



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**



JAPAN FOUNDATION



Photography: John Gollings

# SOCIO-LEGAL NORMS IN PREVENTING AND MANAGING DISASTERS IN JAPAN:

ASIA-PACIFIC AND INTERDISCIPLINARY  
PERSPECTIVES

1-2 MARCH 2012

SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL (CAMPERDOWN CAMPUS)

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This conference compares the preparedness for large-scale disasters and subsequent responses in Japan, focusing on the '3-11' events: the earthquake and tsunami that devastated north-east Japan on 11 March 2011 and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant radiation leaks. We will explore whether and how socio-legal norms may have differed significantly within Japan regarding the former, primarily a natural disaster; compared to the latter, a 'man-made' or artificial disaster.

The conference will focus on the legal or regulatory environment, but in broad social, economic and political context. It will bring together experts in relevant fields of domestic and international law as well as specialists in social history and literature, media studies and political economy. One working hypothesis is that cultural and social norms were more effective in helping both to prevent and manage responses to Japan's natural disaster, compared to the artificial disaster where political and economic factors played more significant roles. The project considers whether this phenomenon can be found in earlier periods and especially in other Asia-Pacific countries, particularly in China, Indonesia and New Zealand (susceptible to earthquakes and tsunamis), and the USA (the only other Asia-Pacific country to have experienced a serious nuclear emergency).

The conference will be divided into 4 main sessions:

**1. Disaster-related socio-cultural and political-economic norms and practices in Japan:** Dr Yasuko Claremont (University of Sydney), Dr Rebecca Suter (University of Sydney), Professor Kent Anderson (Australian National University/Adelaide), Associate Professor Leon Wolff and Ms Kylie Fletcher-Johnson (Bond University).

**2. Regulatory frameworks and other legal norms in Japan:** Professor Luke Nottage (University of Sydney), Professor Hiroshi Kabashima (Tohoku University), Associate Professor Haturu Morita (Tohoku University), Julius Weitzdoerfer (Max Planck Institute), Stacey Steele (Melbourne University), Associate Professor Jin Chun (Daito Bunka University) and Michelle Daigle (University of Hawaii'i).

**3. Regional comparisons - Indonesia, China, New Zealand, USA:** Dr. Nirartha Samadhi (BRR Institute), Dr Simon Butt (University of Sydney), Professor David Goodman (University of Sydney), Associate Professor Anxin Zhu (Nanjing University), Associate Professor Vivienne Bath (University of Sydney), Professor Michael Reich (Harvard University), Mr Micah Burch (University of Sydney), Associate Professor Daniel Aldrich (Purdue University) and Professor Elizabeth Toomey (University of Canterbury).

**4. International frameworks and cooperation:** Professor Gillian Triggs (Dean, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney), Dr Hitoshi Nasu (Australian National University).

## REGISTRATION

Early bird: \$110 inc GST (until February 10)

Full fee: \$220 inc GST (after February 10)

Sydney Law School Alumni: \$176 inc GST

Full time Academic, Government/NGO, ANJeL member, Australia-Japan Society of NSW member: \$110 inc GST

Full time student, University of Sydney Staff, Member of the China Studies Centre, University of Tohoku Law Faculty Staff: Free (ID required)

*The final session of the conference on March 2 (4.30pm) will be free to the public.*

**REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL: to register, please [click here](#)**

INFORMATION for lawyers and barristers: attendance at this conference is equal to 11.25 MCLE/CPD units

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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[sydney.edu.au/law/events](http://sydney.edu.au/law/events)

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## MAJOR SPONSOR



**JAPAN FOUNDATION**

<http://www.jpff.org.au/>

## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

**Sydney Law School**  
<http://sydney.edu.au/law>

**Department of Japanese Studies**  
<http://sydney.edu.au/arts/japanese/>

**The Centre for Asian and Pacific Law (CAPLUS)**  
<http://sydney.edu.au/law/caplus/>

**China Studies Centre**  
[http://sydney.edu.au/china\\_studies\\_centre/](http://sydney.edu.au/china_studies_centre/)

**Australian Network for Japanese Law (ANJeL)**  
<http://sydney.edu.au/law/anjel/>

**Tohoku University Law Faculty**  
<http://www.law.tohoku.ac.jp/link/>

## DAY 1: THURSDAY 1 MARCH 2012

9-9.15am	Registration
9.15-9.30am	Welcome: Professor Luke Nottage (University of Sydney)
9.30-11am	Disaster-related socio-cultural and political-economic norms and practices in Japan: Dr Yasuko Claremont (University of Sydney), Dr Rebecca Suter (University of Sydney), Professor Kent Anderson (University of Adelaide)
11-11.30	Morning tea and video presentation
11.30am-12.45pm	Disaster-related socio-cultural and political-economic norms and practices in Japan (cont'd): Michelle Daigle (University of Hawai'i), Associate Professor Leon Wolff and Ms Kylie Fletcher-Johnson (Bond University)
12.45-1.45pm	Lunch
1.45-3.15pm	Regulatory frameworks and other legal norms in Japan: Professor Luke Nottage (University of Sydney), Professor Hiroshi Kabashima (Tohoku University), Julius Weitzdoerfer (Max Planck Institute, Hamburg)
3.15-3.45pm	Afternoon tea
3.45-5pm	Regulatory frameworks and other legal norms in Japan: Associate Professor Hatsuru Morita (Tohoku University), Stacey Steele (Melbourne University) and Associate Professor Jin Chun (Daito Bunka University)
5-6pm	Cocktail reception

## DAY 2: FRIDAY 2 MARCH 2012

9.15-11.am	Regional comparisons, USA and NZ: Professor Michael Reich (Harvard University), Mr Micah Burch (University of Sydney), Associate Professor Daniel Aldrich (Purdue University), Professor Elizabeth Toomey (University of Canterbury)
11-11.30am	Morning tea and video presentation
11.30-1pm	Regional comparisons, China: Professor David Goodman (University of Sydney), Associate Professor Anxin Zhu (Nanjing University), Associate Professor Vivienne Bath (University of Sydney)
1-2pm	Lunch
2-3.15pm	Regional comparisons, Indonesia: Dr. Nirartha Samadhi (BRR Institute), Dr Simon Butt (University of Sydney)
3.15-3.45pm	Afternoon tea
3.45-4.30pm	International frameworks and cooperation: Professor Gillian Triggs (Dean of Law, University of Sydney), Dr Hitoshi Nasu (Australian National University)
4.30-5.15pm	Panel discussion & closing: Speakers tbc (this free session is open to the public, upon prior/separate registration and subject to place availability).

For further information visit the [Japanese Law and the Asia Pacific](#) blog

To donate to the ongoing reconstruction work in northern Japan please visit the [Japanese Red Cross Society](#) or the [Consulate-General of Japan](#)

