time goes by, castle will age. Senescence happens, it becomes old, and it will collapse in the final analysis.

So while they are alive, wood will rot. So while castle is alive, if the wood is old, it will be replaced. And then if the tile is broken, then we will break the tiles once again from ground, from soil.

So that's how we did it. About 140 years ago in Japan, there was a major social transformation which is called meiji restoration. We used to have the samurai warrior society. The Himeji Castle is a symbol of warriors.

So it was abandoned. At that time, Himeji Castle became desolate, roofs collapsed, walls collapsed, and Himeji Castle.

about to be jettisoned as debris, as waste. At that time, the Army had Colonel Nakamura, and also the business leaders of Himeji joined their efforts, and they put in money. And then with the private sector force, they began the repair work.

Currently, it is under the cultural agency. Every 50 years, there is a radical repair. Well, the maintenance of the repair is done, and once every several hundred of years, the radical repair is done.

The major pillar of the castle is replaced once every several hundred of years. Somewhere, roof is collapsing. Somewhere, the wall is crumbling, and then the deterioration is happening, so we have to have the craftsmanship to prevent that, and we have to procure materials.

But here, what is important is that some people argue that we can have reinforced concrete bars, or resin film can cover the old structure. Some people argue for that, but that is not really the authenticity of the cultural property.

The authenticity, 400 years ago, when castle was built by Lord Ikeda Terumasa, when castle was made, the technology, that has to be carried on until today, and then it has to be carried on to the future years, and that is what is meant by the heritage transfer.

For example, white wall became black because of the black mold. When rain falls, mold happens. It is made of soil, so the plaster contains calcium. So with calcium, the plaster is white. So you have to have plaster.

Now, what about the tiles? Tiles like the porcelain.

ceramics

So first, you have to have the base, that is, the thin wooden plate upon which different shapes of tiles will be combined so that they are not falling. And then the gaps would be joined by plaster. This is, again, the craftsmanship, otherwise Japanese -style construction cannot be preserved.

About eight years ago, In the case of a castle tower of this castle, the roof and the tiles had to be repaired. So there was a huge building constructed to cover the castle. And within that building, the old things were disassembled, and then it was replaced with something new.

And still, we live in the era of SDG. So what is usable must be used. It should be retained. So as you can see, the caps were filled with a white plaster. And then you think that the roof tiles are black.

But actually, the roofs can look really white. We realize that. And then resilience. Now what about resilience?

There is a disaster risk in order to understand that risk, the management of risks. What can we do about that? In what way can we prevent disasters? And even disasters do happen. Quick recovery is a must, that is the theme.

On the left -hand side, this is a picture of Kumamoto Castle. There was a major earthquake and stone walls collapsed. Actually, Himeji Castle, in the case of our castle, the stone wall medical record is kept.

Even a stone may collapse, but it is recorded where it happened. On the right -hand side, this is the picture of the fire of Shuri Castle. Unfortunately, Shuri Castle, in the middle of the night, it went up in a flame.

Probably because of the repair work, there was a console of a power distribution, and electricity sort of leaked out, and then fire broke.

Because

So it was undergoing the repair and maintenance work. The red color, the lacquer or paint, was very easy to catch fire.

Unfortunately, it

burnt down to the ground in recent years.

I used to do

go to the Notre Dame Cathedral in France, which I visited when I was young, and then it was under major construction for the elevator because of the leakage of the electricity. The roof was burnt down.

Thank you very much.

And for someone who is in charge of maintenance and the protection of the cultural property, it is heartbreaking. At the Himeji Castle, we try not to use electricity during the nighttime, that is, to prevent fire.

And under UNESCO, whenever anything is to be registered as the World Heritage by UNESCO, authenticity, to carry out the authenticity as it was 400 years. That was the key to be registered or inscribed on the list of World Heritage under UNESCO.

However, Japan is prone to earthquakes. If the total building collapse, we are not able to preserve it anymore. So about 60 years ago, in the scaffolding inside the stone wall, the concrete base or foundation was installed in order to stabilize the foundation of the tower.

So this was allowed by UNESCO saying that there is no problem in doing so as regards to the authenticity.

After the castle was registered as a World Heritage, in order to review the safety measures at the castle, for example, in order to allow the fire trucks to be parked beside the castle buildings, and if the wooden materials are rotting, and then we need to replace them quickly, and for example, we always conduct such training with drills, and from the moat around the castle, water will be supplied from the moat in order to prevent the small fire from becoming major fires.

So this kind of water extinguishing pump is installed. and we have newly established a disaster prevention center which is always monitoring around the clock.

and inside the castle premises, 1,078 sprinkler heads have been installed.

Of course whenever a disaster hit us, there may be a lot of

foreign visitors on the premises. If they are not able to evacuate, it would be a big problem, therefore, in Japanese, English, and Chinese, and Korean languages. So multilingual services are provided in providing the warning and evacuation.

Alarm.

particularly at the Notre Dame, as well as the Shuri Castle in Okinawa, reflecting on what we could learn from those fires. First of all, we should not allow people to bring any dangerous items during the night, although from externally outside, we may be able to light up the castle.

However, we are cutting off the power supply inside the premises, therefore lighting inside the rooms of the castle. We usually use the storage batteries.

and batteries and storages are charged by chargers which are installed.

Therefore, the old electricity facilities, for example, if dusts are accumulated on the sockets, then you may have fire. There is a risk of fire occurring from that. Therefore, from this, we should not believe in the safety of the power or electricity.

We are using the dry battery cells and the fire brigade, which we are proud of. They are conducting the fire drills four times a month, and also Himeji's ranger and the fire department. People are also jointly conducting the fire extinguishing drills and also fire alarm drills, as well as the training of conducting every day.

In order to pass on this wild heritage to the future generations, we are also conducting such non-structural measures as well. At the time of the Kumamoto major earthquake, people struggled in repairing the Kumamoto castle in 1990.

There was a gate called Uzumi Mon Gate on the campus of the Himeji castle. That gate collapsed, as you see here. The stone walls of this gate collapsed. Therefore, there was a small stone wall which collapsed from which we learned.

Therefore, we put marks on all individual stones comprising the stone wall and made a record of those recordings into the chart. Even when the stone walls collapse, we will be able to rebuild back to the original state based upon what is written in the chart for each individual stones.

Therefore, we could support the repair work of the Kumamoto castle, and in order to maintain what it looked like 400 years ago, even if the earthquake hit us, even if the stone walls collapsed, we will be able to quickly rebuild the buildings of the castle.

It is.

very important to incorporate innovations in technologies. This is called the Ecollet's Eye View. This is a facility for observation for visitors during the maintenance work. There was a scaffolding in the past

whenever we conducted maintenance work, but there was a reinforced concrete building which was built and which was equipped with the elevator for over three years from this observation tower.

Visitors could observe how maintenance work was going on. Therefore, this was the first time ever in Japan to exhibit the repair and the maintenance work to the public. And by showing the maintenance work, we believe that this will enhance the intrinsic value of the cultural property.

And by getting on the elevator, you'll be able to get to the higher point in order to observe from the top over the castle under construction. And the lovers of castle, as well as those fans of the cultural heritage, came to see it.

And this was well-received, and that was the transformational point in time. For those workers who are working on the site and also those people who were working to protect their historical culture, like craftsmen who are working on the roof tiles as well as plasterers who are kneading the soils, those younger generation of craftsmen were also interested.

Could draw attention of the public. As you see here, this kind of mark or crest is made by the plasterer. And this work is observed and experienced.

And this kind of SDGs, experience-based educational travel program, which is being expanded by the city, and during the night, we always try to turn off the power supply as much as possible. However, if you visit the castle during the night, you will be able to feel firsthand how people 400 years ago could feel.

Well, sometimes you may wonder that if there is any ninja hiding behind the wall, you never know what they will do to us. Well, Professor Sender, after me, will speak about those things, but we have conducted such a premium tour, a night tour, together with Professor Sender as well.

And actually, it is very important to share such value of the stories. The living history means that the people will be able to experience how those people 400 years ago could lead to the samurai way of lifestyles, and experiencing such lifestyles.

Not only the value of the buildings, but also intangible values could be felt by those visitors who participate in their living history. Actually, from all the times in Japan, through small or kabuki theaters, through such traditional cultures, people are able to feel such stories.

However, there are things that are needed to pass on to the future generation as a living history in the day-to-day living of the ordinary people, as we see in the right bottom at the Sakai families.

picture scroll of the seventh family head of Tada Teru Sakai, who made the parade to Kyoto at that time. And usually about 85 people participated in this parade of daimyo. What costume or sword and costume they were in and what kind of vehicle the samurai head was riding on.

And these are one of the symbols of the Edo period's culture and also then princess called Princess Sen. Princess Sen was wearing these kimonos and utilizing the old technology or techniques in order to reproduce the kimonos worn by Princess Ken Sen.

So this represents what kind of clothing or kimonos people were wearing in those days could be felt. Therefore, you are able to try on the kimono to get onto the top of the main keep or tower of the castle.

It would have been very cumbersome.

And nowadays we are seeing the big challenge of global warming.

Himeji Castle is shown in beautiful white color by light-up during night. At 8 and 9 o'clock p.m., the color of castle will be changed into a rainbow color through show of lighting. However, the utility charge would be expensive.

And people say, some people say that if you are using such lighting and it's not good for the global environment, and usually we receive lots of phone calls complaining, it's not complaining. They are thinking about this planet, therefore I am saying that we have to change.

All the electricity used here should be changed to renewable energy, using renewable energy. Therefore, we are not putting any further burden on the planet. So even when you are enjoying the night view of the Himeji Castle, we are always using the renewable energy to light up the Himeji Castle in order to disseminate our message for prevention of global warming as well as the climate change.

So please feel that we are using such a safe electricity to light up. Illumination centering on Himeji Castle during the winter, the Otemae street illumination, a better illumination than Champs-Élysées, which I love.

But rather than Champs-Élysées, please come to Himeji to enjoy illustration, and please say that on social media throughout the world. And we are trying to use the renewable energies at various events. Please say that we are utilizing storage batteries.

And what would have been heard by the samurai shogun, the sounds and voices of the insects are used. And you can hear that at the venue of the Himeji Castle in conclusion, Himeji Castle is in the city of Himeji, not coincidentally.

Over the 400 years, we have held our passion and enthusiasm of the people and the town itself, overcoming the threat of the disasters because this town has continued to be a resilient town. From the top of the main keep of the tower, which is overlooking over this town, there is no higher building than that.

We are keeping such a beautiful landscape centering on the castle, seeing as it is breathing. Please, by all means, visit this beautiful Himeji Castle after this symposium and also during the period of U .R.

2024. Please have the opportunity to visit the castle.

Thank you very much, Mayor Kiyomoto, that was a valuable talk and a special lecture.

Please give the mayor a big round of applause.

Thank you very much.

In the next program

I would like to ask Professor Yoshihiro Senda of Nagoya City University to speak. Professor Senda was born in Aichi Prefecture. He graduated from Nara University and obtained doctorate in literature at Osaka University.

He has served as associate professor at the National Museum of Japanese History and Folklore and president of Nara University. His specialty is castle archaeology. Currently, he is a professor at the Nagoya City University Institute for Advanced Education and Research and distinguished professor at Nara University.

He is a member of the technical council for the conservation of stone walls as cultural property. He is a trustee of the Eisebunko Museum and Nara National Museum. He has been extensively involved in the research and maintenance of castle ruins throughout Japan.

The title of today's lecture is Japanese castles revived from disasters.

will focus on the restoration of castles damaged by natural disasters.

The floor is yours, Professor Sender.

Thank you very much for your kind introduction. I am Senda. Thank you very much for giving such a fantastic opportunity to me. Mayor Kiyomoto talked about the Himeji City and Himeji Castle.

His presentation is so comprehensive. So I would like to talk about one thing, which is a topic of today's Japan. That is the restoration of Kumamoto Castle from earthquake disaster.

In Japan, there are many attractive castles. Himeji Castle, of course, leads by none. But all castles were built about 400 years ago. It is the castle of samurai warriors. In Japan, there are so many castle fans.

Japanese castles are also the center of attention by a lot of inbound tourists. So in this context, up until now, the point was how to preserve the old style of castle. That was the philosophy of the management of old cultural property.

But I think Kumamoto earthquake became an inflection point. And the philosophy is now, how can we introduce resilience to the old property so that we can carry over to the next generations? It is the big challenge.

What you see is the picture taken from Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Japan economic journal, in the last 100 years of magnitude five and above major earthquakes.

In the last 100 years, 13 ,000 cases of earthquakes of that magnitude happened in the last 100 years. Regarding cultural properties, of course, torrential rain is another challenge.

But when it comes to

Japanese cultural properties castle, earthquake is a very serious event. How can we prepare for the onset of earthquake regarding castles? In this context, as I said earlier on, Kumamoto Castle is something that I will let you talk about.

Kumamoto is right here on the map Kyushu Island.

in 2016.

in Kumamoto, very big earthquake happened.

So this is the picture taken in 2016. The castle tower looks like this. The building, it looks okay. It didn't collapse.

But surrounding every building, stone walls were crumbling like this, collapsed like this.

This is the central part of the castle.

Things remained, they remained intact. But surrounding the stone walls collapsed in a substantial way. In the case of Kokumamoto, it happened in the middle of the night. So stone walls collapsed this much, but there were no casualties, no fatal casualties to speak of.

They were spared of that. But if it did happen during the daytime, like Saturday, Sunday, daytime, like today, now, if earthquake happened like this, it's not only the collapse of cultural properties, it would have

Ment.

that major disaster involving human lives. So that was the situation. In the past, in Japan, the castle restoration, castle repair, reconstruction from disaster, we built back in the style of 400 years ago.

If the subject is the stone walls, we should recreate in a way 100 years ago. But if that restoration took place, if something similar happened in 400 years' time, likewise, the stone wall may collapse and it may involve some fatal casualties.

So at the time of 2016, Kumamoto earthquake was an inflection point. As a cultural property, substantial value should be retained, and yet we will rebuild the stone walls in a resilient way so that it can stand any future earthquakes.

So this was the beginning of the new attempt, which began in 2016. For example, what you see now is the Kumamoto castle.

Before the earthquake.

The Idamaru Gokai Yagura director.

Before the earthquake.

And after the earthquake, it changed to this. Building is intact. It didn't collapse, but the stone walls had major damage. We don't know. Even maybe the restored buildings could collapse any time. It was a very tough situation.

So turret had to be restored, and then the stone walls, foundation stone walls, had been repaired in the past. However, as I said that, in the past repair, it was done in the traditional way of recreating the stone walls in the traditional way.

So the lower stones, on that, the upper above stones would be placed. So it's not so seismic, the earthquake resistant. So in 2016, it wasn't spared with the huge damage.

So...

Above the stone walls, there is a wooden structure, and then below that, there was a crumbling and the collapsing stone walls. Very difficult situation. So first of all, we had the steel frame to support stone walls.

So green colored frame also was erected to support the structure so that the damage would not expand any bigger than any more than this one.

And like in this way

The safety was secured, first of all, and then the turret was disassembled. Every single member was removed. Every member was given a specific number so that the location is known, and if the member is reusable, it can be used.

If it has to be replaced because it's broken and so forth, then we will know exactly which place has to be replaced. So record was kept in a very precise way, and then the disassembling of the old castle was made.

As Mayor Kiyomoto mentioned, stone walls could be rebuilt. So this is the record. Before the earthquake, we analyzed the record, and what was the state of the stone walls? And then to what extent should we be reconstructing the stone walls?

So we proceeded with the study of that.

the

So, a variety of analysis was made. The surveyor chart from the past was looked into, and three - dimensional analysis was done. Stonewalls deformation was grasped within modern method of surveyor and measurement, and we identified very carefully to what extent the re -creation had to be made.

The stonewall had to be made better. So, if the greater the area of rebuilding, it will become stronger. But on the other hand, if the old stonewalls were removed, then the value of cultural property would be lost.

So, the genuine parts should be retained as much as possible. At the same time, we must revive the stonewalls in a more resilient way. We have to identify in a very difficult way to what extent we should retain the old parts.

The researchers tried to find out to what extent they had to be disassembled, but that is not enough. The objective evidence is not enough in that way.

Kumamoto Castle restoration is made in a cumulative, indicative force -line method. It's the formula, the scientific formula, with which the stone walls stability would be judged. This is the method, cumulative, indicative force -line method.

Of course, this is not a perfect method. But with the introduction of new methods like this, scientific method is introduced. So taking reference from those methods, we identify to what extent stone walls had to be removed, and then re-

built and re -accumulated.

So this is

the picture of the disassembling of the stone wall.

in the photograph

You'll note yellow tapes and red tapes.

This shows to what extent the stone walls had to be removed. So at the local site, having done the examination, observing the actual stone walls, experts discuss, and to this limit, the stones would be removed.

And if it had been removed, it will be done and it will also have to be rebuilt.

Re-accumulated.

Of course, disassembling stone walls, and then once again it has to be built back.

She got to go, you know.

The castle stone's cultural property value has to be retained intact.

And yet, it's not just building back to the original state, if the next earthquake comes, it will crumble again. That's the weakness. So while retaining the value of the original stone walls inside, as necessary, contemporary modern method is employed to reinforce stone walls.

That was done in Kumamoto. What you see now is the repair study commission of Kumamoto. I took this from the materials of this committee. In a certain place, do we build back as it was, or should we introduce some reinforcing methods to that particular place?

Several plans were discussed. And then, in the final analysis, optimal method was decided.

As a matter of fact, in a certain

place, stone walls. 400 years ago, stone walls. So basically, of course, it will have to be built in the original way. However, inside, geogrid is the method we used. We reinforced with the geogrid method.

So this is the new method of reinforcing. So this is a photograph of how stones are piled up utilizing geomethard, geogrid method.

In the Japanese stone walls, we have small pebbles inside. And then at the time of earthquake, it has to be kept so that the entire wall is not destroyed. And then at the same time, we have a stone wall restoration method, reinforced agent method, reinforced against earthquake method.

It's a metal method. As Kyomoto Mayer said, some 100 years ago, the stone walls will have to be reconstructed. Then geogrid method can be removed. And then in the future, better methods, stone walls can be repaired and retained or restored.

So the cultural property stone walls would be reinforced. At the same time, in the future, we have some room retaining so that the future stone wall piling up is possible, also with the possibility of removing, if necessary, those reinforcement.

Now this is the outer exterior portion, so this looks like it. The geogrid inside, and then it is connected to the outside with the metal bar. So outside, so this is the pressure.

pressure me.

So this didn't exist in the original stone walls, so in the close -up.

You will find that this is different from the old stone walls. But from certain distance, this is Idamaru Gokaiyagra Turret, completed version. Now, there are many – on the surface of the stone walls, there are many pressure receptacles.

But you don't feel any –

...disharmony...

And this looks like the original state of stone walls before the earthquake.

Thank you.

So this was the picture that was taken this spring this year.

So I said repairing the stonewalls, the general overall comprehensive flow of the events. But in the case of Kumamoto Castle, the height is very high, 20 meters. So as you saw in the picture, because of the earthquake, the stones came off.

So they fell from 20 -meter height. So some stones fell from 20 -meter height. Even stone may be strong, but it may crack because of the shock of the fall.

In the previous methods

If stones are cracked and broken, it cannot be used, so it is replaced with new stones, one after another. However, if you replace everything, then it looks like the shape of the old stone walls, but every single stone is 21st century stone, not the Edo period stone.

So in the case of Kumamoto Castle, the broken stones, to the extent possible, would be reused with the repair of the crack, and that is how it was done.

As you can see in the picture, if you look into very closely in the middle part, you see the crack line. You understand that the stone was cracked, but with the resin, it is connected and glued, and it is returned back to the original shape, and then it is returned back to the place where the stone was positioned in the stone wall.

This again is how the stone is repaired.

On the stone, stainless steel metal object is

placed.

You can see.

Depending on the stones,

there is a great pressure exerted applied. So just gluing with the resin, it will again break the stone. That is the possibility. So in the stone, the hole is drilled with the drilled, and then the stainless steel rod is inserted, and this is reinforced, and then it is again placed back to the original place in a reinforced way.

This is again the picture work in progress on the blue box there is a scene slices of stones you can see.

there was once a big fire and then the surface of the stone came off at the time of the fire many years back. So these were the fragments. Even those small fragments at the time of reconstruction, we gathered them, we collect them all, and then in what way can we return back to the original place.

The fragments may have come off but again with the use of resin the fragments may be restored back to the original place. So as an overall repaired stone walls would come closer to the original state and every single stone would come closer to the shape of stone which had originally processed and manufactured and made 400 years ago.

So it took a lot of time in repairing the stones.

which stones cracked and

And which stones had to have the re -gluing of the small fragments? You have to disassemble the stone walls otherwise you wouldn't understand. So it took longer time than anticipated. So restoring stone walls usually require longer time.

By doing these procedures in 2021, once the main

keep of Kumamoto Castle was restored to how it looked like before the earthquake.

So after restoration, this is how the main keep looked like. I talked about the stone wall earlier, but building itself had to be resistant to the earthquake. We needed to reinforce the building. So the base isolation system or dampers or the vibration control systems were installed.

Various measures against earthquake were installed. By doing this, with sense of security, visitors are able to have a tour of the castle.

Furthermore, at the main keep, just beside the stone wall, you have to cross along, walk along the stone wall. In such pathway to access the main keep, if there is any major earthquake and when the stonewall collapses, it will be dangerous.

So as I said earlier, inside of the stonewall utilizing the new technique, we are reinforcing the stonewall itself, but also we prevent those stones in the stonewall never coming off onto the pathways.

We use the bars as well as the steel mesh to cover the stonewalls in order to protect the lives and the bodies of those people who are visiting the castle.

at Kumamoto Castle.

We are restoring the castle back to the original state as the cultural property, but also we are trying to protect everybody who are visiting castle with sense of security and assurance so that they can enjoy the castle.

That's the intention we have in our work.

Furthermore, In the past or before the earthquake, there were many things that were not done before the earthquake, but have been implemented. For example, in the past, people had to use the staircase in order to look inside the main keep.

But for everyone to enjoy this restored Kumamoto Castle, to experience it and feel it and feel that history, at the entrance to the main keep, there is a slope for easier accessibility.

So, given these backdrop, now

Well, the biggest challenge for us is a so -called Utayagura turret, which was built 400 years ago. This is like the Himeji Castle's main keep, five -story building. How are we going to maintain and keep it?

That is the biggest challenge we face now.

This is what it looks like. Nowadays, we are starting to demolish or dismantle the building.

This is a very top of the five -story building, the rooftop. Since March this year, we started dismantling the five -story building, or tower. And this is the picture was taken in June.

This year, quite recently the roof is gone and this is the traditional building in Japan therefore there are only pillars

in the process of restoring a repairing building, as I said in the case of a repair work for the stone wall, not only restoring the building itself.

Because if do just

that, and then once another earthquake hit us, then the building will collapse, and the building will remain dangerous. Therefore, in order to place the metal frame attached to the appropriate positions of the building, then it can be prepared for potential another big earthquake, and the building will never collapse.

That means that the people who are visiting the castle will be protected.

So we are trying to make the castle as such safe a building to visit.

And this is called the tzuzuki visiting corridor next to the Utoyagura turret, and this is the plan for repairing the stone wall, and this is the picture for the future repair work. This is still plan.

Like this in my presentation today.

Japanese castles are very attractive. There are so many attractive castles in Japan, as I said earlier. By far, the Himeji Castle has the main keeps and small keeps and also stone walls, and this is something that will remind you of whenever you think about the Japanese castle.

But in terms of the number of castles, there are about 30 ,000 castles.

Thank you.

and representing the history of each community where such each castle is located. And today I focused on Kumamoto Castle in my presentation, but these castles have to be prepared and protected so that they can be resilient to earthquake.

These kinds of work and efforts can be a kind of a model for castle sites throughout Japan so that they can emulate how to repair and maintain castle.

spreading from Kumamoto Castle. There are many castles surrounded by and built on the stone walls, and the wooden building is placed on top of the stone wall. Therefore, I have talked about how to reinforce the stone wall, which is very important.

And also, on top of it, there is a wooden building. The wooden building itself have to be protected in order to carry over the value of the authenticity so that it can be also resilient to the shaking of the earthquake.

And actually, these are required at the same time. And achieving both are very challenging, and there are many difficult things, as I said in my presentation. But by overcoming these all, we like to have people from all over the world to enjoy the history in a safe manner, and I hope that there will be a series of other castles who will emulate the example of Kumamoto, and I hope that they will visit the Himeji Castle as the first of such a castle site to visit in Japan.

Thank you very much for your kind attention until the very end of my presentation.

the presentation by Professor Yoshihiro Ksenda. Thank you very much for very interesting presentation. Please give the Professor, once again, big round of applause.

Thank you very much.

now I would like to change gears a little bit to have fire side of chat a casual talk session in a way as if we were talking by a fireplace so this is going to a casual talk session

The special lecture was done by Mayor Kiyomoto and also Professor Senda, who have just spoken to us. We are going to add.

Aveda, Chief Urban Development Specialist and Global Coordinator of Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism at the World Bank. To the earlier two speakers, we would like to have a roundtable discussion in which the three of them will engage in a lively exchange of opinions under the theme of cultural heritage, disaster risk, reduction, and sustainable development.

Amed Aveda is the Global Coordinator for Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism and Vietnam Sector Lead for Sustainable Development at the World Bank, with over 25 years of experience. His areas of expertise are cultural heritage, sustainable tourism, urban policy, municipal finance, and infrastructure, local economic development, urban upgrading, and urban regeneration.

Now. Again.

Let me introduce to you Mayor of Himeji Kiyomoto and Professor Senda and Ahmed of the World Bank. The floor is yours.

Thank you very much.

Now, Mr. Ahmed, please start.

Thank you so much and good afternoon everyone. Thanks so much for staying with us today and for coming a long way both from within Japan and from every end of the globe. It's an honor to be today with the mayor and professor and thank you so much for excellent presentation.

It has been so inspiring and I'm sure all practitioners here in the floor inspired and learned a lot from it. Let's reflect a little bit on what has been said today. I will start with Mayor Kiyomoto.

I think your presentation was full of emotion, full of lifetime experience. Thank you so much. Since you were a child, you are very much attached to the castle and you contributed a lot to its conservation, to its promotion, to its strengthening of resilience aspects.

But also with disasters, clearly came a lot of sufferings. You mentioned during the last earthquake, the house of your father was destroyed. Parts of the castles were also destroyed. And this is emotionally very hard.

But also what we learned is with each disaster and reconstruction, it brings people together. It strengthens their identity. So my question to you is how do you really relate personally to the castle as a signifier and as an icon which brings people together in the city?

Thank you. This is my life, because Himeji Castle and the area around is my garden. So the more than 500,000 people citizen believe the castle is belonging to my house or something like that. So always in the morning, good morning castle, good night castle.

And then, oh, why there are birds that come so much today? Something like that. So every day, castle is my life, our life. So maybe you have a nice, beautiful garden in your house. Maybe they put the flower or dogs, you know.

That is life. It is.

For the citizens of Himeji, Himeji Castle is life itself and they feel that Himeji Castle is their homes.

Thank you so much, Mr. Mayor. Professor Sendha, I think for all practitioners who learned it from your teaching over decades of castle archeology, reconstruction, resilience, are amazed today with the level of details you have provided us today.

And as we learned from you and all your equivalent around the world, especially for world heritage sites, preparation of very good site management plan is essential requirement by UNESCO. And we know that the three elements of site management plan is the conservation plan which you covered in a lot today, the carrying capacity analysis so we can manage the flow of people entering the building and the institutional arrangement which ensures accountability and responsibility for everyday management of the site and some kind of cost recovery.

So my question today is about the institutional aspect. What is the latest thinking and practice now in Japan of bringing all the stakeholders together, not only city officials, but also since it's world heritage sites, central government officials, private sector communities that also feel the identity as Mr.

Mayor said. Thank you.

Well, in Japan, the earthquake...

and disasters may be the trigger point in starting the repair of the cultural properties. And that is what has continued until now, unfortunately. The Japanese government and the cultural agency has the jurisdiction over the preservation of cultural properties.

They move very functionally. They provide support. They form a team to support the local people, local municipalities, townships and so forth. The cultural agency helps them, as I said, in the case of Kumamoto Castle, regarding the repair work.

As a matter of fact, what

That should be the method of reconstruction. It's a very large -scale experiment conducted. For example, there is a place, artificial earthquake -causing machine above which the actual stone wall is created.

And then by shaking that actual stone walls, what is the mechanism of collapsing of the stone walls scientifically? Analysis is conducted in this way. This is the method employed. Local municipalities and loan will not be able to have such a large -scale experiment, so central government provides money to host such experiments.

Based upon the result of such experiments, this is the repair method. This is the reinforcement method they decide. So that is the process we take. Furthermore, local municipalities, local communities, in the case of Kumamoto Castle, in repairing the castle, there is a research center of Kumamoto Castle.

This is a group of experts. It's a unique organization.

And these experts actually look into the repair and the construction. And then I joined. I am a researcher. I am added. We form a committee. All of them form a committee. And then we consider what should be the optimal way of repairing the property.

So central government, local municipalities, and furthermore, research academy, three parties participate in collaboration, in proceeding with the repair work. That is what goes on in Japan.

Thank you so much, Professor Santa, excellent. Turning back to Mayor Kiyomoto, as we approach 30 - year celebration of inscription of Himiji Castle as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, I think we are all, as global citizens, are very proud of such a castle, and all you did here in Himiji and in Japan, generally.

So I would like to ask you about two things here. What are your plans as a mayor to sustain this pride, both within your own citizens, to continue to be proud of their own heritage and endowment, and technically, what are plans to sustain the resilience of the castle?

You mentioned today a lot of elements, but perhaps you can expand this a little bit more. Thank you, sir.

Musukashi stoma

It's a difficult question, therefore let me speak in Japanese.

30 years after the pandemic.

Your inscription on the list of world heritage on the UNESCO, we have been protecting our heritage. The biggest challenge we are facing is the successors. As I said in my presentation, the wooden building made of wood, usually 50 or 60 years, is the time cycle for replacing or rebuilding the wooden building that is based on the traditional culture in Japan, not only applicable to castle but also to temples and shrines as well.

Large sized

shrine, for example, Shinto shrine. And next to the shrine, there is a vacant land lot. So every 60 years, the god deity, it's supposed to relocate himself or herself to a new shrine next to it. So that is the system in place.

So this is the plural plusism in Japan. So every 60 years cycle, the deity will relocate. So for example, on the riverbed and the carpenters and also heads of carpenters or directors in the site. So their techniques are passed on from parent to child, in some cases to grandchildren.

Therefore, over 400 years, the same wooden buildings could be maintained. The biggest challenge here is that how we are able to develop talents in terms of the academic programs. Archaeologists who are teaching archaeology in a school, the stone walls and the roof, and roof strings, and the historical significance as well.

The significance is understood. However, when it comes to making individual roof pieces and shavings that wood, those techniques and skills are disappearing because we are now entering the phase of a declining population.

Therefore, even further, we are seeing the decline in the people who are able to work on the site. So development of talents, we need to have people feeling that it is fun to do the work for protecting the cultural property.

Younger people will understand through the SDG tour.

significance of the maintenance of the castle, that the significance should be passed on to younger generations through its disease tour and so forth. Another challenge is it's going to be costly.

The World Heritage Site you are able to enter with admission fee of \$7. It's only Himeji Castle, so we're wondering whether we should raise the fee. But citizens will be upset. For foreign visitors, they have to pay \$30, and maybe we can offer \$5 ticket to citizens.

That's what we think.

Kiyomoto talked about the importance of transferring the skill and the technology of building and repairing cultural properties. But in fact, in the city of Himeji, castles, shrines and temples, stonewall repairers, craftsmen.

The

are gathered?

Thank you very much.

And there is a council of the preservation of the technology. And that is placed within Himeji City Office. Of course, it is subsidized by a cultural agency. But as a matter of fact, going forward, the stone walls should be repaired 400 years ago, 500 years ago technology, with which the repair work will be done.

So these are the craftsmen's thinking. And they are gathered here in Himeji, and they are practicing their repair skill in actual Himeji castle. So the traditional skills are transferred and carried over to the next generations.

And actually, Himeji City is serving as the center of such skill maintenance. I just wanted to say that.

In fact, I went yesterday, I spent all day yesterday at the castle, learning myself, you know, and I'm so impressed with everything from the castle design and construction for 500 years ago to every single element of conservation now done from changing the whole water system building on the moat and constructing a water reservoir of 140 cubic meter for immediate fire distinction, but also the sprinkles,

the CTVs, every single details and the officers inside watching everything. It's really a lot of learning from there. And you know, we are now talking about responsible tourism. So we all as tourists also, not only practitioners, we have a shared responsibility of conserving and restoring this world rich sites.

So if you would allow me, Mr. Mayor, let's make a quick vote. Who would agree, if you agree, put your hand up to pay \$5 or \$7 more to conservation of castles around the world?

Ooh.

overwhelming majority approved very good professor center I think in your presentation you give first - class civil engineering techniques in castle conservation and reconstruction and I think we all know talking about disruptive technology so how can you make the link between castles conservation and reconstruction and making them more resilient and the use of technology if you can give us examples both in the conservation but also in the managing of visitors of law and managing the carrying capacity of visitors thank you hi

Hi. Hi.

In fact, it is a big challenge, I am aware. For example, in Japan, representative castles. In castles, there are too many tourists coming in, and they go to castle tower. They wait for an hour and two hours before entering into.

It's a wooden structure. So, actually, the wooden structures cannot accept so many people, so how can we manage those carrying capacity? It becomes very important. Also, castles, to begin with, it is built in such a way that the enemies don't come in.

So, actually, in terms of civil engineering standards, the soil walls, the degree, the inclination should not be too sharp. But you see, the castle is completely opposite to the ease of entrance by the people.

It's very difficult for people to come in. And if they have to restore in the original way, they have to violate the current construction law. For example, construction at the concrete walls could be introduced to maintain the acute inclination.

That's methodologically very simple. But if you use that kind of methodology, the original technique, original cultural properties of value...

Thank you.

would be lost with the introduction of concrete walls. So without having destructive methods, cultural values should be communicated to the posterities. And yet, when torrential rain comes, earthquake comes, the stone walls will not collapse.

So it's very difficult to find the optimal way, but we are in search of such an optimal way while we repair the old properties. So currently, we build back to the original state, and then we want many people to look at it.

And we would like to open such structures to many tourists, but in some places, as real properties and stone walls and walls would be repaired. But if safety cannot be ensured, then such places will not be open to public.

Maybe that can be one managerial method that we have to consider rather seriously going forward.

Very good. I also understood yesterday that I think the carrying capacity of the castle at any day shouldn't be more than 14,000 visitors, but there are cameras and there are people, officers everywhere and there is a lead in addition to the site manager observing this visually as well, not only by camera and as soon as they feel overcrowded to space, they give signals to manage the floor to the next floor and so on.

This is an excellent example of carrying capacity and visitors of the floor using the technology. Thank you so much for shedding light on that. My third and last question to Mayor Kiyomoto. I think the significance of holding UR24 here in Himeji with all participants today is significant and substantial.

What message would you like to say to the world through UR -24 and through all the ambassadors of different countries who are here today?

This, UR 2024 is being held here in Himeji City, which makes me very happy and pleased. Thirty years ago, what happened in Kobe, a great Hanshin-awaji earthquake, since then Kobe recovered. And nearby the next-door city, Himeji City and people volunteered to help their recovery.

And the significance of the intercity collaboration network.

and in Sendai or other areas hit by the Great East Japan earthquake in those areas facing the Pacific coast. The Pacific coast was damaged severely. But on the other hand, the area facing the Sea of Japan, the other side of Japan from where we have received a lot of supporters.

And UR2024.

Even if we are not able to prevent the disaster itself, but in order to ensure resilience of cities, networking among cities have to be reinforced with other people -to -people exchange, in -person exchange, not only within or among people in Japan, but also in between Japan and the neighboring countries, maybe in Europe and Africa as well.

There are many kinds of disasters hitting cities. But I don't think that there is any better or stronger network than those among people. So that is something that we are able to disseminate from Himeji over more than 70 years.

In the past, we haven't been engaged in any war, but still we are seeing various disputes and wars who are disregarding lives of people all over the world. And many world heritage sites are damaged by war and conflicts.

In Japan, after World War II, the roles to be played by Himeji Castle

My father and mother looked at the castle and stimulated it to rebuild their lives. That was the symbol. Himeji Castle has been the symbol and supporting the hearts and mentality of people in the city of Himeji, because there are many disputes and wars.

Now the reconstruction of the cultural property like Himeji Castle is on -the -job training. So based upon the archeologic approach, we are developing talents. Therefore, we would like to develop such people who will be able to protect the world heritage all over the world.

We would like to deliver our innovation and passion to all over the world. I hope that there will be a forum for exchange of opinions in that manner.

Thank you so much, Mr. Mayor. And I invite all participants today who will learn from Himiji or not already to share your ideas with the organizers. If you have also an example that you think it's good practice, please share also so that we can fulfill the vision of the Mr.

Mayor of people -to -people knowledge exchange and global knowledge sharing. My third and last question to Professor Sendha. I think you presented today a lot of knowledge and a lot of innovation and latest technology and methods and reconstruction.

But I'm sure there are still gaps in global knowledge. Perhaps to a lesser extent in other countries than in Japan, but, you know, gaps still exist in knowledge. What is your message also to the world, you know, learning from Japan and transferring Japan's knowledge globally, but how can we fulfill such a knowledge gap globally?

It's a very difficult challenge that you ask. Today I talked about Kumamoto Castle.

There was a big subsidy by the central government, which was received by Kumamoto City government. And going forward, the stone walls and buildings of Japanese castles, how it should be repaired. It's going to be a model case.

Special budget was given. It's a special case. So within Japan, a Kumamoto -like repair of cultural properties, can we do it everywhere? No, it's very difficult to do it even in Japan. So in this context, he made a castle.

Okay, I'm not usually

The carrying capacity, the entrance fee should be higher a little, otherwise there would be rather difficult to garner for the repair budget. In the case of Kumamoto Castle, although it received a lot of subsidy from the central government, Kumamoto City has a lot of money to be spent on for the sake of Kumamoto Castle.

They are in red vigor. So how cultural property should be repaired in a sustainable way, looking into the future, there still remains a big challenge. For example, the Kumamoto method could be disseminated to the global cultural properties.

Of course, it would be ideal, but there are a lot of money, a lot of technology would be involved, and then cultural properties are unique in itself. So simply, you cannot transplant one technology to somewhere else.

But in the context of Kumamoto Castle or Himeji Castle repair, the most important thing is the value, the intrinsic value of cultural property. How can it be transferred to the next properties? Bearing that mind, the repair is done.

When you repair something, I want to change this. Maybe this should be employed in this way so that it looks better. Sometimes you are tempted to go into different methods to look more glamorous. But we should not succumb to such temptation so that we should protect cultural properties from disasters, and we must revive such properties from disasters.

Very important.

Absolutely. And in fact, in the World Bank together with UNESCO in the past few years, we published two global position papers, one on what we call people in city culture and community, in city culture and reconstruction, talking exactly about what you mentioned.

And then later, city culture and climate change, looking also at climate change aspects and how to strengthen cultural heritage assets. So I think all your ideas shared today and this can be an agenda for us all moving forward.

But in addition to all ideas will be shared by participants this week. So we do encourage dialogue and people to people, generation of ideas, please approach the organizers and share your ideas, all your questions.

This will all shape our agenda moving forward. Concluding remarks, last words, Mr. Mayor. And I would like to take the subject a little bit away into the living heritage, the uniqueness of Himeji. All participants today will learn during the day, but in the evening, they will be free.

What tips you give them to share, to enjoy the city. I went myself last night based on some recommendations and I tried the delicacies of Himiji, they are so delicious. So perhaps you can share with more tips with us, what can we do to enjoy the city culture and living culture.

and

Well, let me say, in the city of Himeji, when you stay here, one symbol is, of course, Himeji Castle. 400 years ago, this was built. But the history of people extends over 1600 years. There is a record of people living here.

So according to the archaeology document...

Japanese sake originated here so this is the hometown of Japanese sake so sake if you can enjoy sake please try traditional Japanese sake very tasty and 1600 years ago since then it has continued to be cultural city about 1000 years ago together with the Enryakuji temple of Hieizan mountain monks shosajan engyoji for training monks there is such a temple for training of the monks which is away by about 20 minutes by bus I believe that everyone knows this because Tom Cruise featured in Last Samurai that was shot at that temple came Watanabe together with Tom Cruise meditated and asking each other what do you want

That kind of Japanese, very much symbolic temple is here in this prefecture, about 800 meters above the sea level by ropeway, and you will find a temple before the castle was built. That used to be the symbol of Himeji's culture.

So, please go to the Engyoji Temple so that you can also feel like

And you can get the autograph by the Buddhist priest who has met.

Tom Cruise. I would add another one, that when you visit the Himije Castle, if you identify the gate and the corridor where Sean Connery walked through,

Right, Sean Connery, when shooting the 007, I am not allowed to mention that as mayor because he broke the wall and he left.

for a while.

It was prohibited for Hollywood to shoot any movies after that. That was ordered by the Agency for Cultural Affairs. Sean Connery for the humidity castle is a heel, evil guy. Not now anymore. But at that time, in the 1960s, when the Sean Connery team came to shoot, but after they left, it was a nightmare.

They were scolded by the government. The mayor was about to be sacked.

And now, well, some...

I'm shooting a call from Hollywood come to shoot. Please do that occasion with that summary.

Well, thank you so much. This has been very rich session. Thanks so much, Mayor Kimamoto. Thanks so much, professors, and thanks so much all participants today for listening carefully, and we hope this session has been very useful for you.

It has been very useful for me personally. I learned a lot from our two distinguished panelists today, and thanks so much to GFDRR and all organizers for arranging this. Enjoy your afternoon.

Thank you.

Thank you very much, everybody.

Thank you.

Thank you very much, Mayor Kiyomoto, Professor Sender, and Ahmedo -san. Once again, thank you very much.

Hi, once again.

I would like to ask you to applaud Mayor Kiyomoto, Professor Sendai and Mr. Ahmed for their dynamic discussion on the themes of castles, cultural heritage and tourism, sustainable development, and cooperation with local communities.

Arigatou gozaimashita!

Thank you very much. Please take care and watch your steps.

How did you feel?

I hope that what we have discussed today will be a good opportunity for us to think about how we can protect our cultural heritage from disasters and how we can maintain and manage it, and how we can develop it as a tourism resource in harmony with the town.

I hope this will provide us a good opportunity for thinking about all of this. With this, I would now like to close the meeting Japan's symposium. Once again, please give a round of applause to our speakers, Mayor Kiyomoto, Professor Sender, and Mr. Aarmedo

as some housekeeping announcements, receivers for simultaneous interpretation, please make sure that you return it to the registration desk.

Thank you.

Thank you very much.

please make sure that you will take all your belongings with you and UR 2024 delegation members please bring your luggage to the bus stop located to the left of the Nicki Wai Plaza Thank you very much everyone for attending this symposium.