

A large, modern, multi-story building with a distinctive facade of vertical wooden slats and glass windows, surrounded by green trees under a clear blue sky.

OSAKA METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY MORINOMIYA CAMPUS OPENING EVENT

Osaka Asia Roundtable 2025 Event Report

27 November 2025 | Osaka Metropolitan University, Morinomiya Campus

Overview

On 27 November 2025, government representatives, researchers and industry leaders from across Asia and around the world gathered at Osaka Metropolitan University (OMU) for the inaugural "Osaka Asia Roundtable 2025," held to commemorate the opening of OMU's new Morinomiya Campus, inaugurated in September 2025.

The conference aimed to strengthen international cooperation by bringing together best practices and solutions from each country to address regional and global urban challenges such as ageing populations, rapid urbanisation and climate change. Discussions bridged policy, technology and regional innovation to envision a sustainable and resilient urban future.

The programme comprised three thematic sessions: "Healthcare (Dementia)," "Digital Transformation," and "Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)." Participants included representatives from international organisations such as the OECD, UNDRR, APEC and UCLG ASPAC, alongside government officials, university researchers and leading practitioners from the private sector across Asia, engaging in practical discussions grounded in concrete case studies.

Opening Remarks



Hiroyuki Sakuragi, President, OMU



Rie Maruo, Executive Director, University Public Corporation Osaka

OMU President Hiroyuki Sakuragi opened the conference by expressing his vision for the newly established Morinomiya Campus as a hub of knowledge connecting the local community with the wider world. He emphasised the university's role as an urban think tank bridging policy-making and innovation, and positioned this roundtable as its inaugural step.

Shinichi Fukushima, President of the University Public Corporation Osaka (read by Executive Director Rie Maruo), highlighted challenges facing major metropolitan areas — including ageing infrastructure and widening inequality driven by demographic shifts — and called for cross-border knowledge sharing and long-term partnerships. He expressed his hope that this roundtable would serve not merely as a one-time gathering, but as the foundation for continued exchange, trust-building, and long-term partnership.

Session 1: Healthcare (Dementia)

Comprehensive Dementia Care in Asia: Importance and Outlook

Dr Kentaro Uchida, Director of Neuropsychiatry and Chief Medical Officer at the Osaka City Social Welfare Bureau, served as moderator, leading discussions on the healthcare and social challenges arising from rapidly ageing populations and the sharp increase in dementia prevalence. In Osaka City, 25.5% of the population is aged 65 or over, and the proportion of elderly people living alone exceeds the national average, posing serious challenges. Dr Uchida outlined the current state of comprehensive dementia care in Osaka and read a message on behalf of Mr Shohei Yamada of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare on Japan's universal health coverage and Medical DX initiatives.

Researchers and practitioners from five Asian countries then reported on their national situations. Indonesia shared the reality that over 60% of the estimated 1.4 million dementia patients remain undiagnosed, the dual burden of rapid ageing in urban and rural areas, and efforts toward building community-based care models. Malaysia reported on its National Dementia Action Plan (2023–2030) with four strategic pillars, noting that 1 in 11 to 12 elderly people has dementia, Age-friendly City initiatives in Penang, and the promotion of integrated care in primary care settings. The Philippines presented community-based epidemiological research grounded in findings that approximately 25% of the population carries the APOE E4 gene variant—a risk factor for dementia—as well as a programme to improve cognitive function through multi-component interventions using social dance. Singapore presented its shift toward preventive healthcare and active ageing through the “Healthier Singapore,” “Age Well Singapore” and “ActiveSG” programmes, the deployment of activities for the elderly across more than 150 community centres, and the latest research on blood biomarkers.

Taiwan reported on the “Dementia Friendly Taiwan 777” target in light of annual dementia care costs exceeding USD 10.6 billion, the achievement of a 60.61% dementia diagnosis rate as of 2024, a tiered care system, and policy and civil society initiatives for building a dementia-friendly society. Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (CGMH) also introduced an AI platform powered by large language models (LLMs) for rapidly identifying trial-eligible patients from electronic medical records.

Building on these lively discussions, Professor Makoto Higuchi of Osaka Metropolitan University presented a next-generation dementia diagnosis workflow combining blood and digital biomarkers with PET imaging, introduced PREMIA (Precision Medicine Asia) as a framework for international collaboration, and proposed the concept of building a “trial-ready cohort and dataset.” The session concluded with Osaka Metropolitan University introducing the Osaka Geroscience Center (“Osaka Choku”), scheduled to open in 2027 as an international hub integrating a research institute and specialised dementia hospital for dementia research and international collaboration.



Session 2: Digital Transformation

Urban Transformation for 2030: Designing Sustainable Public Services

Under the theme "Urban Transformation for 2030, Designing Sustainable Public Services," experts from across Asia and around the world engaged in multi-stakeholder discussions. Topics ranged from the transition from smart city pilot projects to sustainable city-wide services, to public-private partnerships and business models supporting long-term mobility, energy and data infrastructure, as well as the use of AI and data to transform urban management.

Osaka Prefectural Government shared its vision for data-driven urban development through ORDEN (Osaka Regional Data Exchange Network), as well as plans for "AI agents" to automate administrative procedures and reduce the burden on residents. The growing power demand driven by generative AI was also addressed, highlighting the importance of establishing public-private consortia to expand digital infrastructure.

Thailand reported on the acceleration of government procurement and tax incentives through its "Digital Catalogue," and the use of the "Smart City Competitiveness Index" to foster positive competition among cities. Indonesia presented its approach to sustainable urban development, including smart city promotion under national development plans and the creation of a "Pocketbook" outlining alternative financing schemes. Vietnam emphasised the establishment of a national data centre, open data governance through the Science, Technology and Innovation Law, and AI-driven government services through startup-government collaboration. Taiwan introduced efforts to build high-security AI data centre infrastructure in partnership with companies such as ASUS, enabling governments and SMEs to flexibly migrate between cloud and on-premise servers while leveraging AI.

On global perspectives and inter-city collaboration, UCLG ASPAC called for moving beyond short-term cooperation to build common regional frameworks for open data and AI ethics, overcoming institutional constraints such as fragmented governance and inequality in Asia. Drawing on examples from the United Kingdom and Singapore, the discussion proposed the "Four I's" (Intelligence, Insights, Investment, Infrastructure) for the public sector to function as a catalyst for innovation, sharing examples from Singapore's open-source culture and London's infrastructure policies. The OECD presented its principles placing "human-centredness and inclusiveness" as the top priority in AI development, recommending investment in skills to prevent social fragmentation and further expansion of public-sector AI investment. Osaka Metropolitan University and the Smart Building Co-Creation Organisation (SBCO) presented implementation examples of Building OS on campus and bottom-up collaborative approaches in Japan. In an era where individual cities or nations can no longer solve increasingly complex urban challenges alone, participants affirmed the importance of redefining cities as general systems and promoting research that brings together experts, citizens and local communities.



Session 3: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

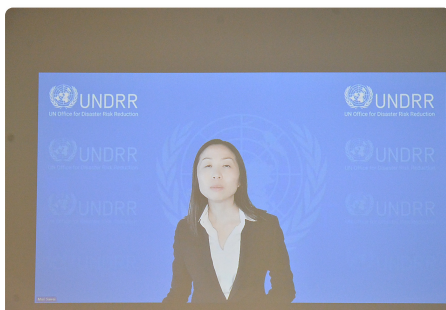
Disaster Resilience in the Age of Climate Crisis: Building Sustainable Partnerships among Local Governments, Universities, and Industry

This session, co-organised by the Cabinet Office and OMU, was held under the theme "DRR in the Era of Climate Crisis." Moderated by Professor Eisuke Ikuta (OMU), discussions focused on shifting from reactive response to sustainable, industry-driven solutions through technological innovation and public-private partnerships.

Professor Ikuta highlighted that Asian countries face increasingly frequent and severe disasters such as typhoons, floods and earthquakes, with over half of global disaster losses concentrated in Asia. He underscored the need for urban-level partnerships connecting public institutions, private enterprises, universities and communities. UNDRR delivered a video message highlighting SME resilience strengthening and the establishment of a "Chief Resilience Officer Network."

Reports from across the region followed. The APEC Emergency Preparedness Capacity Building Center shared post-earthquake semiconductor recovery and SME BCP capacity building. Singapore presented a multi-ministry task force on sea-level rise, the "Long Island" project, and global networks through SINDEX. Vietnam, where 108 lives were lost in a single week of flooding, proposed a data hub connecting 63 provinces and AI early-warning localisation. The Philippines, ranked first in the World Risk Index for three consecutive years, reported on private investment through the 2023 PPP Act and local disaster funds (minimum 5% allocation). Malaysia introduced the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Disaster Risk Management (APPGM), bridging research to policy against approximately USD 5 billion in annual flood losses. The ADRC emphasised "Sentinel Asia" Earth observation imagery sharing and capacity building across 33 member countries.

Associate Professor Taku Sugano (OMU) analysed historical challenges in evacuation shelter management and reported on his contribution to the May 2025 revision of the Basic Act on Disaster Management and the Disaster Relief Act. Based on the "mochi wa mochiya" (leave it to the experts) principle, he introduced a paradigm shift incorporating the private sector and NGOs into disaster relief, enabling social welfare professionals to provide direct support. The OECD proposed inclusive digital transformation and blended finance mechanisms whereby the public sector shares financial risks to encourage private investment. Ms Naho Fukukado of the Cabinet Office presented digital platforms, drones, satellites and AI deployed during the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, and announced best practice sharing at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in Sendai in 2027. Professor Ikuta concluded by emphasising DRR as fundamental social design and expressing hope for Osaka's role as a platform for sustainable DRR.



Closing Remarks

Specially Appointed Professor Yuta Hirayama (OMU), who served as project lead, delivered the closing remarks. Reflecting on all sessions, he highlighted the growing international interest in AI, data platforms and cross-sectoral collaboration, and expressed gratitude to the co-organising institutions, speakers and participants. He described the conference as the starting point of an enduring international partnership, pledging that such initiatives would continue in the years ahead—a sentiment met with enthusiastic agreement from all participants as the conference drew to a close.



Yuta Hirayama,
Specially Appointed Professor, OMU

Group Photos by Session



Venue Overview



Session 1: Healthcare



Session 2: Digital Transformation



Session 3: DRR

Published

March 2026

Osaka Asia Roundtable Organizing Committee

Contact

Office for Co-creation Initiatives

Osaka Metropolitan University

Email: gr-sngk-omu@omu.ac.jp