

Tokai University European Center

Lecture Series 2016

March 17

“Lolland and Higashi-Matsushima’s Cooperation on Sustainable Development: A New Way for Cities to Cooperate”



On March 17, Tokai University European Center (TUEC) hosted a lecture commemorating five years having passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake struck in 2011. Since the disaster, TUEC has cooperated with the Denmark-Japan Society on arranging annual lectures for a local Danish audience to mark the occasion. Along with being a show of sympathy and support for Japan, the “3/11 lecture series” has provided updated and in-depth information to people in Denmark on the extent of the devastation and the progress and scale of the rebuilding work taking place in Japan.

Tomoko Kitamura Nielsen, a Japanese journalist, consultant and writer based in Denmark, was invited to speak on the unique cooperation existing between Higashi-Matsushima City and the Danish municipality of Lolland on sustainable development. Lolland Municipality in Denmark has an international reputation for being a pioneer on the cutting edge of sustainable development solutions.

Tomoko Kitamura Nielsen has been involved in the Higashi-Matsushima-Lolland cooperation since its inception and gave a detailed talk on how this cooperation had come about, also outlining its development over the past few years, since the official agreement was signed in 2012. The agreement has enabled Higashi-Matsushima City, one of eleven so-called ‘Future Cities’ in the Tohoku region, to be on the receiving end of a considerable knowledge-transfer from Lolland Municipality on sustainable development. The cooperation has also resulted in countless official and research visits from Japan to the small Danish island.

The lecture attracted a good crowd and was followed by a reception, where participants were able to mingle with the lecturer and continue the discussion in an informal atmosphere.

Tomoko Kitamura Nielsen has had her permanent residence in Lolland municipality since 2001, and is a member of the International Press Center in Denmark. Her work and professional interests focus on a number of issues including the sustainable development of society, climate change, sustainable energy, agriculture, foodstuffs and education. In 2012, she published a book in Japan on the topic of Lolland's sustainable development: 『ロラン島のエコ・チャレンジ～デンマーク発、自然エネルギー100%の島』.