



**UNESCO CHAIR**  
Gender, Vulnerability and Well-being  
in Disaster Risk Reduction Support

# Kobe University UNESCO Chair Phase I, II (2018-2026)

## Final Seminar Report

March 2026





**UNESCO CHAIR**  
Gender, Vulnerability and Well-being  
in Disaster Risk Reduction Support



## **Kobe University UNESCO Chair Phase I, II (2018-2026)**

### **Final Seminar**

Date: 2026.3.12, 16:00~17:00 JST

Venue: Zoom UNESCO Chair Final Seminar

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Participants: Representatives from UGM, MFU, NKUST, UTAR, KU, STMU

Guests: Professor Hiroshi Okumura, Executive Director for UNESCO Chair

Professor Ikuko Miyawaki, Director, Gender Equality Division

### **Program**

16:00 Opening (Alexander)

16:05 Greeting (Miyawaki)

16:10 Reflecting on 8 years of the Kobe University UNESCO Chair  
(Alexander)

16:25 Reflections from each of the attending universities (ppt & video)

1. National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST)
2. University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)
3. Mae Fah Luang University
4. Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)
5. Shifa Tameer-et-Millat University (STMU)

16:45 Discussion/comments

16:55 Word of thanks (Okumura)

17:00 Closing (Alexander)



# Presentations

Reflecting on  
eight years of the  
Kobe University  
UNESCO Chair

KU  
NKUST  
UTAR  
MFU  
UGM  
STMU

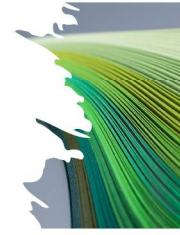
# Kobe University UNESCO Chair Phase 1~2 2018~2026

RONNI  
ALEXANDER,  
CHAIR-HOLDER

Kobe University UNESCO Chair Phase II  
Final Seminar  
2026.3.12

## Contents

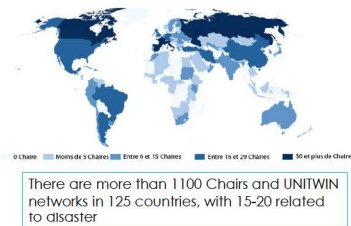
- ◆ What is a UNESCO Chair
- ◆ Kobe University UNESCO Chair
- ◆ Beginnings
- ◆ Education Program
- ◆ Research Program
- ◆ Looking Forward



## What is a UNESCO Chair?



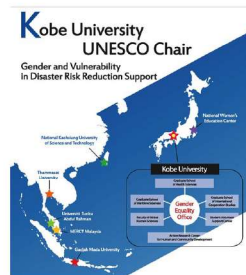
- A team
  - Led by a higher education or research institution
  - Partners with UNESCO
- A project
  - Advances knowledge and practice in an area of common priority
  - Involves teaching, research, dissemination
- A plan
  - Requires UNESCO approval every 4 years



## What is Kobe University UNESCO Chair?

## What is Kobe University UNESCO Chair?

- A team
  - Led by Kobe University
  - Located in the Gender Equality Division
  - Partners with UNESCO, 4 Asian universities, 1 INGO and 1 center in Japan
- A project
  - "Gender, Vulnerability and Well-being in Disaster Risk Reduction Support"
  - Education Program, Research Program
  - Education, Research, Dissemination
  - This is the only UNESCO Chair focusing on gender and disaster
- A plan approved by UNESCO
  - Phase 1: 2018-2022
  - Phase 2: 2022-2026
  - Phase 3



## Beginnings

### The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (1995)



The earthquake took the lives of 39 Kobe University students, including 7 international students, and 2 staff members



## Beginnings

- **1995** Kobe University commits to being a hub university for disaster research
- **2007** Kobe University establishes the Gender Equality Office

Disaster research at Kobe University needs a gender perspective! There should be more women faculty members and gender should be addressed throughout the university!



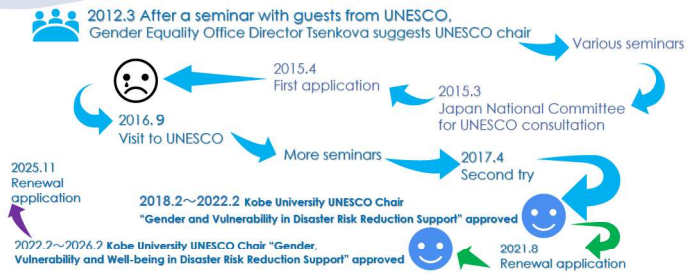
<https://www.kobe-u.ac.jp/ja/theme/004/>



International Symposium (2014)

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## The idea for a UNESCO Chair began at a seminar ...



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## Tasks of Kobe University UNESCO Chair

RESEARCH	EDUCATION/AWARENESS	GUIDELINES	POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS	DDR NETWORK EXPANSION
Joint research with partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender sensitive and inclusive guidelines for disaster risk reduction</li> <li>• Build multidisciplinary model for DRR</li> </ul>	Awareness & strategy implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for students, professional, policy makers</li> <li>• DRR awareness activities for local community</li> <li>• Develop teaching materials</li> </ul>	Establish guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulate and disseminate through seminars, symposia, HP, etc.</li> </ul>	Policy recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should meet local needs</li> <li>• Should aim to build more resilient and inclusive society</li> </ul>	Expansion of DRR network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build international DRR network based on gender equality, social inclusion and well-being</li> </ul>

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## UNESCO Chair Phase 1 & 2

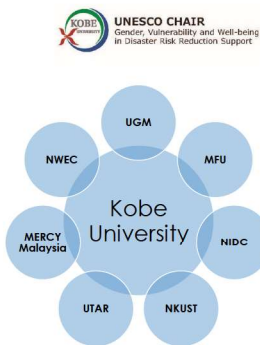
Phase 1		Phase 2	
2018.4~2022.2		2022.2~2026.2	
Gender and Vulnerability in DRR Support		Gender, Vulnerability and Well-being in DRR Support	
Research	Seminars, preparation of an edited volume of case studies	Research	Seminars, publications, collaboration with partners, creation of a research group within Kobe University
Education	2-week summer program (2018,2019), online seminar (2020, 2021) for 40-50 students. ad hoc seminars	Education	Online annual Education Program, including "well-being," ad hoc seminars
Network	Building trust, networking with our partners	Network	Expand our network for DRR with the community
		Curriculum materials	Develop teaching materials based on our work
Outreach	Reports in archive, on HP, etc.	Outreach	Information, Community lectures, etc.

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## Partner Institutions

- Gadjah Mada University (UGM), Indonesia
- School of Social Innovation, Mae Fah Luang University (MFU), Thailand
- Network for International Development Cooperation, Thammasat University, Thailand (Phase 1)
- National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST), Taiwan
- Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia
- Mercy Malaysia, Malaysia
- National Women's Education Center (NWEC), Japan
- Kobe University, Japan



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## Introducing our hard-working teams

*With thanks!*



## Gajah Mada University (UGM) Team



Dr. Melyza Perdana



Dr. Uki Noviana



Dr. Alim Syahirul



Dr. Ariani Arista Putri Pertiwi



Summer Course 2019

Rahma Mahdia Izzati

## Mae Fah Luang (MFU) Team



Reni Juwitasari



Dr. Wanwalee Inpin



Dr. Thanikun Chantra



Dr. Maya Dania



Dr. Yuki Miyake



Dr. Siriporn Wajjwalku

## National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST) Team



Dr. Yu, Hui-Lung



Dr. Yang, Ching-Chiao



Dr. Sun, Jhih-Sian



NKUST Seminar Team 2025



Dr. LU, Jin-Long

## Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Team & Mercy Malaysia



UTAR International Workshop 2023



Dr. Huang Yuk Feng



Dr. Tan Ooi Kuan



Dr. Tan Kok Weng



Hafiz Amirrol, Mercy Malaysia

## Kobe University (KU) Team



Junko Okada



Dr. Sayaka Kotera



Dr. Ai Shoraku



Dr. Kazue Noda



Dr. Ronni ALEXander

## Special Participation

Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, Pakistan



Dr. Badur Un Nisa

A real-life example of the meaning of the UNESCO Chair.

# UNITWIN Partnership



- In 2010, the UNESCO Regional Chair for Women, Science and Technology in Latin America began the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender (20 chairs)
- In 2023, it became the UNITWIN Network on Gender Equality



# Kobe University UNESCO Chair Programs

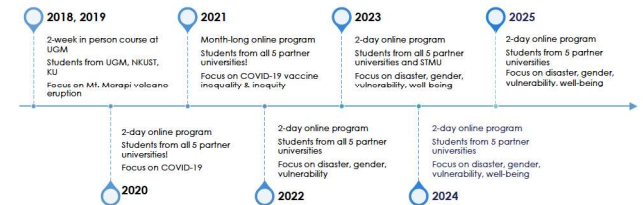
- Education Program**
  - Purpose: To help participants find their own role in disaster preparedness and support
  - Participants: Students from the partner universities
  - Organizers: Participating universities
  - Main program: Annual international seminar
    - 2018, 2019 Two-week program hosted by Gadjah Mada University
    - 2020 – 2025 Two-day online program hosted by Kobe University
  - Contribution: Raised awareness of the importance of:
    - disaster preparedness;
    - focusing on gender;
    - international collaboration and support;
    - communication and intercultural skills
  - Occasional ad hoc seminars
- Research Program**
  - Purpose: To contribute to knowledge production and dissemination on gender, vulnerability and well-being in disaster risk reduction support
  - Main program: Annual research seminar hosted by a partner university
    - Participation by partner universities and others, including students
    - In person seminars have included a field trip to a disaster site
  - Contribution:
    - Seeking, achieving and demonstrating understanding of the need to include gender and a gender-transformative approach in disaster research
    - Publications and dissemination
  - Kobe University research group

# Education Program

More than 350 student participants in total!



# Education program



# Education Program



# Research Program: International Seminars

\*Seeking, achieving and demonstrating understanding of the need to include gender and a gender-transformative approach in disaster research

- 2018 Kick-off Symposium, Kobe University
- 2019 Chiang Rai Seminar, MFU, Thailand
- 2020 NKUST (online)
- 2021 UTAR (online)
- 2022 Kick-off Symposium, Kobe University, Japan
- 2023 Kuala Lumpur Seminar, UTAR, Malaysia
- 2024 MFU (online)
- 2025 Kaohsiung Seminar, NKUST, Taiwan



## Research Program: Books



- ◆ *Making Disaster Safer* (Springer, 2023).
  - Edited volume with contributions from all the partner institutions
  - Covers many aspects of gender and vulnerability in disaster support
- ◆ *Book of Proceedings, UNESCO Chair International Symposium 2024 (MFU, 2025)*.
  - “Navigating Gender Equality and Well-Being: Climate Change Towards Sustainable Future”
  - Contributions from partner universities
- ◆ *Present and future of gender equality policies in higher education: contributions to human and sustainable development* (Gloria Bonder, ed., UNITWIN Network on Gender Equality)
  - Contributions from UNITWIN member universities. (Alexander, pp.92-102)

## Research Program: Teaching materials



### A multi-lingual disaster glossary

Language	Disaster	Disaster	Disaster	Disaster	Disaster
Arabic	كوارث	كوارث	كوارث	كوارث	كوارث
Chinese	灾难	灾难	灾难	灾难	灾难
English	Disaster	Disaster	Disaster	Disaster	Disaster
French	catastrophe	catastrophe	catastrophe	catastrophe	catastrophe
German	Katastrophe	Katastrophe	Katastrophe	Katastrophe	Katastrophe
Japanese	災害	災害	災害	災害	災害
Korean	재난	재난	재난	재난	재난
Russian	катастрофа	катастрофа	катастрофа	катастрофа	катастрофа
Spanish	catástrofe	catástrofe	catástrofe	catástrofe	catástrofe
Tamil	காலநிலை மாற்றம்	காலநிலை மாற்றம்	காலநிலை மாற்றம்	காலநிலை மாற்றம்	காலநிலை மாற்றம்
Urdu	کوارث	کوارث	کوارث	کوارث	کوارث
Vietnamese	thảm họa	thảm họa	thảm họa	thảm họa	thảm họa
Yoruba	gàrdà	gàrdà	gàrdà	gàrdà	gàrdà

## Looking Forward: Phase 3

### Phase 2

#### Gender, Vulnerability and Well-being in Disaster Risk Reduction Support

- Title: Chair-holder: Professor Ronni Alexander
- Secretariat: Gender Equality Office (Kobe University Inclusive Campus & Healthcare Center, Gender Equality Division)
- Partner Institutions: 4 overseas universities (4 countries), 1 international organization, 1 domestic government agency

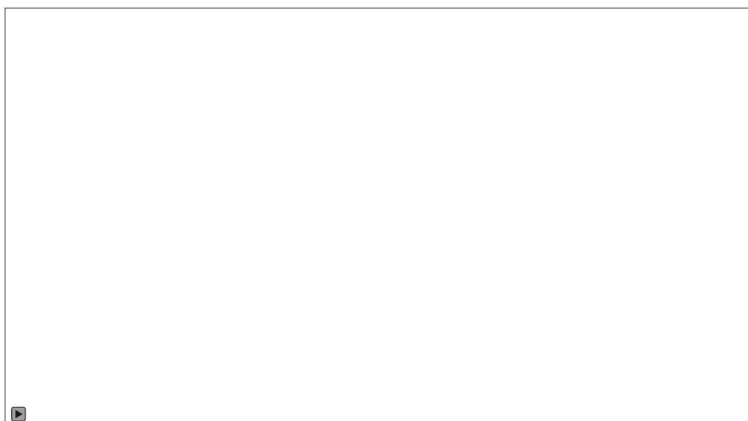
### Phase 3

#### Education for Gender, Disaster, and Well-being

- Chair-holder: Professor Keiichi Ogawa; Co-chair: Professor Aiko Sakurai
- Supervision: Kobe University, International Division
- Secretariat: Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies; Advisory Committee
- Partner Institutions: 8 overseas universities (6 countries), 1 domestic university, 4 international organizations, 2 government agencies (2 countries)




**Thank you!**  
FOR YOUR HARD WORK,  
COOPERATION, INSIGHTS,  
SMILES AND KINDNESS!



## VIDEO

# NATIONAL KAOHSIUNG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

unesco 國立高雄科技大學

## NKUST'S Reflections on the UNESCO Chair: Terms 1 and 2 (2018–2026)

Presented by  
Jhih-Sian Sun, Ching-Chiao Yang, and Hui-Lung Yu  
National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology

12 March 2026

## NKUST'S ROLE IN TERMS 1 and 2

Key Achievements

- **Hosting** international academic events under the UNESCO Chair framework
- **Research** outputs on gender and maritime labor, especially female seafarers in Taiwan
- **Student participation** in international education programs and intercultural collaboration
- Community-based **field learning** in southern Taiwan
- Strengthening **links** between local experience and global sustainability discussions

01

## KEY CONTRIBUTIONS & LEARNING

Key Reflection

Gender should be viewed not only as a research topic, but also as an analytical lens.

UNESCO Chair exchanges helped us better understand women's

- structural challenges
- invisible contributions

This is especially important in

- maritime sectors
- high-risk work environments
- post-disaster communities

It also led us to rethink inclusion through **policy, education, and institutions.**

02

## IMPACT BEYOND ACADEMIA

**In education:**

Our students participated in UNESCO Chair international learning activities and worked together with students from different countries.

What was especially meaningful is that students did not simply receive knowledge; they learned how to **build understanding through dialogue, comparison, and collaborative problem solving.**

**In regional engagement:**

Our students **entered local communities** in southern Taiwan to observe issues related to vulnerable groups and disaster preparedness.

This helped them understand that social vulnerability is not an abstract concept— **it is visible in everyday local life.**

03

## Review of the Education Program (2018–2025)

04

**Professor Yang's Reflections:**

- Grateful for this meaningful journey.
- Thanks for the valuable exchange platform.
- Students gained international vision and confidence.
- Together for sustainability.

05

## Thank You

Because of you, these past eight years have been truly **meaningful.**

**Together,** we have connected research, education, and local action—and discovered new possibilities for **inclusion and resilience.**

This spirit of **shared responsibility** may be the most valuable legacy for us.

06





DAY 2 Group Photo-2 of school visit in Mentakab Pahang



Dr Tan Ooi Kuan chairing the school student activities



School student activities



School student activities



Presentation of Token of Appreciation to the School Principal for SMJK Hwa Lian Mentakab Mdm Gan Gok Moi by Dr Lim Ming Han, Chairperson of CDRR



Presentation of Token of Appreciation to the PPD Temerloh representative by Gs Dr Lim Ming Han, Chairperson of CDRR



Group Photo-1 of Second Day Event

## OUR Achievement

- The two-days workshop involved **40 CDRR members and 40 UTAR students** on the first day at **UTAR Sungai Long Campus**, and **20 CDRR members and 200 students** from **SMJK Hwa Lian, Mentakab** on the second day;
- Representatives from **Kobe University (Japan)**, **National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (Taiwan)**, and **Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia)** participated **in person**, while speakers from **Mae Fah Luang University** and **Thammasat University (Thailand)**, as well as **Pakistan**, joined **online**;
- The workshop provided a platform for **UNESCO Chair Programme** partners from **Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Taiwan** to discuss potential research topics on the **social impacts of post-COVID-19**, successfully achieving its objectives;
- Workshop outcomes include the potential development of **curriculum materials** (e.g. disaster and gender, vulnerability, well-being) and **future research grant proposals**, as well as increased **COVID-19 awareness and recovery planning** among school students through second-day activities

Before I end this sharing, let me also express my gratitude appreciation to all parties who have been part of our network:

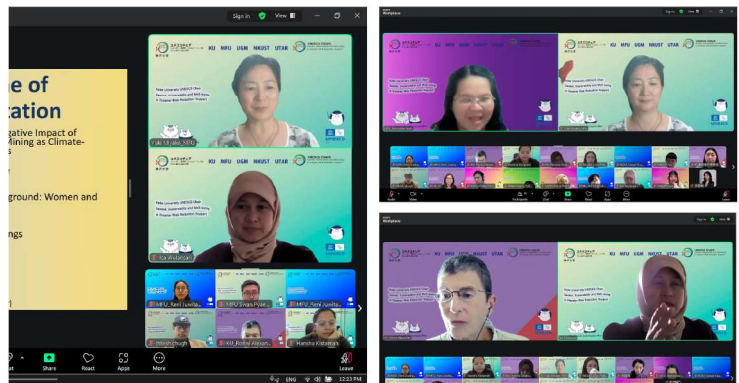
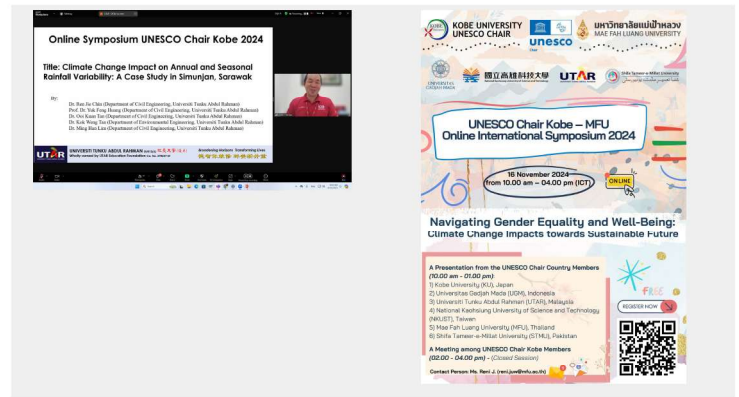
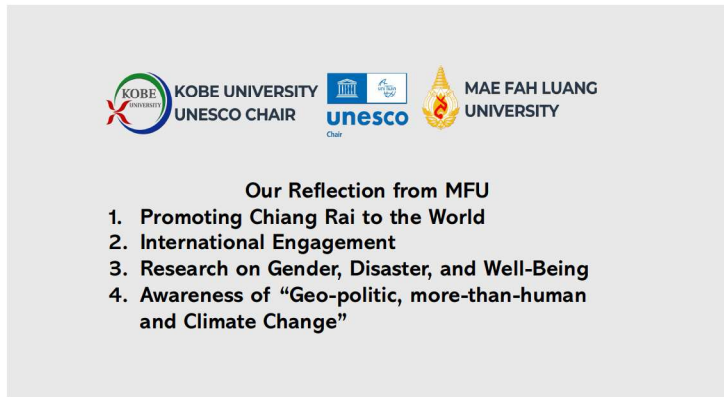
1. Prof. Ikuko Miyawaki, Prof. Hiroshi Okumura, Prof. Ronni Alexander, Prof. Ai Shoraku, Dr Sayaka Kotera, Dr Junko Okada from Kobe University.
2. Prof. Jyh-Sian Sun, Prof. Hui-Lung Yu, and Prof. Ching-Chiao Yang from National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST), Taiwan
3. Dr Syahirul Alim, Dr. Ariani Arista Putri Pertiwi, Dr. Melyza Perdana, and Dr. Uki Noviana from Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Indonesia
4. Prof Siriporn Wajjwalku, Maya Dania, Thanikun Chatra, Reni Juwitasari, Yuki Miyake and Wanwalee Inpin Mae Fah Luang University (MFU), Thailand
5. Dr Badur from Shifa Tameer-et-Millat University (STMU)
6. Mr Hafiz from MERCY Malaysia

—and many more who are not listed here, but are equally remembered and appreciated.

“All good things must come to an end but the memories remain forever...”

**Goodbye, and take care everyone !!**

# MAE FAH LUANG UNIVERSITY



# UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA

## 8-year Reflection UGM-Kobe UNESCO Chair



## International Exposure



## Kick-off Meeting



## Summer Course: international participants

## Various activities for capacity building both staff & Students

Opportunities to learn from global perspectives and expertise.

We learned how each countries response to disaster



## Opportunities to contribute to community

Increased awareness of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction.

Through writing books

Discussing with disaster survivals

Shelter Visit



## Multidisciplinary Collaboration

Different point of view from other disciplines enrich our insight in disaster risk reduction



## Thank You

It has been a great opportunity for our institution to be part of this Chair, and the program has been very beneficial for our students through international learning and collaboration.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future.

## Friendship





## UNESCO Chair initiative on Gender, Vulnerability, and Well-being in Disaster Risk Reduction. An overview



Dr. Esha Khan  
Ms. Momina Abrar



## Disasters in Pakistan and its Drastic Impact



- Pakistan frequently faces natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, which cause significant damage to infrastructure, health systems, and communities.
- Women, children, and especially pregnant and lactating women are among the most affected due to **limited access to healthcare and essential services**.
- Therefore, **disaster response** must include **gender-sensitive planning** to ensure access to healthcare, sanitation, and protection for vulnerable populations.

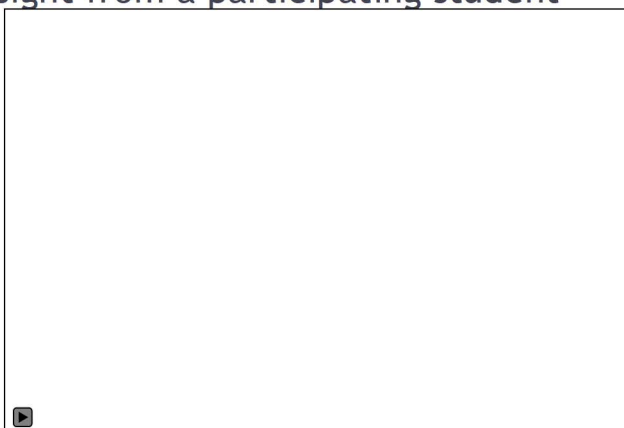
## Impact of Participation on STMU

- For Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, participation in this collaborative platform has been an extremely valuable experience. It has provided meaningful opportunities for both students and faculty to actively engage in global discussions on disaster preparedness, climate change, and public health.
- Over the past three years, student participation has steadily increased:
  - 9 students participated in 2023
  - 8 students participated in 2024
  - 11 students participated in 2025
- Following their participation, students initiated a research project titled “Impact of Climate Change on Health and Well-being among University Students: Investigating the Relationship between Climate Change and Health Outcomes among University Students.” This research was successfully published, demonstrating how academic collaboration can translate into tangible research outputs and knowledge dissemination.

## Impact of Participation on STMU

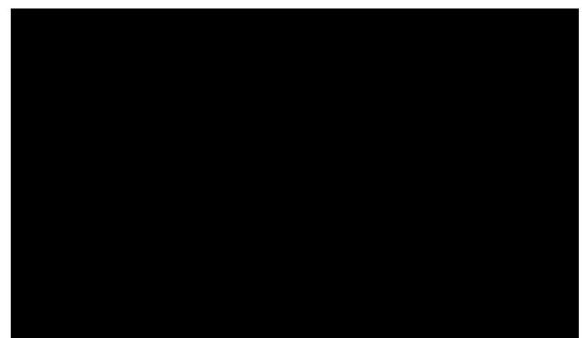
- through this initiative, students and faculty were able to:
  - Engage in international academic collaboration
  - Learn from global perspectives on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience
  - Share Pakistan’s experiences, vulnerabilities, and disaster management challenges
  - Promote interdisciplinary learning linking health, gender, climate change, and disaster resilience
- Overall, this collaboration has strengthened research capacity, encouraged student-led initiatives, and contributed to building a more informed and resilient academic community.

## Insight from a participating student



VIDEO

## Insight from another participating student



VIDEO

## Personal Reflection

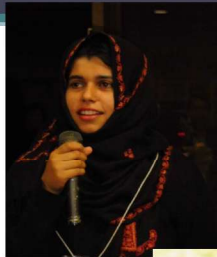
- Participation in this program has been a **valuable learning experience** for us.
- It highlighted that disaster management involves **preparedness, equity, and protection of vulnerable populations**, not just emergency response.
- Presentations from other institutions provided **new insights and practical strategies** for disaster preparedness.

## Conclusion

- **In conclusion**, disasters are unavoidable, but their impact can be reduced through **preparedness, inclusive planning, and international cooperation**.
- We are grateful to **Kobe University and the UNESCO Chair initiative** for providing this valuable platform for learning and collaboration.

## Special thanks

- We would like to sincerely thank **Dr. Badar-un-Nisa**, a former PhD student at **Kobe University**, for her dedicated involvement in the **UNESCO Chair Programme** over the past years and for providing us the opportunity to participate in this conference. We are also grateful to **Ronni Sensei** for her kind support in making this collaboration possible, which made it possible for our team from **Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University** to be part of this meaningful international collaboration.



# VIDEOS

Reflecting on  
eight years of the  
Kobe University  
UNESCO Chair

NKUST  
MFU  
STMU  
KU

## **Videos**

\*These videos can be viewed at “UNESCO Chair Phase I, II Final Seminar” at:

[https://www.office.kobe-u.ac.jp/opge-kyodo-sankaku/project/unesco/en/seminar\\_list/](https://www.office.kobe-u.ac.jp/opge-kyodo-sankaku/project/unesco/en/seminar_list/)

### **National Kaohsiung University of Science & Technology (NKUST)**

“UNESCO Chair Education Program: Disaster in our place, focusing on gender, vulnerability and well-being”

### **Mae Fah Luang University (MFU)**

“Our Memory with UNESCO Chair Kobe”

### **Shifa Tameer-et-Millat University (STMU)**

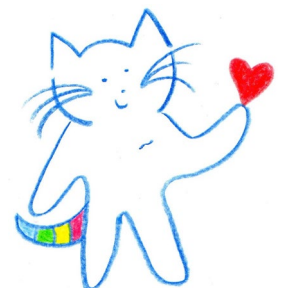
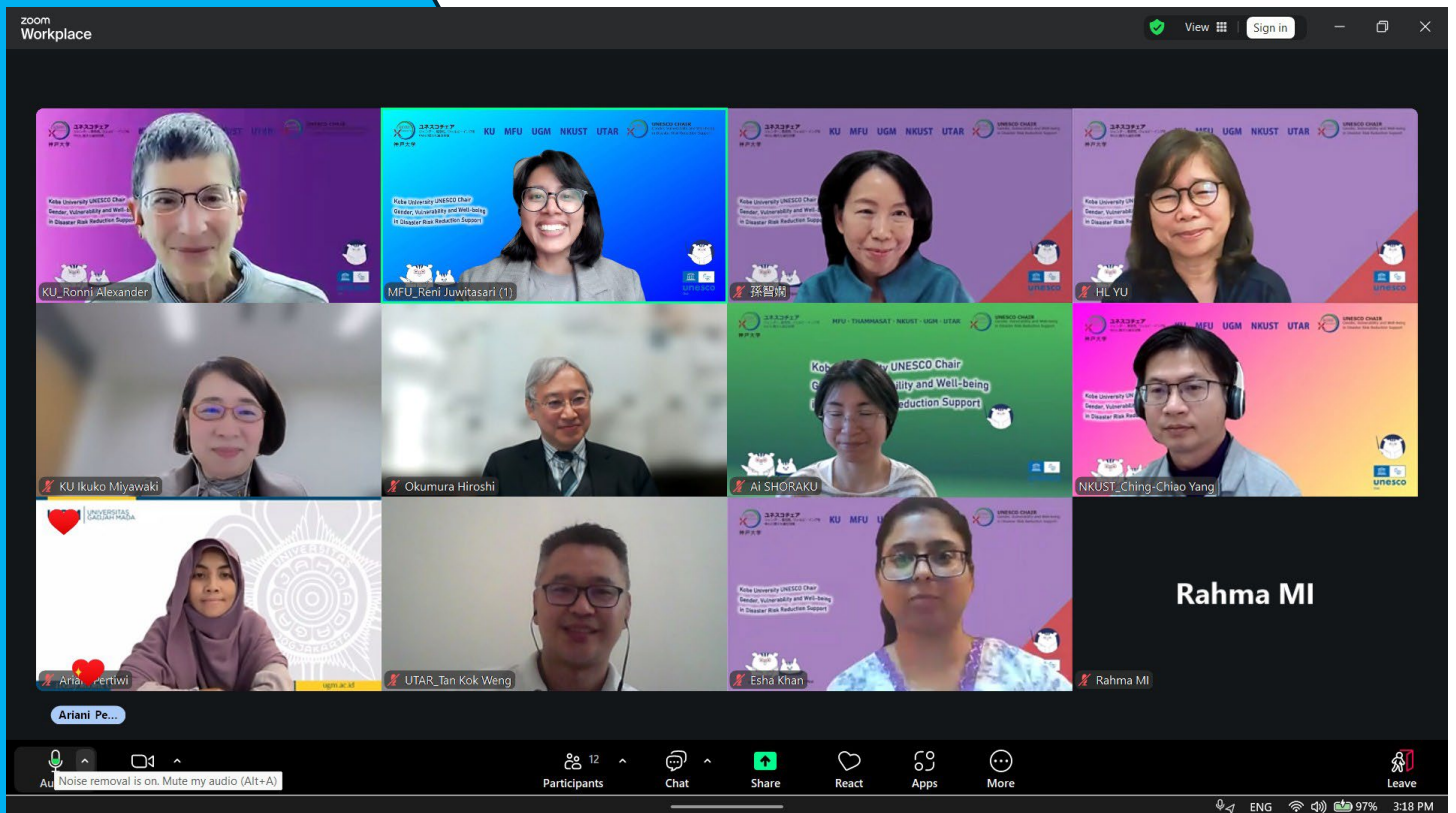
(1) “Insight from a participating student”

(2) “Insight from another participating student”

### **Kobe University (KU)**

“Kobe University UNESCO Chair Phase I, II (2018-2026)”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
HARD WORK AND FOR  
MAKING THIS UNESCO  
CHAIR SO MEANINGFUL  
FOR SO MANY PEOPLE!





**UNESCO CHAIR**  
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**unesco**

Chair